

Optimal siting and sizing of distributed energy storage systems via alternating direction method of multipliers[☆]



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ABSTRACT

Energy Storage Systems (ESSs) will have an important role in the optimal operation of Active Distribution Networks (ADNs). Within this context, this paper focuses on the problem of ESSs optimal siting and sizing. Following similar approaches already proposed by the Authors, this paper proposes a multi-objective procedure that accounts for various ancillary services that can be provided by ESSs to ADNs. The proposed procedure takes into account the voltage support and network losses minimization along with minimization of the cost of energy from external grid and congestion management. For the case of large-scale problems, accounting for networks with large number of nodes and scenarios, the selection of the solution methodology is a non-trivial problem. In this respect, the paper proposes and discusses the use of the Alternative Direction Method of Multipliers in order to define an efficient algorithm capable to treat large-scale networks and, also, address the issue of the optimality of the solution. A real large-scale network with real profiles of load and distributed photovoltaic generation is used as the case study to analyze the effectiveness of the proposed methodology.

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Introduction

Active Distribution Networks (ADNs) are changing significantly by integrating new technologies aiming at improving their level of control. Energy Storage Systems (ESSs) have an important role in this context [1]. Indeed, they have the ability to be indirectly used to control the network providing several services like load shaving, supplementing renewable resources, and, as a consequence, postpone investments needed for network reinforcements (e.g., [2,3]). They are also capable of providing network ancillary services like support to voltage and frequency controls and indirect control line congestions. Additionally, they can be also used for network losses reduction [4–6]. In this respect, one of the main problems associated to the use of ESSs in ADNs is to find their best location and size (i.e., power and energy ratings) in order to maximize their impact on the grid.

In this context, several works have been done related to optimal planning of ESSs in ADNs. This issue has been addressed in both microgrids and ADNs. The Authors of [7] have proposed the use

of a Genetic Algorithm (GA) to find the optimal capacities of ESSs with the objective to minimize the operation costs of the targeted microgrid. A methodology to site and size different types of ESSs within the microgrid context has been proposed in [8]. A GA is used to find the best solution to maximize the total net present value. A methodology for optimal siting and sizing of ESSs in a medium voltage distribution network, with the goal of decreasing wind energy curtailment and minimizing annual cost of the electricity, is presented in [9]. A hybrid GA, sequential quadratic programming algorithm is proposed in [10] to size and site DGs, energy storage and reactive power compensation systems. The goals of the planning problem are the minimization of the total network losses and the operation costs. The Authors of [6] have presented a hybrid method integrating dynamic programming with GA to find the best siting, rating and control strategy of ESSs, in order to minimize the overall investments and network costs (energy cost and losses). A cost-benefit analysis methodology is presented in [11] to find the best sizing and siting of ESSs in distribution networks. The goal of the optimization is to maximize the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) profits from energy transactions, investment and operation cost savings. The planning of ESSs connected to transmission networks is also investigated in the literature (e.g., [12,13]). In [12] the optimal planning of ESSs in a network with renewable, and consequent uncertain energy production, is presented. The objective of the optimization is to minimize the

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Nomenclature	
ESS	Energy Storage System
DG	Distributed Generation
SoC	State of Charge
<i>Parameters</i>	
$\pi_{Sc}(t)$	energy price at time t for the scenario Sc
I_p, I_E	investment costs of ESS with respect to power rating and energy reservoir respectively
$E_{s,max}, E_{s,min}$	maximum/minimum allowed SoC of ESS s
$s_{i,Sc}(t)$	complex power load at node i , time t , and scenario Sc
$S_{i,Sc}^{ger}(t)$	DG complex power production at node i , time t , and scenario Sc
Z_{ij}	longitudinal impedance of the line between nodes i and j (line l)
$W_{EP}, W_{vol}, W_{loss}$	weighting coefficients of different terms in objective function
r_s	resistive loss factor of ESS s
$f_{ij,max}$	squared values of the rated current of the line between buses i and j
v_{min}, v_{max}	squared values of maximum/minimum limits of the network nodal voltages
β_{Sc}	probability of each scenario
α	interest rate
y	number of years after ESS installation corresponding to each scenario
<i>Variables</i>	
$C_{i,Sc}(t)$	load curtailment at node i , time t , and scenario Sc
P_s^{cap}, E_s^{cap}	power rating and energy reservoir capacity of ESS s
$v_{i,Sc}(t)$	square of voltage at node i , time t , and scenario Sc
$f_{ij,Sc}(t)$	square of current flow on line ij at time t , and scenario Sc
$E_{Sc}^{EX}(t)$	energy flow from substation transformer at time t and scenario Sc
$E_{s,Sc}(t)$	energy stored in ESS s at time t , and scenario Sc
$P_{s,Sc}(t), Q_{s,Sc}(t)$	active/reactive power consumed/produced by ESS s at time t , and scenario Sc
$L_{s,Sc}(t)$	resistive losses of ESS s at time t , and scenario Sc
$S_{ij,Sc}(t)$	complex line power flow between nodes i and j at time t , and scenario Sc
m^k, n^k	primal and dual residuals
<i>Sets</i>	
t	index of time
s	index of energy storage systems
Sc	index of scenarios
ij, l	index of lines
i	index of busses
k	ADMM iteration

operation and investment costs of energy storage devices. The application of ESSs in optimal allocation of wind capacity related to distant wind farms is investigated in [13]. The methodology simultaneously optimizes the wind power capacity of each site, its ESS and the required transmission connection capacity.

A limitation of the above-listed papers is represented by the fact that they have not accounted in the problem formulation the ancillary services (e.g., voltage control) that ESSs can provide to ADNs. In this respect, the Authors of this paper have proposed in [4] a specific algorithm for assessing the optimal siting of ESSs to maximize their contribution to voltage control. Voltage sensitivity coefficients, as a function of the nodal power injections, were used to linearize the objective function of the problem and some of the constraints. The augmented problem of optimal allocation of ESSs in ADNs with a multi-objective (i.e., loss, energy cost, and voltage deviation minimizations) has been investigated in [14] by using a hybrid approach of GA and non-linear programming. Although the approach proposed in [14] provides satisfactory results, it is computationally expensive and the global optimal solution is not guaranteed due to the non-convexity of the problem. As a matter of fact, the computational inefficiency of this approach resulted into limiting the possibility of solving large-scale problems associated to: (i) networks with large number of nodes and (ii) multiple scenarios related to load and renewable resources volatilities (i.e., seasonal variability and yearly evolutions). In [15] a Second Order Cone Programming (SOCP) formulation of the optimal power flow (OPF) is used to define the problem of the optimal siting and sizing of ESSs in ADNs. It considers both technical and economical goals. However, as expected, the size of the problem increases drastically with the increase of both network size and number of scenarios. As a consequence, a dedicated decomposition method might be required. These drawbacks have motivated this contribution. Indeed, long-term optimal planning problems are normally large-scale ones since they should include a reasonable number of scenarios to address the variations and uncertainties of various

parameters. Decomposition methods can be used to breakdown large-scale problems into smaller ones. They have been used for several power system problems and typical application examples can be found in these references [16,17].

The purpose of the methodology presented in this paper is to provide a tool to the ADN operator's capable to define the optimal planning of their own energy storage systems to support the network operation in presence of massive stochastic distributed generation. In this respect, it is important to underline that the paper does not focus on the comparative assessment of different technical solutions to support to the ADN operation. In this work we propose to use the Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM) [18,19] to break down the original problem and have a distributed parallel convex optimization. The Second Order Cone programming (SOCP) OPF approach of [20] is adapted to formulate the problem of the optimal siting and sizing of ESSs in ADNs in order to obtain a convex problem. In this respect, it is worth mentioning that the convex formulation of ESSs planning is a peculiar aspect of the problem that has not been sufficiently addressed in the literature. The proposed approach also accounts for a non-simplified power flow in which the reactive power associated to shunt admittances of lines/cables is represented. Additionally, the ESSs are accurately modeled in terms of efficiency and SoC. Also their interfaces to the AC grid are represented by means of active and reactive power capability limits. The targeted problem is formulated as a multi-objective one including voltage deviations, network losses, in addition to investment and operation cost minimizations. It should be finally noted that this paper is an extended version of [21] which has been presented at the 18th Power System Computation Conference and was invited to be published in this journal.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: the section 'Problem description' illustrates the problem and provides its formulation. The section 'Solution methodology' explains the proposed methodology to breakdown and solve the problem. The

application example, referring to a real network configuration with real data, is presented in section ‘Simulation results’. In order to highlight the peculiar capability of the proposed approach to deal with large-scale problems, section ‘Computational performances’ provides the analysis of the computation performances of the proposed algorithm with and without using the ADMM decomposition. The section ‘Conclusion’ closes the paper with final remarks concerning the applicability of the proposed procedure.

Problem description

The context of the problem refers to an ADN in presence of non-dispatchable DGs and uncontrollable loads (i.e., we do not consider the presence of demand-side management). The objective is to find the best locations and sizes of a limited amount of ESSs where the limitation applies to the total DNO ESS investment. As anticipated, the problem accounts for two main objectives; (i) minimization of the investment costs associated to the installation of ESSs, (ii) minimization of a virtual cost that accounts for the network operation including both technical and economical costs. It should be noted that the charge/discharge cycles and the SoC level of ESSs are not considered in the operation costs. This is because these costs have been indirectly included in the problem by considering the ESSs limited lifetime (i.e., 5 years). The objective function is as in (1). It includes the investment cost of the ESSs and the network operation costs. The objective of the operation cost considers different terms: (i) voltage deviations from the rated value, (ii) cost of energy imported from the external grid, (iii) total network losses, and (iv) total load curtailment and (v) feeders congestions. The constraints of the problem are modeled by (2)–(12).

minimize: Investment cost + Operation cost

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Investment cost} &= W_{EP} \{ (P_s^{cap} I_p) + (E_s^{cap} I_E) \} \\ \text{Operation cost} &= \frac{\beta_{sc}}{(1+\alpha)^{5-1}} \left(\sum_{SC} \left[\sum_t \left\{ \sum_i (W_{vol} |v_{i,sc}(t) - 1| : (v_{i,sc}(t) \right. \right. \right. \\ &\quad \geq v_{thr}^{max} || v_{i,sc}(t) \leq v_{thr}^{min} + C_{i,sc}(t)) \\ &\quad \left. \left. \left. + \sum_i (W_{loss} f_{ij,sc}(t) : (f_{ij,sc}(t) \geq f_{thr})) + W_{EP} E_{sc}^{Ex}(t) \pi_{sc}(t) \right\} \right] \right) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Investment cost} \leq \text{Total budget} \quad (2)$$

$$E_{s,sc}(t+1) = E_{s,sc}(t) - P_{s,sc}(t) - L_{s,sc}(t) \forall s \in \text{ESS} \quad (3)$$

$$E_{s,min} E_s^{cap} \leq E_{s,sc}(t) \leq E_{s,max} E_s^{cap} \forall s \in \text{ESS} \quad (4)$$

$$0 \leq P_{s,sc}(t) \leq P_s^{cap} \quad (5)$$

$$P_{s,sc}^2(t) + Q_{s,sc}^2(t) \leq (P_s^{cap})^2 \quad \forall s \in \text{ESS} \quad (6)$$

$$L_{s,sc}(t) \geq r_s (P_{s,sc}^2(t) + Q_{s,sc}^2(t)) \quad \forall s \in \text{ESS} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{ij,sc}(t) &= s_{i,sc}(t) + \sum_{h,h-i} (S_{hi,sc}(t) - z_{hi} f_{hi,sc}(t)) - S_{i,sc}^{ger}(t) \\ &\quad - C_{i,sc}(t) \forall (i,j) \in G \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$f_{ij,sc}(t) \geq \frac{|S_{ij,sc}(t)|^2}{v_{i,sc}(t)} \forall (i,j) \in G \quad (9)$$

$$f_{ij,sc}(t) \leq f_{ij,max} \quad \forall (i,j) \in G \quad (10)$$

$$v_{i,sc}(t) = v_{j,sc}(t) + 2\text{Re}(z_{ij} S_{ij,sc}(t)) - |z_{ij}|^2 f_{ij,sc}(t) \quad (11)$$

$$v_{min} \leq v_{i,sc}(t) \leq v_{max} \quad i \in N \quad (12)$$

The total budget constraint is represented by (2). The energy stored in each ESS is dependent on the previous SoC and the amount of energy stored/withdrawn from the ESS reservoir: Eq. (3) models this constraint. Eqs. (4) and (5) show the capacity constraints of ESSs power rating and energy reservoir. The capability curve of the ESSs is accounted by (6). It is worth observing that this constraint is piece-wise linearized in order to preserve the convexity of the whole optimization problem [15].¹ The resistive losses of each ESS, associated to its efficiency, are approximated by equation (7) where we have considered them proportional to the square of the apparent power flow flowing through a given ESS. Constraints (8)–(12) define the constraints associated to the network operation. The power balance is modeled by (8). The feeders current flow limits are modeled by (9)² and (10) and the voltage limits are defined by (11) and (12).

Solution methodology

Summary about the alternating direction method of multipliers [18]

The inherent large-scale nature of the problem lays in the fact that it should cover a reasonable number of scenarios in order to obtain a solution accounting for a sufficiently large set of variations of the considered parameters. One of the most common approaches is to breakdown the problem into smaller ones. By following this idea, we propose to use the ADMM to breakdown the original problem and obtain a distributed parallel convex optimization ones.

The ADMM is a powerful and well-suited method for decentralized convex optimization. The peculiarity of the ADMM is that it uses a decomposition-coordination procedure in order to find the solution to a large global problem by solving small local sub-problems in parallel. It uses the benefits of dual decomposition and augmented Lagrangian methods [18,19]. In the following, the ADMM is briefly described.

Suppose an optimization problem generically represented by (13) and (14) where f , g , ξ , and ζ are convex. The f and g are independent from each other except they are linked by the constraint (14).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize}_{x,z} \quad & f(x) + g(z) \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \text{dom } f = \{x | x \in \xi\} \\ & \text{dom } g = \{z | z \in \zeta\} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

$$Ax + Bz = c \quad (14)$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times n}$, $B \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times m}$ and $c \in \mathbb{R}^p$ when the variables $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}^m$. The augmented Lagrangian of this problem with respect to constraint (14) has the form (15).

$$\begin{aligned} L_\rho(x,y,z) &= f(x) + g(z) + y^T(Ax + Bz - c) + (\rho/2) \|Ax + Bz - c\|_2^2 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \text{dom } f = \{x | x \in \xi\} \\ & \text{dom } g = \{z | z \in \zeta\} \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The ADMM procedure is deployed as follows. First, the augmented Lagrangian problem (15) is minimized with z and y being fixed. Then the obtained x is used in the minimization of (15) with x , and y being fixed. Finally, the dual multipliers are updated as shown in (18) with the obtained x and z from the previous step. This procedure will be continued until it converges to the global optimal solution.

¹ The linearization of the constraints of the problem has been already addressed by the Authors in [15].

² This constraint is the relaxed version of its original formulation composed by an equality instead of an inequality.

$$x^{k+1} := \operatorname{argmin}_x L_\rho(x, y^k, z^k) \quad (16)$$

$$z^{k+1} := \operatorname{argmin}_z L_\rho(x^{k+1}, y^k, z) \quad (17)$$

$$y^{k+1} := y^k + \rho(Ax^{k+1} + Bz^{k+1} - c) \quad (18)$$

ADMM application to ESSs optimal planning

The ADMM is used here to decompose the problem of the installation-cost minimization from the one of the operation-cost

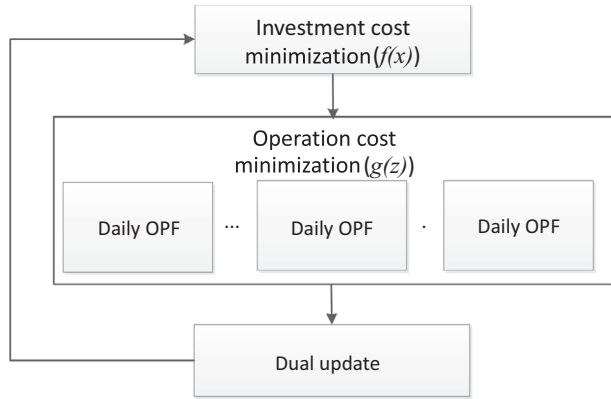


Fig. 1. ADMM procedure applied to the problem of ESS optimal planning.

minimization enabling a parallel formulation. The two problems are linked by a set of linear constraints. These constraints imply that the ESS capacities obtained in the first problem are identical to the ones in the second. The application of the ADMM to the ESS optimal planning problem is described in what follows. Functions $f(x)$ and $g(z)$ of (13) represent, in our case, the ESS investment and the operation cost functions respectively. The linking constraints are the capacities (power rating and energy reservoir) of the ESSs in investment and operation cost minimizations. They assure that the ESSs power rating and energy reservoir capacities should be the same for the two ADMM sub-problems. The objective function to be minimized in the first step is the investment cost minimization of (1) and it is constrained by total budget. The operation cost of (1) is the objective that is minimized in the second step. The constraints of the second step are (3)–(12). The last step is the dual update. These steps are iterated until the solver converges to an optimal solution. The scheme of the proposed ADMM-based procedure is shown in Fig. 1.

Simulation results

A real distribution network located in the southwest of Switzerland has been used as a case study (see Fig. 2). The network contains 287 nodes and is characterized by non-negligible amount of PV installations with a total capacity of 5 MW. Nodes where PVs are connected are shown in Fig. 2 together with the obtained location of the ESSs inferred from the proposed

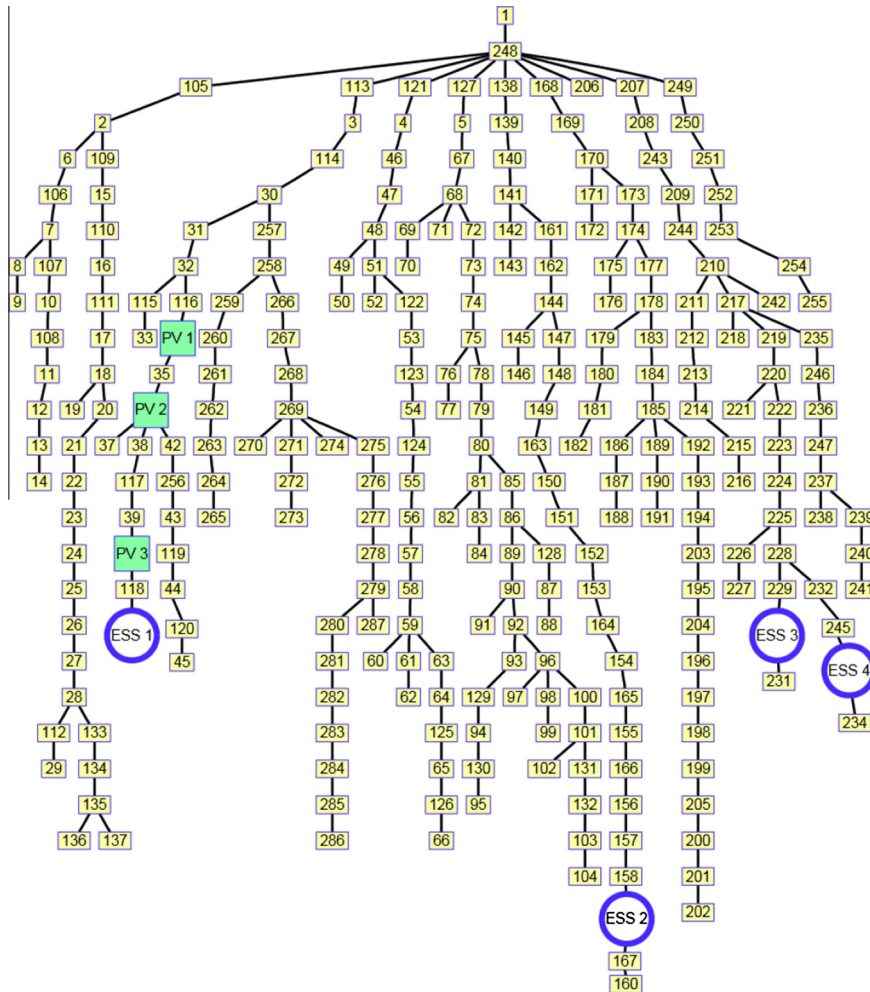


Fig. 2. The schematic of the test case study.

procedure. The simulation is done for five years (assumed lifetime of ESSs) and four weeks in each year: one in spring, one in summer, one in fall, and one in winter. Experimentally measured loads and generation profiles for this specific grid are available with a discretization time step of 15 min. Total active power load profiles of these four time periods for the first year are shown in Fig. 3. The load profiles for the other years are considered to have the same profile with a linear increase of 5% per year. The load is distributed between the feeders as shown in Table 1. The energy price profiles of these weeks (for the first year) are shown in Fig. 4. The energy price is assumed to increase by 2% at each year. The weight coefficients of the elements composing the objective function are: voltage deviation $W_{vol} = 0.61$, total network loss $W_{loss} = 0.05$, energy cost from external grid $W_{ep} = 0.04$ and the feeder overloading above 80% of their respective capacities $W_{vol} = 0.3$. These values have been inferred using the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) [22]. First, the relative importance of each element of the multi-objective function is defined by the decision-maker (in this case, the DNO). Then, a pairwise comparison is done between the objectives. These pairwise comparisons are used to form a matrix. Finally, this matrix is used to calculate the final weights.

The investment costs for ESSs capacity rating and energy reservoir are assumed to be 1800 CHF/kW and 1000 CHF/kWh respectively. These values are inferred from the report [23] with specific reference to the Li-ion electrochemical batteries.

The annual interest rate is assumed to be 4%. The ADMM penal-ty parameter ρ has been assumed equal to 100. The voltage minimization term in the objective function is activated when

Table 1

Average feeder loading in the four considered weeks. It should be noted that the feeder connecting the bus #206 is not considered in this table.

Feeder #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Starting node of the considered feeder (see Fig. 2)	105	113	121	127	138	168	207	249
Load share with respect to total network loading (%)	0.62	25.1	13.2	7	20	5	0.29	28

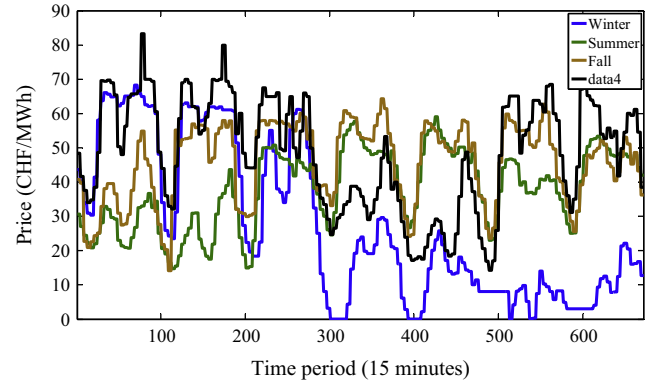


Fig. 4. Profiles of the electricity prices in the four considered weeks.

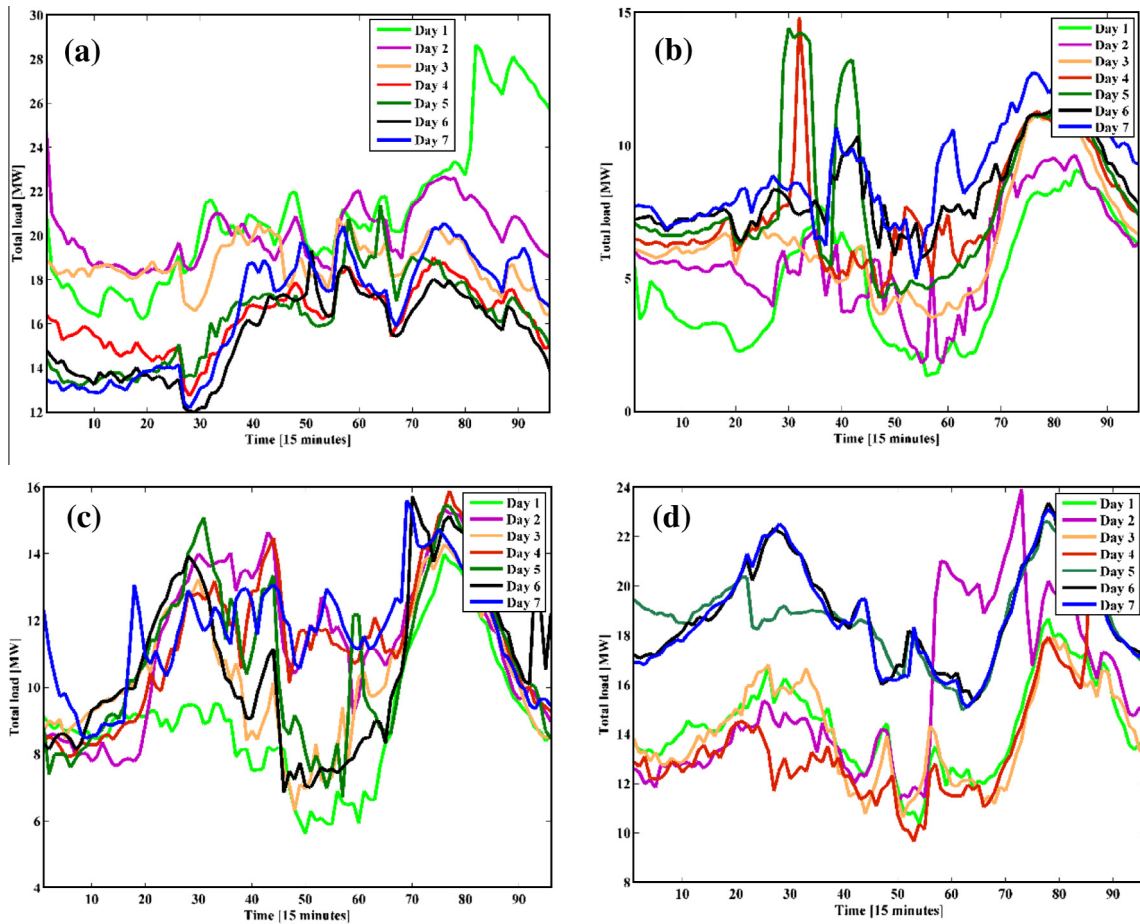


Fig. 3. Aggregated network loads: active-power profiles for the four considered weeks. (a) winter, (b) summer, (c) fall, and (d) spring. Each curve refers to a day of the week.

Table 2
Optimal ESS site and size.

ESS #	1	2	3	4
Node number	41	159	230	233
Power rating (MW)	1.1	1.87	0.47	1.12
Reservoir capacity (MWh)	3.4	3.32	0.48	1.15

the voltage exhibits a deviation from the rated value larger than $\pm 2\%$.

The obtained optimal locations and ratings of ESSs are shown in Table 2. As it can be seen, 4 nodes are selected to install ESSs. All the selected nodes are close to the largest loads. For the two cases of the grid without and with optimally located ESSs, Table 3 shows the total amount of network losses, feeder overload above 80% of the rated current and energy cost imported from the external grid. All these quantities exhibit a clear decrease in case where optimally-allocated ESSs are available in the network.

Fig. 5 shows the Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF) of nodal voltages in both analyzed cases (i.e., with and without ESSs). It is evident that the presence of ESSs allows to largely improve the ADN quality-of-service with respect to voltage variations.

The SoC of all the ESSs in two days, one day in summer and one day in winter, are shown in Figs. 6 and 7 respectively. As it can be observed, the figures show how the integral constraint on the ESS SoC has been respected. Fig. 6 shows that, in the summer period, all of the ESSs, except the one that is on the feeder with PV production follow the load profile. The ESS 1, which is located on the feeder with PV production is responding to the energy price profile. It stores excess PV production during the day and produce energy during high-peak hours. Fig. 7 shows that the ESSs SoC in the wintertime period is different. In particular, all the ESSs are responding to the load profile. In this respect, it is worth observing that these ESSs are located in the feeders characterized by the highest loading level with associated largest voltage variations. Thus, they tend to minimize the corresponding elements of the multi-objective function since they have a larger priority. In view of the above considerations, it is evident how the proposed process is capable to locate each ESS by distinguishing their influences on: the network quality-of-service, the local energy balance and the network zone of influence.

It should be noted that the case study investigated in this paper does not require any load curtailment. It is also worth noting that the main objective investigated in this paper is the ESSs contribution to increase the ADN quality-of-service (i.e., compensate the voltage deviations). Therefore, this specific objective is characterized by the highest weight in the objective function. As a result, as it can be noted from Table 3, the benefits resulting from the energy arbitrage cannot justify the ESS high capital cost alone.

A reasonable stopping criterion is that the primal and dual residuals have to be small [18]. The objective sub-optimality is small when these two values are small [18]. The progress of primal and dual residuals as a function of the iteration number is shown in Figs. 8 and 9, respectively. The primal and dual residuals are calculated as (19) and (20) respectively and used as the stopping criteria [18].

Table 3
Changes in the each term of the objective function.

	Total network losses in the simulated weeks (MWh)	Total energy cost imported from the external grid in the simulated weeks (CHF)	Total feeders loading with percentages larger than 80% (p.u.)
Optimal ESS siting and sizing	714.7	898450	0
Without ESS	859.02	985140	14.7

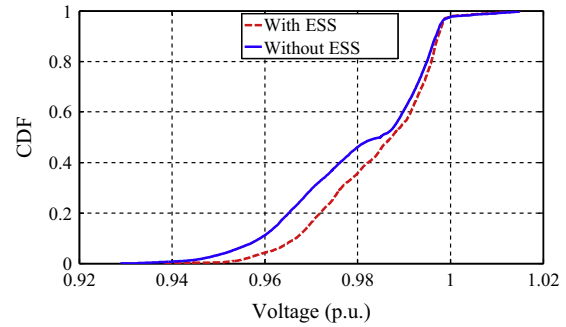


Fig. 5. The CDF of nodal voltages for the cases with and without optimal ESS siting and sizing.

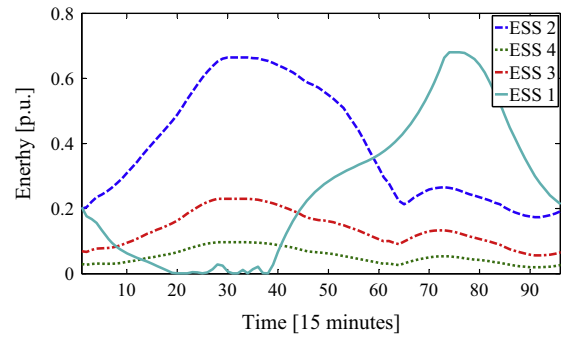


Fig. 6. SoC profiles of the ESSs in summer period (base value of energy is 5 MW h).

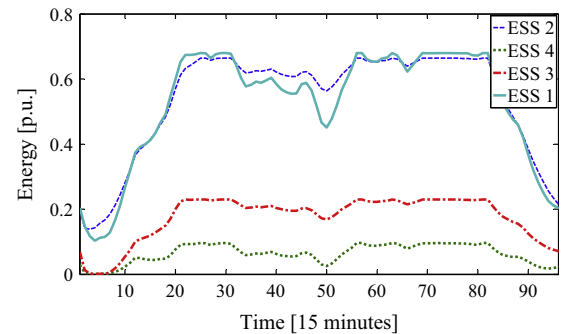


Fig. 7. SoC profiles of the ESSs in winter period (base value of energy is 5 MW h).

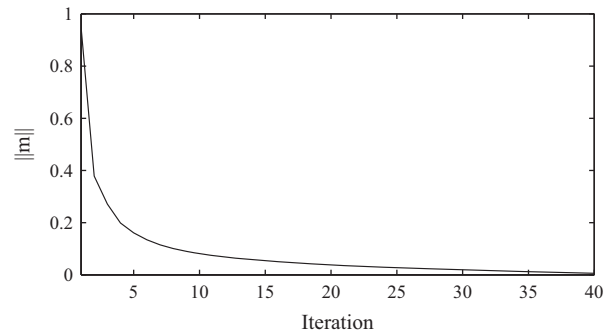


Fig. 8. Norm of primal residual versus iteration.

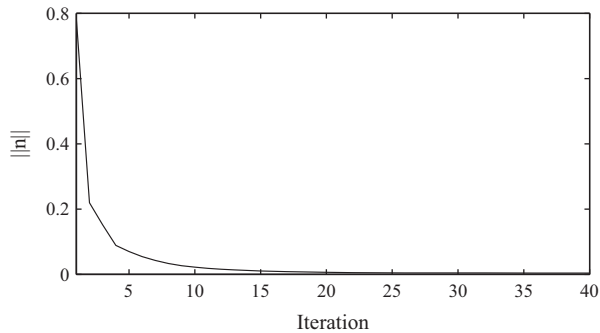


Fig. 9. Norm of dual residual versus iteration.

Table 4

Computational time comparison between two cases: (i) with ADMM, (ii) without ADMM.

	1 scenario	10 scenarios	15 scenarios
ADMM	43 s (converged in 40 iterations)	41 s (convergence in 40 iterations)	42 s (convergence in 40 iterations)
Without ADMM	3680 s	35952.98 s	50772.87 s

$$\|m^k\| = \|Ax^k + Bz^k - c\| \quad (19)$$

$$\|n^k\| = \|z^{k+1} - z^k\| \quad (20)$$

Computational performances

This section illustrates the computational advantages associated to the use of the ADMM with respect to the case in which we do not decompose it. In this respect, Table 4 shows the computational time to solve the problem with respect to these two conditions.

As it can be inferred from Table 4, with the increase of the number of scenarios, the computational time increases almost exponentially for the case of a solution without the ADMM. Additionally, when the number of scenarios increase, also the memory allocation required by the solver increases causing out-of-memory issues. On the other hand, with ADMM the increase of scenarios just increase the number of sub-problem and it does not increase the size of each individual optimization subproblem.

It should be also noted that the value of penalty parameter ρ has an important impact on the computational time of the sub-problems and the number of iterations required for the convergence. With a small values of ρ (i.e., 0.5), the computational time of each subproblem at the first couple of iteration is around 400 s and the required number of iterations for convergence is around 100 whereas with ρ equal to 100 the computational time is around 40 s and the problem converges in less than 40 iterations.

Conclusion

The paper has proposed a decomposition method based on the ADMM methodology applied to the problem of ESSs optimal siting and sizing in ADNs. The objective function of the problem accounts for different benefits of the ESSs. Indeed, the targeted problem has been formulated to account for: voltage deviations, network losses, in addition to investment and operation cost minimizations and congestion management.

Compared to other works already published by the Authors on the same subject, the paper has shown how the use of ADMM has allowed to define an efficient procedure to solve a large-scale problem accounting for networks with realistic large number of nodes and scenarios. In this respect, after the description of the proposed planning procedure, the paper has discussed its application to the case of a real large-scale network with real profiles of load and distributed generation coming from photovoltaic units.

It is evident from the obtained results how the proposed process is capable to locate each ESS by distinguishing their influences on: the network quality-of-service, the local energy balance and the network zone of influence. It can be concluded that the proposed process can be used by DNOs to evaluate the possible use of ESSs as a valid alternative to investments in grid reinforcement or massive telecom infrastructure for direct DG control.

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