Ant Lion Optimization Approach for Load Frequency Control of Multi-Area Interconnected Power Systems

R. Satheeshkumar, R. Shivakumar

EEE, Sona College of Technology, Salem, India

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Abstract

This work proposes a novel nature-inspired algorithm called Ant Lion Optimizer (ALO). The ALO algorithm mimics the search mechanism of antlions in nature. A time domain based objective function is established to tune the parameters of the PI controller based LFC, which is solved by the proposed ALO algorithm to reach the most convenient solutions. A three-area interconnected power system is investigated as a test system under various loading conditions to confirm the effectiveness of the suggested algorithm. Simulation results are given to show the enhanced performance of the developed ALO algorithm based controllers in comparison with Genetic Algorithm (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Bat Algorithm (BAT) and conventional PI controller. These results represent that the proposed BAT algorithm tuned PI controller offers better performance over other soft computing algorithms in conditions of settling times and several performance indices.

Keywords

Load Frequency Control (LFC), Multi-Area Power System, Proportional-Integral (PI) Controller, Ant Lion Optimization (ALO), Bat Algorithm (BAT), Genetic Algorithm (GA), Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO)

1. Introduction

Load Frequency Control (LFC) is a crucial topic in power system operation and control of supplying sufficient and dependable electric power with better tone. An electric energy system must be maintained at a desired oper-
ating level characterized by nominal frequency and voltage profile, and this is achieved by close control of real and reactive powers generated through the controllable source of the system. The primary destination of the LFC is to maintain zero steady state errors for frequency deviation, and right tracking load demands in a multi-area power system [1]-[4]. During the last decades, many technical papers have been distributed with the LFC in power system literature by using analogy models, such as [5] [6]. In Ref. [5], an LFC model is considered by using linear feedback. In [6], a new approach is reported for optimal control of power systems.

In the event of an interconnected power system, any small sudden load change in any of the areas causes the variation of the frequencies of each and every area and likewise at that place is a fluctuation of power in tie line. The primary objective of Load Frequency Control (LFC) area is to maintain the right frequency, besides the desired power output (megawatt) in the interconnected power system and to monitor the change in tie line power between control areas. Thus, an LFC scheme incorporates an appropriate control system for an interconnected power system. It is having the capability to bring the frequencies of each area and the tie line powers back to original setpoint values or very nearer to set point values effectively after the load change because of the of conventional controllers. Nevertheless, the conventional controllers are having some demerits like; they are very sluggish in functioning. They do not care about the inherent nonlinearities of different power system components; it is very hard to decide the gain of the integrator setting according to changes in the operating point. The artificial intelligence control system delivers many advantages over the conventional integral controller. They are a lot faster than integrated controllers, and besides they give better stability response than integral controllers. Several control strategies for LFC of power systems have been proposed to maintain the frequency and tie-line power flow at their scheduled power values during normal and distributed conditions. Classical controllers are offered for LFC of power system [7]. Also, various soft computing algorithms based controllers such as GA, PSO, Crazeing PSO, Bacterial Foraging Optimization, Differential Evaluation, etc., are applied and found the superiority of the power system [8]-[23].

In this proposed research work, a new form of multi-area power system with a combination of thermal, hydro and PV sources. A new algorithm proposed for load-frequency control, which can both reduce control time and diminish the value of frequency deviation during the active operation of power systems. By developing of industrial controllers, Proportional-Integral (PI) controllers is still one of the most popular controllers. A new approach addressed for load-frequency control of interconnected three area power systems by using an Ant Lion Optimizer (ALO) algorithm in this paper. The algorithm applied to optimize the PI parameters. Also, to adjust the PI controller, the ITAE is used as a cost function. The ITAE criterion was chosen due to it can determine a healthy weight for error signal in terms of time. This event can reduce settling time in the lowest value and damp fluctuations, quickly [24]. In the proposed method, the Area Control Error (ACE) is also fixed and worked out by the feedback in each area; and therefore, the control action is done to set the ACE in zero value. As a result, frequency and tie power among areas are prevented in the stipulated values.

2. Three Area Interconnected Power System

The system under study consists of three areas. Area one is a thermal non-reheat system, area two is a hydro system, and area three is photovoltaic (PV) system [25] [26]. The detailed designed model of three area power system for load frequency control is shown in Figure 1. The thermal plant has a single stage non-reheat steam turbine, and the hydro plant equipped with an electric governor.

System Modelling

The dynamic model of Load Frequency Control (LFC) for a two-area interconnected power system is presented in this section. Each area of the power system consists of speed governing system, turbine, and generator as shown in Figure 1. Each area has three inputs and two outputs. The inputs are the controller input $\Delta P_{ref}$, load disturbance $\Delta P_{D}$ and tie-line power error $\Delta P_{tie}$. The outputs are the generator frequency $\Delta f$ and Area Control Error ($ACE$) given by equation

$$ACE = B \cdot \Delta f + \Delta P_{tie}$$

where $B$ is the frequency bias parameter.

To simplicity the frequency-domain analyzes, transfer functions are used to model each component of the area. Turbine is represented by the transfer function [27].
Transfer function of the governor is

\[ G_g(s) = \frac{\Delta P_g(s)}{\Delta P_g(s)} = \frac{1}{T_{g1} \cdot s + 1} \] (2)

Transfer function of the steam turbine is

\[ G_t(s) = \frac{\Delta P_t(s)}{\Delta P_t(s)} = \frac{1}{T_r \cdot s + 1} \] (3)

Transfer function of the generator is

\[ G_p(s) = \frac{K_p \cdot s}{T_p \cdot s + 1} \] (4)

where \( K_p = 1/D \) and \( T_p = 2H/D \).

Transfer function of the hydraulic turbine is

\[ G_h(s) = \frac{-T_h(s \cdot s)}{T_h/2 \cdot s + 1} \] (5)

The system under investigation consists of three area interconnected power system as shown in Figure 1. The system is widely used in literature is for the design and analysis of automatic load frequency control of inter-

Figure 1. A three area LFC power system model.
connected areas [28] [29]. In Figure 1, $B_1$ and $B_2$ are the frequency bias parameters; $ACE_1$, $ACE_2$, and $ACE_3$ are area control errors; $u_1$, $u_2$, and $u_3$ are the control outputs from the controller; $R_1$ and $R_2$ are the governor speed regulation parameters in pu Hz; $T_{g1}$ and $T_{g2}$ are the speed governor time constants in sec; $\Delta P_{g1}$ and $\Delta P_{g2}$ are the change in governor valve positions (pu); $\Delta P_{gu}$ and $\Delta P_{g2}$ are the governor output command (p.u). $T_{t1}$ and $T_{t2}$ are the turbine time constant in sec; $\Delta P_{t1}$ and $\Delta P_{t2}$ are the change in turbine output powers; $d_{pg1}$, $d_{pg2}$, and $d_{pg3}$ are the load demand changes; $\Delta P_{tie}$ is the incremental change in tie line power (p.u); $KP_{S1}$, $KP_{S2}$, and $KP_{S3}$ are the power system gains; $TP_{S1}$, $TP_{S2}$, and $TP_{S3}$ are the power system time constant in sec; $T_{t12}$, $T_{t23}$, and $T_{t31}$ are the synchronizing coefficient and $\Delta f_1$, $\Delta f_2$ and $\Delta f_3$ are the system frequency deviations in Hz.

3. Design of Pi for Load Frequency Control System

Despite significant strides in the development of advanced control schemes over the past two decades, the conventional Proportional-Integral (PI) controller and its variants remain an engineer’s preferred choice because of its structural simplicity, reliability, and the favorable ratio between performance and cost. Beyond these benefits, it controllers also offers simplified dynamic modeling, lower user-skill requirements, and minimal development effort, which are issues of substantial importance to engineering practice. As the name suggests, the PI algorithm consists of three basic modes, the proportional mode, and integral mode. A proportional controller has the effect of reducing the rise time, but never eliminates the steady-state error. An integral control has the effect of eliminating the steady-state error, but it may make the transient response worse. The design of PI controller requires determination of the two parameters, Proportional gain (KP) and Integral gain (KI) [27] [29].

The error inputs to the controllers are the respective area control errors ($ACE$) are:

$$e_1(t) = ACE_1 = B_1 \Delta f_1 + \Delta P_{tie12}$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

$$e_2(t) = ACE_2 = B_2 \Delta f_2 + \Delta P_{tie23}$$  \hspace{1cm} (7)

$$e_3(t) = ACE_3 = \Delta f_3 + \Delta P_{tie31}$$  \hspace{1cm} (8)

The control inputs of the power system $u_1$ and $u_2$ are the outputs of the controllers. The control inputs are obtained as:

$$u_1 = K_{P1} ACE_1 + K_{I1} \int ACE_1 \, dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

$$u_2 = K_{P2} ACE_2 + K_{I2} \int ACE_2 \, dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

$$u_3 = K_{P3} ACE_3 + K_{I3} \int ACE_3 \, dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

In the design of a PI controller, the objective function is first defined based on the desired specifications and constraints. The design of objective function to tune PI controller is based on a performance index that considers the entire closed loop response. Typical output specifications in the time domain are peak overshooting, rise time, settling time, and steady-state error. Four kinds of performance criteria usually considered in the control design are the Integral of Time multiplied Absolute Error (ITAE), Integral of Squared Error (ISE) and Integral of Absolute Error (IAE).

The sum of time multiple absolute errors in $ACE$ is considered as a performance index. Hence, $J$ can be:

$$J = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \int_0^{t_{max}} |ACE| \, dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

$$K_{P1}^{min} \leq K_{P1} \leq K_{P1}^{max}$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

$$K_{I1}^{min} \leq K_{I1} \leq K_{I1}^{max}$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

where $J$ is the objective function and $K_{P1}^{min}$, $K_{P1}^{max}$, $K_{I1}^{min}$ and $K_{I1}^{max}$ is the minimum and maximum value of
the control parameters. One more important factor that affects the optimal solution more or less is the range for unknowns. The range of unknowns depends on the type of applications. For the very first execution of the program, a wider solution space can be given and after getting the solution, one can shorten the solution space nearer to the values obtained in the previous iteration. To enhance the system response regarding the settling time and overshoots, it is necessary to modify the above equation. The design process can be formed as the following constrained optimization problem.

4. Ant Lion Optimizer Algorithm

The ALO algorithm also finds superior optimal designs for the majority of classical engineering problems employed, showing that this algorithm has merits in solving constrained problems with separate search spaces. The main inspiration of the ALO algorithm comes from the foraging behavior of antlion’s larvae [30]. Figure 2(a) shows several cone-shaped pits with different sizes. After digging the trap, the larvae hide underneath the bottom of the cone and waits for insects (preferably ant) to be trapped in the pit [30] as illustrated in Figure 2(b). The edge of the cone is sharp enough for insects to fall to the bottom of the trap easily. Once the antlion realizes that prey is in the trap, it tries to catch it.

4.1. Operators of the ALO algorithm

The ALO algorithm mimics interaction between antlions and ants in the trap. To model such interactions, ants are required to move over the search space, and antlions are allowed to hunt them and become fitter using traps. Since ants move stochastically in nature when searching for food, a random walk is chosen for modeling ants’ movement as follows:

![Figure 2. Hunting behavior of antlions.](image)
where `cumsum` calculates the cumulative sum, `n` is the maximum number of iteration; `t` shows the step of random walk (iteration in this study), and `r(t)` is a stochastic function defined as follows:

\[
r(t) = \begin{cases} 
1 & \text{if } \text{rand} > 0.5 \\
0 & \text{if } \text{rand} \leq 0.5 
\end{cases}
\]  

where `t` shows the step of random walk (iteration in this study) and `rand` is a random number generated with uniform distribution in the interval of [0, 1].

**Figure 3** shows hunting behavior of ant lions. This figure indicates that the random walk utilized may fluctuate dramatically around the origin (red curve), have increasing trend (black curve), or have descending behavior (blue curve).

The position of ants is saved and utilized during optimization in the following matrix:

\[
M_{\text{Ant}} = \begin{bmatrix}
A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & \ldots & A_{1,d} \\
A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & \ldots & A_{2,d} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
A_{n,1} & A_{n,2} & \ldots & A_{n,d}
\end{bmatrix}
\]  

where `M_{\text{Ant}}` is the matrix for saving the post of each ant, `A_{i,j}` shows the value of the `j`th variable (dimension) of `i`th ant; `n` is the number of ants, and `d` is the number of variables. It should be noted that ants are similar to particles in PSO or individuals in GA. The position of an ant refers the parameters for a particular solution. Matrix `M_{\text{Ant}}` has been considered to save the post of all ants (variables of all solutions) during optimization. For evaluating each ant, fitness (objective) function is utilized during optimization and the following matrix stores the fitness value of all ants:

\[
M_{\text{OA}} = \begin{bmatrix}
f\left(\begin{bmatrix} A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & \ldots & A_{1,d} \end{bmatrix}\right) \\
f\left(\begin{bmatrix} A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & \ldots & A_{2,d} \end{bmatrix}\right) \\
\vdots \\
f\left(\begin{bmatrix} A_{n,1} & A_{n,2} & \ldots & A_{n,d} \end{bmatrix}\right)
\end{bmatrix}
\]  

**Figure 3.** Three random walks.
where $M_{OA}$ is the matrix for saving the fitness of each ant, $A_{i,j}$ shows the value of the $j^{th}$ dimension of the $i^{th}$ ant; $n$ is the number of ants, and $f$ is the objective function. In addition to ants, we assume the antlions are also hiding somewhere in the search space. In order to save their positions and fitness values, the following matrices are utilized:

$$M_{Antlion} = \begin{bmatrix}
A_{1,1} & A_{1,2} & \cdots & A_{1,d} \\
A_{2,1} & A_{2,2} & \cdots & A_{2,d} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
A_{n,1} & A_{n,2} & \cdots & A_{n,d}
\end{bmatrix}$$

(19)

where $M_{Antlion}$ is the matrix for saving the post of each antlion, $A_{i,j}$ shows the $j^{th}$ dimension’s value of $i^{th}$ antlion; $n$ is the number of antlions, and $d$ is the number of variables (dimension).

$$M_{OA} = \begin{bmatrix}
f\left(\left[A_{1,1}A_{1,2}\ldots A_{1,d}\right]\right) \\
f\left(\left[A_{2,1}A_{2,2}\ldots A_{2,d}\right]\right) \\
\vdots \\
f\left(\left[A_{n,1}A_{n,2}\ldots A_{n,d}\right]\right)
\end{bmatrix}$$

(20)

where $M_{OA}$ is the matrix for saving the fitness of each antlion, $A_{i,j}$ shows the $j^{th}$ dimension’s value of $i^{th}$ antlion; $n$ is the number of antlions, and $f$ is the objective function. During optimization, the following conditions are applied:

- Ants move around the search space using different random walks.
- Random walks are applied to all the dimension of ants.
- Random walks are affected by the traps of antlions.
- Antlions can build pits proportional to their fitness (the higher fitness, the larger pit).
- Antlions with larger pits have the higher probability of catching ants.
- An antlion can catch each ant in each iteration and the elite (fittest antlion).
- The range of random walk is decreased adaptively to simulate sliding ants towards antlions.
- If an ant becomes fitter than an antlion, this means that it is caught and pulled under the sand by the antlion.
- An antlion repositions itself to the latest caught prey and builds a pit to improve its chance of catching another prey after each hunt.

### 4.2. ALO Algorithm

The ALO algorithm is defined as a three-tuple function that approximates the global optimum for optimization problems as follows [30]:

$$ALO(A, B, C)$$

(21)

where $A$ is a function that generates the random initial solutions, $B$ manipulates the initial population provided by the function $A$, and $C$ returns true when the end criterion is satisfied. The functions $A$, $B$, and $C$ are defined as follows:

$$\phi \rightarrow \{M_{Ant}, M_{OA}, M_{Antlion}, M_{OAL}\}$$

(22)

$$\{M_{Ant}, M_{Antlion}\} \xrightarrow{B} \{M_{Ant}, M_{Antlion}\}$$

(23)

$$\{M_{Ant}, M_{Antlion}\} \xrightarrow{C} \{\text{True, False}\}$$

(24)

where $M_{Ant}$ is the matrix of the position of ants, $M_{Antlion}$ includes the position of antlions; $M_{OA}$ contains the corresponding fitness of ants, and $M_{OAL}$ has the fitness of antlions.

The pseudo codes the ALO algorithm is defined as follows:
1. Initialize the first population of ants and antlions randomly
2. Calculate the fitness of ants and antlions
3. Find the best antlions and assume it as the elite (determined optimum)
4. while the end criterion is not satisfied
5. for every ant
6. Select an antlion using Roulette wheel
7. Update c and d using equations $C_i = \frac{C_i}{I}$ and $d_i = \frac{d_i}{I}$
8. Create a random walk and normalize it using equation
9. $X(t) = \left[0, \text{cumsum}(2r(t_i)-1), \cdots, \text{cumsum}(2r(t_i)-1)\right]$ 
10. and $X'_t = \frac{(X'_i - a_i) \times (d_i - C'_i)}{(d'_i - a_i)}$
11. Update the position of ant using $\text{Ant}_i = \frac{R'_d + R'_E}{2}$
12. end for
13. Calculate the fitness of all ants
14. Replace an antlion with its corresponding ant becomes fitter using equation
15. $\text{Antlion}'_t = \text{Ant}_t$ if $f(\text{Ant}_t) > f(\text{Antlion}_t)$
16. Update elite if an antlion becomes fitter than the elite
17. end while
18. Return elite

where $d'_i$ is the minimum of the random walk of the $i^{th}$ variable, $C'_i$ is the maximum of random walk in $i^{th}$ variable, is the minimum of the $i^{th}$ variable at $i^{th}$ iteration, and indicates the maximum of the $i^{th}$ variable at $i^{th}$ iteration. $R'_d$ is the random walk around the antlion selected by the roulette wheel at $i^{th}$ iteration, $R'_E$ is the random walk around the elite at $i^{th}$ iteration, and $\text{Ant}_i$ indicates the position of $i^{th}$ ant at $i^{th}$ iteration. $\text{Antlion}_i$ displays the position of selected $j^{th}$ antlion at $i^{th}$ iteration, $t$ shows the current iteration and $\text{Ant}_i$ shows the position of $i^{th}$ ant at $i^{th}$ iteration.

In the ALO algorithm, the antlion and ant matrices are initialized randomly using the function A. In every iteration, the function B updates the position of each ant on an antlion selected by the roulette wheel operator and the elite. The boundary of position updating is first defined proportionally to the current number of iteration. Two random walks then accomplish the updating position around the selected antlion and elite. When all the ants randomly walk, they are evaluated by the fitness function. If any of the ants become fitter than any other antlions, their positions are considered as the new posts for the antlions in the next iteration. The best antlion is compared to the best antlion found during optimization (elite) and substituted if it is necessary. These steps iterative until the function C returns false.

Theoretically speaking, the proposed ALO algorithm can approximate the global optimum of optimization problems due to the following reasons:

- Exploration of the search space is guaranteed by the random selection of antlions and random walks of ants around them.
- Exploitation of search space is ensured by the adaptive shrinking boundaries of antlions’ traps.
- There is a high probability of resolving local optima stagnation due to the use of random walks and the roulette wheel.
- ALO is a population-based algorithm, so local optima avoidance is intrinsically high.
- The intensity of ants’ movement is adaptively decreased over the course of iterations, which guarantees convergence of the ALO algorithm.
- Calculating random walks for every ant, and every dimension promotes diversity in the population.
- Antlions relocate to the position of best ants during optimization, so promising areas of search spaces are saved.
- Antlions guide ants towards promising regions of the search space.
- The best antlion in each iteration is stored and compared to the best antlion obtained so far (elite).
- The ALO algorithm has very few parameters to adjust.
- The ALO algorithm is a gradient-free algorithm and considers problem as a black box.

5. Results and Discussion

The model of the three area interconnected power system under study has been developed using MATLAB/Simulink software platform as shown in Figure 1. The advanced power system model is simulated in a separate program considering a 10% step load change in the area. The objective function is calculated in MATLAB file and used in the optimization algorithm. To evaluate the performance of the proposed ALO PI Controller. The simulated results are compared with these of Conventional PI, GA PI, PSO PI and BAT PI Controllers.

5.1. Case 1: Step Load Change in Area-1

A step increase in demand of 10% and 20% applied at $t = 0$ s in area-1, and the system dynamics responses are shown in Figures 4-9 and for 20% step load in area 2 illustrated in Figures 10-15. It is evident from both
Figure 6. Frequency deviation of area-3 for 10% step increase in load demand in area-1.

Figure 7. Tie-line power deviation of area-1 for 10% step increase in load demand in area-1.

Figure 8. Tie-line power deviation of area-2 for 10% step increase in load demand in area-1.
Figure 9. Tie-line power deviation of area-3 for 10% step increase in load demand in area-1.

Figure 10. Frequency deviation of area-1 for 20% step increase in load demand in area-1.

Figure 11. Frequency deviation of area-2 for 20% step increase in load demand in area-1.
Figure 12. Frequency deviation of area-3 for 20% step increase in load demand in area-1.

Figure 13. Tie-line power deviation of area-1 for 20% step increase in load demand in area-1.

Figure 14. Tie-line power deviation of area-2 for 20% step increase in load demand in area-1.
conditions that, when ITAE is used as an objective function, the system performance with proposed controller is better than that of GA, PSO and BAT based PI controller on ITAE criteria. So, it can be concluded that the performance of proposed ALO is superior to that of GA, PSO, and BAT from fitness function minimization point of view. The response with ALO based PI controller is the best among the other alternatives as best system performance is obtained from desired control specification point of view.

5.2. Case B: Sensitivity Analysis

Sensitivity analysis is carried out to study the robustness the system to wide changes in the operating conditions and system parameters [31]-[33]. The operating load condition and time constants of a speed governor, turbine, tie-line power are varied from their nominal values in the range of +25% to −25%. The change in operating load condition affects the power system parameters $K_{ps}$ and $T_{ps}$. The power system parameters are calculated for different loading conditions as given in Appendix A. The change in tie-line power is simulated by changing the synchronizing coefficient $T_{12}$. Figures 16-45 shows the exchanged power between three area under this load exchange. The controller parameters, error performance indices like ITAE, ISE, IAE, frequency and tie line power deviations with various controllers under nominal load and sensitivity load test conditions with time constants of speed governor ($T_g$), turbine ($T_t$), tie-line power ($T_{12}$) and hydraulic governor coefficients ($T_{h1}$ and $T_{h3}$) are varied from their nominal values in the range of +25% to −25%. The power system parameters and time constants are calculated for the varied condition and used in the simulation model. In all the cases the controller parameters obtained using the objective function $J$ is considered due to its superior performance. The results obtained are depicted in Table 1 and Table 2. The system performances are within acceptable change when ±25% changes the operating load condition and system parameters from their nominal values. Hence, it can be concluded that the closed loop system is stable when the operating conditions and system parameters vary.

6. Conclusions

ALO algorithm is suggested in this paper to tune the parameters of PI controllers for LFC problem. An integral time absolute error of the ACE for all areas is chosen as the objective function to enhance the system response in terms of the settling time and overshoots. The major contributions of this paper are:

- Establishment of the dynamic model for three area power system considering with LFC based Ant Lion Optimizer algorithm to assure the superiority of the PI controller over GA, PSO, BAT and conventional integral controller throughout different disturbances for various signals.
Figure 16. Frequency deviation of area-1 with +25% change in TG.

Figure 17. Frequency deviation of area-2 with +25% change in TG.

Figure 18. Frequency deviation of area-3 with +25% change in TG.
Figure 19. Frequency deviation of area-1 with −25% change in TG.

Figure 20. Frequency deviation of area-2 with −25% change in TG.

Figure 21. Frequency deviation of area-3 with −25% change in TG.
Figure 22. Frequency deviation of area-1 with +25% change in \( T_t \).

Figure 23. Frequency deviation of area-2 with +25% change in \( T_t \).

Figure 24. Frequency deviation of area-3 with +25% change in \( T_t \).
Figure 25. Frequency deviation of area-1 with $-25\%$ change in $T_t$.

Figure 26. Frequency deviation of area-2 with $-25\%$ change in $T_t$.

Figure 27. Frequency deviation of area-3 with $-25\%$ change in $T_t$. 

\[ \Delta F \text{ in Hz} \]
Figure 28. Frequency deviation of area-1 with +25% change in $T_{th}$.

Figure 29. Frequency deviation of area-2 with +25% change in $T_{th}$.

Figure 30. Frequency deviation of area-3 with +25% change in $T_{th}$. 
Figure 31. Frequency deviation of area-1 with $-25\%$ change in $T_{h1}$.

Figure 32. Frequency deviation of area-2 with $+25\%$ change in $T_{h1}$.

Figure 33. Frequency deviation of area-3 with $-25\%$ change in $T_{h1}$. 
Figure 34. Frequency deviation of area-1 with +25% change in $T_{k1}$.

Figure 35. Frequency deviation of area-2 with +25% change in $T_{k2}$.

Figure 36. Frequency deviation of area-3 with +25% change in $T_{k3}$. 
Figure 37. Frequency deviation of area-1 with −25% change in $T_{d1}$.

Figure 38. Frequency deviation of area-2 with −25% change in $T_{d1}$.

Figure 39. Frequency deviation of area-3 with −25% change in $T_{d1}$.
Figure 40. Frequency deviation of area-1 with +25% change in $T_{12}$.

Figure 41. Frequency deviation of area-2 with +25% change in $T_{12}$.

Figure 42. Frequency deviation of area-3 with +25% change in $T_{12}$. 
**Figure 43.** Frequency deviation of area-1 with $-25\%$ change in $T_{12}$.

**Figure 44.** Frequency deviation of area-2 with $-25\%$ change in $T_{12}$.

**Figure 45.** Frequency deviation of area-3 with $-25\%$ change in $T_{12}$.
Table 1. Simulated response of LFC three area interconnected system for case A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Variation</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Controller</th>
<th>Performance Index</th>
<th>Settling Time (Ts) in sec</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISE</td>
<td>IAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% load change in area 1</td>
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<td>Conv PI</td>
<td>687.2543</td>
<td>2.4023e+04</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GA PI</td>
<td>149.1328</td>
<td>5.0897e+03</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PSO PI</td>
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<td>4.9364e+03</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BAT PI</td>
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<td>5.0013e+03</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>20% load change in area 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ALO PI</td>
<td>598.5334</td>
<td>8.7707e+003</td>
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</table>

Table 2. Sensitivity analysis case B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter Variation</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Controller</th>
<th>Performance Index</th>
<th>Settling Time (Ts) in sec</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ISE</td>
<td>IAE</td>
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<tr>
<td>+25% in TG</td>
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<td>Conv PI</td>
<td>2.4170e+003</td>
<td>6.5980e+004</td>
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<td>GA PI</td>
<td>199.5821</td>
<td>6.3954e+03</td>
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<td>PSO PI</td>
<td>191.7430</td>
<td>6.2585e+03</td>
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<td>BAT PI</td>
<td>258.5478</td>
<td>7.8110e+03</td>
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<td>ALO PI</td>
<td>186.7742</td>
<td>5.2499e+03</td>
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<tr>
<td>−25% in TG</td>
<td></td>
<td>Conv PI</td>
<td>1.8112e+003</td>
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<td>GA PI</td>
<td>622.5414</td>
<td>1.7977e+04</td>
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<td>PSO PI</td>
<td>469.5161</td>
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<td>749.5638</td>
<td>2.1911e+04</td>
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<td>ALO PI</td>
<td>401.8087</td>
<td>1.1103e+04</td>
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<tr>
<td>+25% in TT</td>
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<td>1.2332e+003</td>
<td>4.0432e+004</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5.4350e+03</td>
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<tr>
<td>−25% in T12</td>
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<td>Conv PI</td>
<td>126.7282</td>
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<td>PSO PI</td>
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<td>4.6223e+03</td>
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<td>BAT PI</td>
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<tr>
<td>−25% in T12</td>
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<td>Conv PI</td>
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<td>PSO PI</td>
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<td>4.6104e+03</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BAT PI</td>
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<td>ALO PI</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Conv PI</td>
<td>122.1739</td>
<td>3.7845e+03</td>
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</table>
The robustness of the controller is confirmed through parameter variations. ALO outperforms GA, PSO, BAT in solving LFC problem due to only one parameter required to fine-tune.

On the other hand, GA deals with a population of solutions, thus leading to the disadvantage of requiring a significant number of function evaluations, extensive computational time and gets trapped in local minimum solution. PSO suffers from weak local search ability, and the algorithm may lead to possible entrapment in local minimum solutions. Also, Bat algorithm exploitation stage too quickly by varying loudness and pulse rates quickly, it can result in stagnation after some initial stage.

The capability of the developed controllers to compensate the communication time delay and preserve its satisfactory performance is demonstrated.

The effectiveness of the controller regarding various indices and settling time is proved.

**Acknowledgements**

Nominal parameters of the three area system investigated are [12]: PR = 2000 MW (rating), PL = 1000 MW (nominal loading); f = 60 Hz, B1=B2 = 0.425 p.u. MW/Hz; R1= R2 = 2.4 Hz/p.u.; Tg1 = 0.08 s; Tt1 = 0.3 s; KPS1 = KPS2 = KPS3 =120 Hz/p.u. MW; TPS1 = TPS2 =TPS3 = 20 s; T12 = T23 = T31 = 0.545 pu; Th1 = 48.7s; Th2 = 0.513s; Th3 = 10s; Thw = 1.0s.

**References**


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