Improving the optimization of electric power systems through a discrete event based simulation model

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Abstract: This paper presents a novel hybrid approach for studying electric power systems as a combination of the electrical power generation process and the actual state of the transmission lines. The approach is composed of a discrete-event simulation model and a mathematical programming model. The simulation model is designed as a routing problem defined over a set of transmission lines considered (individually) as active, inactive, under maintenance, and outage. On the other hand, the mixed-integer linear programming model determines the best way to generate and transmit power flows (considering, simultaneously, all possible solutions). This type of model allows solving the economic dispatch problem in lower computational times. It also ensures reaching the global optimum. When adding the discrete-event simulation model for studying the state of transmission lines, the final hybrid approach allows obtaining feasible solutions when the system parameters change. Here, both models (i.e., simulation and optimization models) are combined to improve the capabilities of the model structure to represent real-life scenarios. Our proposal is used to analyze a case study composed of an electric system with six buses, eleven lines, and three generators.

Keywords: Electric power system, modeling and simulation of transmission lines, routed DEVS

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1. Introduction

More than 25,000 TWh of electricity are generated annually worldwide (International Energy Agency, 2017). According to (U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2022), the average cost of generation (depending on the source) is 3,500 USD/kW. Therefore, the electricity industry spends billions of dollars annually to meet the population’s needs.

Most of the electricity markets are classified according to the activity performed by each component. In general, their structures are divided into three major stages: generation, transmission, and distribution (Ardila & Cardona, 2017). In the generation stage, the companies manage the operation and maintenance of the generating plants. The companies of the transportation stage are in charge of managing the operation and maintenance of the transmission lines. These lines are a high-value component of the electric power system because they connect the generating plants to the customers. In other words, transmission lines are components that involve long distances over which high voltage levels (Khodaei & Shahidehpour, 2012). Finally, the distribution companies are responsible for adapting and distributing the electricity to the consumers in each region. In this context, the study of the efficiency in the combined processes of generation, transmission, and distribution is a challenging research field. This paper is devoted to the study of the generation and transmission systems.

Regarding power generation and transmission modeling, in (You et al., 2016), the authors study these activities in a co-optimization problem considering the wind penetration in large-scale power grids. Similarly, (Guerra et al., 2021) present a framework for the daily market of electricity and natural gas. The proposed approach includes the modeling of systems that require flexibility when using power plants with short start-up and shut-down times. Another option is the use of Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) models. When these models are used for representing electric power systems, new types of problems can be solved. For example, (Carrión & Arroyo, 2006) is one of the most extended works for the scheduling of thermal units. The proposed formulation needs some auxiliary variables and constraints in comparison to other approaches. This means that it produces computational savings. In (Alvarez, 2020a), a MILP model that studies the operation and the impact of several energy storage systems on a large-scale electric power system is defined. Such a model considers real-life and simulated situations in a system of 40 million people. The MILP formulations can be also applied to represent other types of operations, for example, restoration. In this context, the authors of (Xie et al., 2021) develop an optimization model that can generate a flexible re-energizing of transmission lines. Besides, both start-up time and serial restoration constraints are considered. Additionally, in (Alvarez, 2020b), a MILP model is developed for representing the operation of pumped storage stations.

The study of the dynamics of electrical systems, and their response to unforeseen events, has been at the center of scientific research for decades. In (Fu et al., 2007), the authors present a method for solving the programming of electricity generating units along with their corresponding dispatch. This model includes scheduled maintenance outages (of both generating units and transmission lines). However, it does not contemplate unscheduled outages or failures. A similar approach is observed in (Abirami et al., 2014), where the authors study the coordination of electricity systems considering only maintenance interruptions. However, simulation is not used to analyze the response to such failures. Finally, in (Ahmad et al., 2018) a model that simulates failures within a power transmission company in Pakistan is presented. This last model is focused on the transmission area, so there is no direct impact of these failures on the generation and transmission processes.

In this context, although a lot of work has been done in the field, there are no approaches that allow for a joint approach to generation and transmission, considering both the occurrence of maintenance events and failures/shutdowns due to external events. A feasible solution to bring together both areas is using simulation models based on events. In the event-based simulation approach, the system dynamics is modeled as a series of discrete events that modify the state of the system at specific points in time. In this context, the Discrete Event System Specification (DEVS) formalism (Zeigler et al., 2018) has become one of the preferred paradigms to conduct modeling and simulation enquiries (Wainer & Mosterman, 2011). The DEVS formalism is a modular and hierarchical Modeling and Simulation (M&S) formalism based on systems theory that provides a general methodology for the construction of reusable models. It has been used for representing electric systems before. In (Toba et al., 2017), a DEVS framework is presented for modeling electric power systems. The hierarchical and modular construction properties enable the modeling of each component individually. A PyPDEVS platform is utilized for simulating the system (including components related to economic dispatch, generating units, load modules, energy storage, and transmission lines). Recently, in (Toba & Seck, 2019), a model called Spark! is presented. This model simulates a grid considering large-scale systems and long-term horizons. Besides, the model considers the stochastic nature of
renewable resources, thermal unit constraints, topographical and climate information, transmission constraints, and convenient time resolution. In the field of biogas, authors of (Beccaria et al., 2018) present a model based on DEVS to simulate the production and storage of biogas by using organic waste. Biogas is used to generate electricity to validate diverse scenarios of production and consumption and promote a better decision process to enhance the production of biogas. Similarly, the author of (Jarrah, 2016) presents a modeling approach using a DEVS environment. The proposal represents four main components that are available in a smart grid: photovoltaic sources, wind generation, energy storage facilities, and power demands. The real wind speed data and solar forecast are considered. The simulation results prove the convenience of using store devices to help with the operation of PV and wind power generation. Considering the field of smart homes, (Albataineh & Jarrah, 2019) propose a modeling-simulation model using DEVS formalism for simulating the use of smart home devices by considering diverse scenarios and settings. The monitoring devices comprise sensors that store data about climate conditions, dispatched electrical power, system performance, among others. Also, the control devices implemented by authors send signals for setting and controlling (in a remote way) several devices in the environment of the smart home. Finally, the work of (Maatoug et al., 2014) models and simulates a dynamic ecosystem (such as a city) using DEVS. The energy management studied is divided into two categories: predictive control and adaptive control.

This proposal is defined by the ability of DEVS for modeling discrete event systems and decompose them into subsystems. The integration of DEVS simulation models with optimization approaches (which are commonly used for the study of electrical systems), leads to a deeper analysis of the combined process of electricity generation and transmission. The combined analysis allows studying real complex situations. This paper presents a hybrid approach that combines i) a simulation model based on a discrete-event formulation that defines the structure of the transmission system and ii) an optimization model that regulates the generation of electricity within a defined market scheme. Often, electricity markets are regulated by a control entity called an Independent System Operator (ISO). This entity determines the rules of the market, sets prices, ensures control of the electricity network, and determines the programming of the resources available in the system. Also, it oversees regulating the interactions between market players. In this context, our proposal conceptualizes the ISO as a common component shared by both models to solve the problem.

The structure of the simulation model is defined based on the topology of the electrical system using DEVS and Routed DEVS (RDEVS) (Blas et al., 2017). The RDEVS formalism is an adaptation of the DEVS formalism designed to improve the modeling and simulation of routing processes over DEVS models. Here, the use of discrete-event models allows studying the states of the transmission lines according to several types of events. The structure of the transmission system is defined as a network that requires the routing of state events. The output of the simulation is used to execute the optimization process. The optimization model is based on the MILP model described in (Alvarez, 2020c). The main contributions of our hybrid approach are i) the use of a simulation model to analyze the state of the transmission lines, ii) the use of an optimization model to analyze the impact of the transmission lines over the generation system, and iii) the definition of a new hybrid structure that supports, in the future, the addition of new features to study complex electric systems. Hence, our approach improves the study of both systems (generation and transmission) by analyzing their dynamics in a single combined model.

The rest of the work is organized as follows. Section II summarizes the models that compose our proposal. Section III presents the results obtained when our model is applied to a case study that addresses the IEEE system of 6 bars, 3 generators, and 11 lines. Finally, Section IV is dedicated to the conclusions and future work.

2. Materials and methods

In this paper, the transmission line system is conceptualized in a simulation model. Failures in lines may cause overloads, outages, or even blackouts (Alvarez & Blas, 2020). Hence, our simulation model combines expected events (e.g., scheduled maintenance) with unexpected events (e.g., failures due to atmospheric causes) to get the state of the transmission lines. The simulation output is discretized in hours. Such an output is used as input in a MILP model that defines the electricity generation process. This optimization model ensures reaching the optimum. Hence, the introduction of the transmission line states distinguishes the hybrid model proposed in this paper from others by reducing the load required to solve the optimum (Alvarez & Sarli, 2020). By considering the eventual issues that the lines may suffer, solutions are reached in low processing times.

2.1. Hybrid Model Structure

The topology of the electrical system is based on a single-line diagram (i.e., a set of buses, generators, and lines). Such a diagram outlines the structure of both models (i.e., simulation and optimization).
For the simulation model, the structure model is defined following the connections between buses and lines. These connections define a network topology where state events related to lines should be routed. Given a set of lines \( L = \{L_1, L_2, \ldots, L_n\} \) entering the bus B, the outgoing lines of B (defined by the set \( L' \) ) can be considered as located downstream of \( L \). If some event takes place in \( L \) (e.g., inactivity), the downstream lines may experience unexpected behaviors (e.g., a transmission line becomes inactive because lines placed upstream have entered fault/maintenance). Figure 1 represents this scheme. Hence, the simulation model outlines the structure of the transmission system using such a scheme, where the foundational component is the behavior of a transmission line (TL). The data produced during the simulation process is recorded in an output file. Such a file contains the state of the TLs along the simulation horizon.

On the other hand, the optimization model is structured following the set of buses that define the connections between generators, loads, and TLs. To establish the status of the transmission system, this model uses as input the status of the TLs (obtained from the output file of the simulation model). Based on this data, the model determines the optimal combination of generator units minimizing the production cost function (Frangioni et al., 2009). It also uses the available configuration of the TLs for load dispatch.

Figure 2 depicts how both models are used in our hybrid approach. This diagram presents the relationships between models. The one-line diagram structures both transmission line and generation systems. For the transmission system, the scheduled maintenances are required as input (MaintenanceSchedule.csv). The goal is to use the state of the transmission system (i.e., the simulation output) during the programming of the generation system (i.e., the optimization model output). However, the time unit used in the simulation model (minutes) has more resolution than the one used in the programming (hours). Hence, we use a data transformation process to fit data (from the TL-name.csv files to the TLGlobalState.csv). In this way, the simulation model can execute maintenance and failure events that can take place at any minute of a daily period (i.e., 1440 minutes). Then, the optimization model carries out the schedule of the generation units every 60 minutes (i.e., one hour). Such a period is the most common operation time used for these processes. By following this approach, both models share the data related to the transmission line states.

Figure 1. Transmission line scheme.

Figure 2. The hybrid structure proposed to link the generation system with the transmission line system through the transmission line states.
2.1.1. Model Assumptions and Limitations
Mathematical formulation presents several assumptions and limitations. First, the model does not consider the possibility of load shedding. This is, demand can be fulfilled with the actual power generation. Regarding power transmission, the reactive component of power flows is not considered since the DC power flow model only considers the real component of the transmitted power. Besides, the system accepts that power losses due to transmissions are 0 (because it assumes large lines, and then, distances are negligible). Finally, regarding the power balance, the storage devices are assumed as a load that increases the storage power when generation is higher than demand.

2.2. Transmission System Simulation Model
Figure 3 presents the simulation model using a component-based representation. It is important to denote that, as in any component-based representation, the events that take place as part of the internal behavior of models are not represented. The next sections introduce the behavior of each component.

As the figure shows, the overall model is called the electric power system simulation model and is divided into two models (i.e., experimental frame and transmission lines simulation model). The experimental frame is defined as a DEVS coupled model, while the transmission lines simulation model is defined as an RDEVS network model. A DEVS coupled model defines which sub-components belong to a structure and how they relate to each other. On the other hand, the RDEVS formalism has been presented in (Blas et al., 2017) as a subclass of DEVS that provides a solution for the event identification as embedded functionality in simulation models. The core of RDEVS is the abstraction of the event flow as independent behavior of components. Hence, the components to be included in the simulation model can be designed using the DEVS formalism, and then, the RDEVS formalism can be used over them to route events. Given the transmission system topology is defined using the one-line diagram, how components are linked define the routing problem. In this context, the RDEVS formalism provides a suitable foundation for developing the simulation model required at this stage (i.e., the transmission lines simulation model). A RDEVS network model defines the structure of a set of components that are connected all-to-all over a set of routing policies.

All models designed as part of the electric power system simulation model were implemented in Java using DEVSJAVA (Arizona Center of Integrative Modeling and Simulation, 2005).

Figure 3. Structure of the DEVS-based simulation model used to study the transmission system.
The experimental frame model is defined as a coupled model that is composed of three DEVS models, namely: *maintenance team*, *outage generator*, and *independent system operator*. The *maintenance team* model is defined based on the *maintenance generator* and *restoration task* models.

The input events of the experimental frame are sent directly to the independent system operator. When the independent system operator receives an outage event from a TL that has fallen into failure, it processes it to create a repair order. That is, it generates a restorationRequest event that is sent to the maintenance team to work according to its maintenance policy.

When a restorationRequest input event is received in the maintenance team, the event is redirected to the restoration task model. When this last model receives a restorationRequest, it handles it according to an order queue, generating an element of the RestorationInformation type. This element is queued to be attended according to a First In First Out (FIFO) policy. Then, the repair time is calculated according to a probability distribution previously set in the model. Given that the model is defined as a generic template, the modeler can use any distribution available in the software package. When the model determines that is time to repair the failure, a restoration event is sent to the output of the maintenance team. Such an event contains the identifier of the TL to be repaired and it is redirected to the output of the experimental frame (which is connected to the input of the transmission lines simulation model).

The maintenance team also sends maintenance events to the output of the experimental frame. These events are generated by the maintenance generator. When initialized, the maintenance generator loads (from the MaintenanceSchedule.csv file) a list of pending maintenance events. This operation is according to how the maintenance is given in the real-life transmission systems. Following the regulations of most of the electrical systems in Latin America, the scheduled maintenances are previously approved by the control agency (in the case of Argentina, see (CAMMESA, 2014). Then, the list of pending maintenances is ordered by the time of occurrence (i.e., the simulation time in which the maintenance of a certain line must take place). Each element of this list is structured as follows: (simulationTime, TLId, duration). When the simulationTime is fulfilled, the maintenance generator creates a maintenance event that is sent to the TL with TLId identifier. This event indicates the line that is going to enter maintenance during the period defined according to duration. At any time, if the list of pending maintenances is empty, the model goes to a passive state (i.e., it will not generate new events until the current simulation ends).

Finally, the outage generator creates events associated with TL failures. According to (Wang et al., 2016) and (Vásquez et al., 2009), the behavior of unexpected faults in TL can be estimated through typical distributions (the closest being the Weibull distribution). Hence, the fault generation is provided based on a Weibull probability distribution. The parameters required in such a distribution are the shape \(k\) and scale \(\lambda\). As in any generic model template, the parameter values should be configured when a specific case is solved. The TL on which the failure occurs is chosen randomly from the set of lines defined in the transmission system structure.

### 2.2.2. The ‘transmission lines simulation’ model

The RDEVS formalism defines three types of simulation models: *essential model*, *routing model*, and *network model*. Each model represents a level of abstraction used to define the elements that are part of the definition of a routing problem.

An essential model represents the behavior of a basic component of a certain domain. On top of an essential model, routing models are defined. A routing model represents a node that establishes an entity capable of handling the origin/destination of its input/output events. Finally, a network model represents the network on which the routing process is defined based on a set of entities. Appendix A presents the formal definition of RDEVS.

When modeling the transmission line system as a routing problem, the TLs are the basic component of the model (where a transmission system is composed of \(N\) lines). An essential RDEVS model is designed for modeling the behavior of a TL, which is then used in \(N\) routing models to define the network model that represents the whole system.

#### 2.2.2.1. The RDEVS essential ‘transmission line’ model

The formal definition of the essential model that represents a TL is presented in Appendix B. The model starts in an active phase. This means that a TL is initially active. Besides, the model includes two parameters that are used to define the number of inactive upstream lines (parameter named inactiveUpstreamTL, whose initial value is 0) and the total number of upstream lines (parameter named upstreamTL).

In this initial state, the model can receive different events from the experimental frame, namely: maintenance, outage, and restoration. When a maintenance event is received, the model enters a maintenance phase. Before this, the TL warns its downstream lines that it is about to be out of service. To do this, it sends an inactive event. This event is selectively sent only to the lines directly downstream of the current TL. After this sending, the model goes into the maintenance phase for the period defined in the maintenanceTime attribute. When the maintenance is finished, the TL can go into an active or inactive phase (according to the state of the upstream lines at that time). In case of having to enter an active phase, before changing its state, the TL sends an active event to its downstream lines (to inform that from now on, it will be active).
The arrival of an outage event causes the model enters to an outage phase until a restoration event arrives. Because of the outage state, the TL sends an inactive event to its downstream lines (to inform its eventual state of inactivity). Also, it sends an outage event to the independent system operator to manage the repair order. Finally, when a restoration event is received, the model returns to the active or inactive phase (according to the state of the upstream lines). The criteria applied are the same as for the arrival of a maintenance event.

In addition to the events coming from the experimental frame, a TL must deal with the arrival of active and inactive events sent from other upstream TLs. When an active event arrives at a TL, the TL decreases (by one unit) the number of inactive lines upstream (parameter inactiveUpstreamTL). If the line was in an active phase, the model continues as it was doing (because what has happened is that one of the upstream lines has gone from inactive to active). This situation does not affect the current activity of the TL (because there is an active upstream line that allows the TL to remain active). However, if the line was in an inactive phase, the state must change to an active phase. In this case, the model alerts its downstream lines that its entering activity (by sending an active event).

On the other hand, when an inactive event is received in a TL, the model increases (by one unit) the number of inactive lines upstream (parameter inactiveUpstreamTL). If this increase causes that the value of inactiveUpstreamTL to equal upstreamTL, the TL enters an inactive phase (since all upstream lines are inactive). The TL then sends an inactive event to its downstream lines and then goes into an inactive phase. The model will exit this inactive phase when one of its upstream lines informs it that it has entered an active phase (i.e., an active event arrives). On the contrary, if after the increase the values of inactiveUpstreamTL and upstreamTL are different, the TL must remain in an active phase. To provide a more comprehensive definition, Figure 4 presents a state diagram that illustrates the main features of the behavior described before.

2.2.2.2. The RDEVS routing ‘transmission line’ model
As described in the previous section, active and inactive events are routed from a TL (current line) to the subset of TLs located downstream of that line. Sending this type of message corresponds to the event routing problem to be solved as part of the final simulation model.

Then, once the essential model (to be used in all the TLs) is defined, a specific routing model is generated for each TL used in the transmission system. This routing model encapsulates the general behavior (defined in the essential model) and incorporates the specific routing information for each TL to be simulated. Such routing information is the upstream and downstream lines of the current TL (used to determine the origin and destination of the active and inactive events).

![State diagram](image-url)
During the simulation, each routing model generates a TL-name.csv file (where name is the name of the model included as part of the routing process). This file saves records of the type {simulationTime, state} for each state that takes place during the simulation execution. In this way, the state of the transmission lines throughout the simulation process is obtained.

2.2.2.3. The RDEVS network ‘transmission line simulation’ model

The network model that defines the final transmission system is composed of the set of routing models defined for the TLs (making use of an essential model). That is, the routing scenario presents the topology of the downstream TLs. This type of simulation model definition allows the incorporation of new TLs without the need to redefine the behavior model (i.e., the essential model).

Hence, the design of the simulation model facilitates the study of generic transmission line systems composed of N lines. The required configuration corresponds only to the parameterization of the routing information to be used for the events.

2.3. Data transformation process: from simulation output to optimization inputs

As described in Figure 1, the proposed hybrid approach is based on the integration between generation and transmission systems. A data transformation process was developed to achieve such integration. This process allows translating the output data obtained from the simulation model (i.e., related to the transmission system) with the input data required by the optimization model (i.e., the generation system).

The data transformation process analyzes the state of each TL during the simulation time and defines a matrix of TL states for each hour of the scheduling horizon used in the optimization model. The process uses as input information the output files produced by the simulation model (TL-name.csv). These files contain the state of each TL as records of type {simulationTime, state} where the possible states are represented by integer values, namely OUTAGE (0), MAINTENANCE (1), INACTIVE (2), and ACTIVE (3).

Although the simulation model allows specifying several states for the same TL, the optimization model admits only two possible states: ON (1) and OFF (0). Then, to align the state information of both models, our process uses a transformation rule (RT): “A TL in ACTIVE state is equivalent to the ON state, while any other state should be interpreted as OFF state”. Hence, the data transformation process search through all the records of TLs to determine their states in the intervals of the programming horizon (i.e., every hour). The status of each TL is transformed following the RT described. As a result, the transformation process creates a Boolean matrix of global states. Rows are TL and columns represent each hour of the scheduling programming horizon (24 columns to represent daily hour-by-hour scheduling). Such a matrix is stored in a new file called TLGlobalState.csv. As stated before, this file is used as input into the optimization model.

2.4. Generation System Optimization Model

According to (International Energy Agency, 2017), the world energy matrix is composed of the following sources: oil (31.7%), coal (28.1%), natural gas (21.6%), biofuels and waste (9.7%), nuclear (4.9%), hydroelectric (2.5%), and other renewables (2.1%).

As mentioned, the hybrid model employs the proposal presented in (Alvarez, 2020c), which uses the GAMS software and its CPLEX Resolver to solve the optimization problem. That model considers all the mentioned energy sources to schedule electricity generation in Argentina. It minimizes the cost of generating electricity from each of the sources according to (1). This objective function represents the operating cost for producing electricity with all considered technologies. It means the sum of the produced power multiplied by the correspondent cost. The indexes $i$ and $t$ correspond to the unit and the period of the generators. The constants $I$ and $T$ refer to the total number of generators and periods. Besides, the constants $\delta$ represent the generation cost per MW, and $p$ is the power output variable. The supra-indexes belong to the different sources: $g$ is the supra-index related to power output for units that work by using natural gas, $ng$ is related to thermal units that work by consuming other fossil fuel different from natural gas, $h$ for hydropower generation, $n$ for nuclear generation, $w$ for wind, and $pv$ for photovoltaic units, respectively. For further details regarding the constraints implemented, they are included in (Alvarez, 2020c).

$$\min \text{ cost} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \sum_{i=1}^{I} (p_{it}^g \delta^g + p_{it}^{ng} \delta^{ng} + p_{it}^h \delta^h + p_{it}^n \delta^n + p_{it}^w \delta^w + p_{it}^{pv} \delta^{pv})$$

(1)

Demand constraint, described in (2), states that the sum of the produced power of all units must cover the demand, which is composed of the sum of all loads ($ld_{c,t}$). In this equation, $ld_{c,t}$ is the parameter of load, and $c$ is the correspondent set.
\[
\sum_{c=1}^{c} l_{d,c,t} \leq \sum_{i=1}^{i} \left( p_{i,t}^p + p_{i,t}^{ng} + p_{i,t}^h + p_{i,t}^r + p_{i,t}^w \right) + p_{i,t}^{pp}, \quad t = 1, ..., T
\]

In (3), the spinning reserve is the available power but is not charged, which can compensate for unexpected failures. The equation utilizes a binary variable \( u_{i,t} \), which is equal to 1 when the generator is operating, and 0 when the generator is shut down. This constraint must be extended to all the considered technologies (natural gas, hydro, nuclear, wind, and photovoltaic).

\[
R_t^i \leq \sum_{i=1}^{i} p_{i,t}^{up} u_{i,t} - \sum_{i=1}^{i} p_{i,t}, t = 1, ..., T
\]

Generation limits are stated in constraint (4). Where \( p_{l}^{lo} \) and \( p_{l}^{up} \) are the lower and upper limits.

\[
p_{l}^{lo} u_{l,t} \leq p_{l,t} \leq p_{l}^{up} u_{l,t} \quad i = 1, ..., I; \quad t = 1, ..., T
\]

Transmission constraints are modeled by using the called DC flow model, which is detailed in (5). This model reaches feasible solutions in addition to a reduction of computational (when the DC flow model is compared with the non-linear models, for instance, the AC model). In this equation, \( f_{bu_i, bu_o,t} \) is power flow transmitted between the input bus \( bu_i \) and the output bus \( bu_o \). Also, \( R_{bu_i, bu_o} \) is the reactance of the line.

\[
f_{bu_i, bu_o,t} = \frac{\partial u_{bu,t} - \partial u_{bu,t}}{R_{bu_i, bu_o}}, \quad t = 1, ..., T
\]

In (6), the bus balance is performed. The sum of power output, in addition to the entering transmitted flow \( f_{bu_i = bu_o, bu_o,t} \), is equal to the sum of the leaving transmitted power \( -f_{bu_i = bu_o, bu_o,t} \), the power storage \( SP_{bu_t} \), and the sum of loads \( ld_{c,bu,t} \).

\[
\sum_{i} p_{l,bu,t} + f_{bu_i = bu_o,t} - f_{bu_i, bu_o = bu_o,t} = SP_{bu_t} + \sum_{c=1}^{c} ld_{c,bu,t} \quad t = 1, ..., T
\]

The new model incorporates the transmission of electricity through the lines by using a matrix that represents the current state of each of line. This matrix is directly obtained from the TLGlobalState.csv file. The information in this array is used in (7), where \( F_{line} \) is the maximum power flow supported by the line (MW), \( f_{line,t} \) is the variable of effective power transmitted, and \( \Gamma_{line,t} \) is the array of line state coefficients. Then, the integration between the mathematical models solved in an optimization software and the result of the simulation is performed by creating the matrix \( \Gamma_{line,t} \). In each period, the model uses the updated matrix representing the current state of all transmission lines.

\[
-F_{line} \leq \Gamma_{line,t} f_{line,t} \leq F_{line}
\]
systems, algorithms such as the *network simplex algorithm* cannot generate appropriate solutions to the system. Due to the complexity of these systems, our proposal is a link between complex electrical systems and their deterministic and stochastic responses.

The saving of computational effort is achieved because the mathematical model presented in this paper combines the implementation of several techniques that were not considered before as an integrated approach. Consequently, the new proposal offers the use of techniques that were previously developed, but they did not consider the totality of aspects that compose an electric system. For instance, some methods improve the computational effort needed to solve the scheduling of a system but, these methods do not consider the existence of all generating technologies (that we are considering in this paper). This paper is composed of detailed mathematical representations that require several methods to improve the CPU times. Besides, these methods must be suited to be applied in the type of problems. The key of this work is not only a collection of approaches but also includes the necessary modifications to be integrated with *The RDEVS Essential 'Transmission Line' Model*.

As it will be observed in the discussion of results (Section 3), the benefits of implementing a MILP model mean a reduction of computational effort. This topic is deeply discussed in (Feng et al., 2019), for thermal and hydro generation. The authors determine that even though a great number of variables and constraints, MILP models achieve satisfactory solutions with reasonable CPU times. Other benefits of MILP approaches in the field of electric power systems are deeply discussed in (Koltsaklis et al., 2018). The performance of the proposed method is tested by considering potential interconnection choices among different systems. Besides, the benefits of solving large-scale problems (in terms of computational effort saving) by considering linearization or reduction techniques are detailed in several papers (Alvarez, 2020b; Lima & Grossmann, 2011). These papers are not included in the present approach to not overextend the proposal. Besides, the core of this work is not to present advances in the linearization of reduction techniques.

### 2.5. Case study

Figure 5 shows the one-line diagram that represents the case study. This diagram depicts a system defined as a set of 6 buses, 11 transmission lines, 3 generators, and 3 loads. A detailed description of such a system can be found at (Grey & Sekar, 2008).

To compare the impact of the use of the simulation model on the optimization model, Section 3.1 presents the results obtained when solving the optimization problem without considering the state of the lines. Then, it shows the results achieved when the hybrid approach is applied. In both cases, the simulation time and the programming horizon are set in

![Figure 5. 6 buses and 11 lines one-line diagram.](image)
one day (1440 minutes for the simulation model and 24 hours for the optimization model). In the case of the optimization model, as previously stated, the solver used by GAMS is CPLEX, and the relative gap is 0.0004 %.

It is important to denote that data of the test system has been extensively studied and proved in the literature. However, these papers do not consider failures in transmission lines. In this regard, as stated before, the utilization of the Weibull distribution has been indicated by many authors as the correct tool to study the random events. Then, the parameters of the simulation model are set as follows:

I) The preventive maintenance set in the Maintenance Schedule.csv file states that line L4 will be out of service for 390 minutes (i.e., 6.5 hours). The maintenance will take place 1.5 hours after starting its operation. In the same way, line L6 will be out of service for 6 hours starting from hour 5.

II) Unscheduled failures (i.e., unscheduled maintenances) are generated using random values. As stated in Section 2.2.1, such values are obtained using the Weibull probabilistic distribution. Here, the parameters used in the configuration were $k = 1$ (shape parameter) and $\lambda = 5$ (scale parameter).

Following this scenario, several simulations were executed. This allows making a deeper analysis of different cases in the optimization model. The number of equations and variables studied in the optimization model remains the same as in the previous situation.

Results indicate that, as more lines are inactive (either by scheduled maintenances or failures), the total cost of production increases. We can observe such an increase is given due to maintenance. Maintenances force generators to produce electricity in a less optimal mode. When there are only scheduled preventive maintenances, the cost increases by 1.2%. However, when unscheduled maintenance is also considered, the cost increases significantly (according to the type and number of lines that are out of service). Costs increase even more when the lines that are out of service are the ones that transmit the generation of cheaper units. This is the case of lines L1, L2, and L3. Such lines transmit electricity generated by G1 (which produces most of the daily generation, as we have described in the first scenario).

In cases where one of these lines becomes inactive due to a failure, the optimization problem cannot be solved. This means that some users cannot be provided. Specifically, this happened when L1, L2, and L3 are out of service simultaneously. Here, the remaining units cannot provide the electricity required to satisfy the scheduled demand. Figure 6(b) shows the power flows per line for the case where, in addition to scheduled maintenances of L4 and L6, the system has one unscheduled maintenance due to a failure in line L10 between 360 to 599 minutes. In this scenario, besides the periods where lines L4, L6, and L10 do not transmit due to maintenance actions, other periods without transmission are recorded.
In simple examples, this contribution may not seem to have much impact. However, when models that represent large scale systems are solved, this unnecessary calculation causes high processing times that could be avoided. The calculation of power flow through lines implies the determination of angular voltage differences between connected buses if the DC model is used. An example can be observed in Figure 7(a) where a simulation of 1,440 minutes of the system is performed. It is interesting to mention that the line L11 is still in service all the time, despite the outage of one of its predecessors (L4, L8), because the other predecessors (L6, L3) are still working. In the simulated case, in addition to the scheduled maintenance, an outage of the L9 line is observed, due to a factor external to the scheduled maintenance.

In this case, as the line has no successors in the cascade, it does not affect the rest of the lines. More cases have been calculated to study the effectiveness of the proposed approach.

On the other hand, for other simulation case (a simulation for 525,600 minutes, in Figure 7(b), the line L6 suffers an outage due to an unexpected event, according to the Weibull distribution. It is important to mention that this simulation does not consider scheduled maintenance. This will affect the lines that are in cascade with L6 (L11), although it does not take it out of service because the line receives other feeds that allow it to continue operating. However, disconnected buses must be excluded from the calculation of transmitted power flows.

Figure 6. (a) Flow per transmission line in scenario A. (b) Flow per transmission line in scenario B.
3.2. Reproducibility in other cases

By studying the results of the test cases proposed in both scenarios, along with the results obtained for other cases available in the literature, the reproducibility of the proposed approach can be studied in detail. Data used in test cases can be found in (Alvarez, 2020c; Badakhshan et al., 2015; Fu et al., 2005; Guo, 2012; Lotfjou et al., 2010; Norouzi et al., 2014). The results show the convenience of the proposed models.

For this paper, the models and results obtained in these case studies are detailed to focus the reader’s attention on the proposed hybrid approach rather than on the multiple resolutions of the cases.

4. Conclusions

In this paper, a hybrid approach to studying electricity generation and transmission systems has been presented. The simulation model analyzes the state of lines considering the system as a network topology. Then, the model introduces an independent system operator, outage generator, and maintenance team to represent the behavior. The RDEVS simulation formalism improves their description while maintaining the same input/output interfaces, which favors the incremental development of the proposal. In the future, we propose improving the behavior definition to define complex states for lines as part of a full decision process.
For this paper, the mathematical model solves the programming of the electrical system addressing the unavailability of lines. In this way, the model schedules the generation system by obtaining the best solution (global optimum) considering lines out of service. If it is possible, the model redistributes loads (depending on which lines are inactive). The results have shown that the model can solve the new problem in less than 10 seconds. The preloading of the processed file that details the state of lines by hour avoids redundant processes when solving the optimization problem (such as the evaluation of lines whose predecessors are out of service). This particularity produces savings in computational effort.

In addition to the improvement of the simulation models, the essential model that describes lines behavior can also be adapted to new situations (for example, the control of flows and voltages that transport the lines). Such adaptations are part of future works.

Concerning the hybrid approach proposed, the combination of models has given good results in different situations. In this way, the proposed models were validated as an overall approach. As future work, we plan to extend their application for studying larger electricity systems (e.g., the Argentinian electricity system). This system has more than 600 generators and thousands of lines. For this scenario, the analysis of the simulation model on the transmission downstream lines that are inactive will be particularly useful.

Appendix

Appendix A The Routed Debs Formalism (RDEVS)

The Routed Discrete Event System Specification (RDEVS) formalism is a subclass of the Discrete Event System Specification formalism (DEVS) that provides a design structure to describe routing processes in discrete event simulation models. It was introduced in (Blas et al., 2017) as an extension of DEVS formalism that manages events with identification during the simulation execution. It was updated in (Blas et al., 2021).

Each simulation model uses an identifier that defines its participation as a routing process entity. Hence, each routing entity (i.e., simulation model) will accept input events if, and only if: i) the sender identifier is included in the set of available sources, and ii) its identifier is included in the set of feasible destinations. Therefore, an event with identification in RDEVS contains its sender identifier and all feasible destinations. At the entity level, the models include their identifier, the set of identifiers for available sources, and the set of identifiers for destinations. So, RDEVS models can decide whether to process some input event but, also, they can decide which models should be set as a destination for their output events.

The core of RDEVS is the specification of three types of models: essential model (routing entity behavior), routing model (routing entity structure), and network model (routing process). Following the DEVS formalism definition, the formal specification of RDEVS models is detailed in set-theoretic notation.

The essential model specifies the behavior of routing entities using the DEVS atomic model definition. Formally, it is defined by the structure

\[ M = < X, S, Y, \delta_{\text{int}}, \delta_{\text{ext}}, \lambda, \tau > \]

Where

- \( X \equiv \text{set of input events} \)
- \( S \equiv \text{set of sequential states} \)
- \( Y \equiv \text{set of output events} \)
- \( \delta_{\text{int}} : S \rightarrow S \equiv \text{internal transition function} \)
- \( \delta_{\text{ext}} : Q \times X \rightarrow S \equiv \text{external transition function} \)
- \( Q = \{ (s,e) | s \in S, 0 \leq e \leq \tau(s) \} \equiv \text{total state set} \)
- \( \lambda : S \rightarrow Y \cup \emptyset \equiv \text{output function} \)
- \( \tau : S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{0,\infty}^+ \equiv \text{time advance function} \)

Several entities can share the same behavior. The routing model defines the basic simulation model where the routing process takes place (that is, a routing entity structure). It uses an essential model as an operational description of its behavior. Hence, the structure of an essential model is embedded in the routing model definition. It also includes the routing information required to i) accept or deny input events, and ii) route output events. Therefore, the routing model can be seen as the structure that defines a routing entity linking its behavior with the routing policy.

Formally, the routing model is defined by the structure

\[ R = < \omega, E, M > \]

Where

- \( \omega = (u, W, \delta_{\omega}) \equiv \text{routing policy} \), where \( u \in N_0 \equiv \text{simulation model identifier} \),
- \( W = \{ w_1, w_2, \ldots, w_p | w_i \in N_0 \} \equiv \text{set of identifiers that represent available sources} \),
- \( \delta_{\omega} : S_m \rightarrow T \equiv \text{routing function used to direct output events} \), where \( S_m \) is the state of \( M \), and \( T = \{ t_1, t_2, \ldots, t_k | t_i, t_{i+1}, \ldots, t_k \in N_0 \} \equiv \text{set of identifiers that represent feasible destinations} \),
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\[ E = < X_e, S_e, Y_e, \delta_{in,E}, \delta_{out,E}, \lambda_e, T_e > \] is an essential model embedded in \( R \),

\[ M = < X_M, S_M, Y_M, \delta_{in,M}, \delta_{out,M}, \lambda_M, T_M > \] is a DEVS atomic model that describes the final behavior of the routing entity, where

\[ X_M = \{ ( x, h, T ) | x \in X, h \in H, T = \{ t_1, t_2, ..., t_k | t_1, t_2, ..., t_k \in N \} \} \] is set of input events (events with identification), with

- \( x \equiv \) input event defined in \( E \),
- \( h \equiv \) sender model identifier,
- \( T \equiv \) set of target model identifiers,
- \( S_M = S_e \equiv \) set of sequential states,

\[ Y_M = \{ ( y, h, T ) | y \in Y, h \in N, T = \{ t_1, t_2, ..., t_k | t_1, t_2, ..., t_k \in N \} \} \] is set of output events (events with identification), with

- \( y \equiv \) output event generated by \( E \),
- \( h = u \equiv \) sender model identifier,
- \( T \equiv \) set of target model identifiers,

\[ \delta_{in,M}: S_M \rightarrow S_M \equiv \delta_{in,E} \] is an internal transition function,

\[ \delta_{out,M}: Q_M \times X_M \rightarrow S_M \equiv \delta_{out,E} \] is an external transition function that only accepts events that satisfy one of the following statements:

- i) The event has been sent to \( R \) from some allowed model,
- ii) The event comes from an external source, or
- iii) The event must be accepted by all models that receive it (no matter the model identifier).

Hence, the external transition function is designed as an if-else function to “accept” only the input events that must be processed in the model.

\[ \lambda_M: S_M \rightarrow Y_M \cup \emptyset \equiv \] output function that produces events with identification combining the output function of \( E \) with routing data (sender identifier and feasible destinations). Then, the formal function is defined as \( \lambda_M(s) = (\lambda(s), u, \delta(s)), \)

\[ T_M: S_M \rightarrow R_M^{\infty} \equiv \] time advance function.

Finally, the network model describes the overall routing process as a composition of routing entities. So, the network model definition includes a set of routing models and, indirectly, the couplings (i.e. interactions) among them. These couplings are detailed as all-to-all connections to leave the routing task to the routing policies detailed in the entities. The model definition also includes two translation functions (used to connect multiple networks). These functions allow matching events (from other models) with the events with identification employed inside the routing process. Then, the network model is designed to allow interactions with other network models or, simply, with DEVS models.

Formally, the network model is defined by the structure

\[ N = < X, Y, D, \{ R_d \}, \{ i_d \}, \{ Z_{id} \}, T_{in}, T_{out}, \text{Select} > \]

where

\[ X \equiv \text{set of input events}, \]

\[ Y \equiv \text{set of output events}, \]

\[ D \equiv \text{set of identifiers that represent the routing entities (references to routing models), where } d \in N_d \]

\[ \forall d \in D, \]

For each \( d \in D, R_d \) is a routing model defined as \( R_d = <\omega_d, E_d, M_d > \) with identifier \( u_d = d \).

For each \( d \in D \cup \{ N \} \), \( i_d \) is the set of influences over \( d \), defined as \( i_d = \{ i / i \in D \land i \neq d \} \cup \{ N \} \) with aims to keep the all-to-all couplings.

For each \( i \in I_d, Z_{id} \) is a translate function between events of \( i \) and \( d \), where

\[ Z_{id} = T_{in} \text{ if } i = N, \]

\[ Z_{id} = T_{out} \text{ if } d = N, \]

\[ Z_{id}: Y_M \rightarrow X_{in,d} \text{ if } i \neq N \land d \neq N, \]

\[ T_{in}: X \rightarrow \{ ( x, h, T ) | x \in X, h \in N, T = \{ t_1, t_2, ..., t_k | t_1, t_2, ..., t_k \in N \} \} \equiv \text{input translation function, where} \]

\[ x \equiv \text{input event defined in } N, \]

\[ h = 0 \equiv \text{sender identifier (zero indicates external source),} \]

\[ T \equiv \text{set of feasible destinations.} \]

Then, external input events that arrive to the model are translated according to \( T_{in} \), with aims to get an event with identification.

\[ T_{out}: \{ ( y, h, T ) | y \in Y, h \in N, T = \{ t_1, t_2, ..., t_k \} | t_1, t_2, ..., t_k \in N \} \rightarrow Y \equiv \text{output translation function, where} \]

\[ y \equiv \text{output event allowed in } N, \]

\[ h \equiv \text{sender identifier,} \]

\[ T = \emptyset \equiv \text{set of feasible destinations (empty set indicates external destination).} \]

Then, \( T_{out} \) traduces events with identification into regular events (deleting the routing data that surrounds the event) prior leave the model.

Select: \( D \rightarrow D \) function for tie-breaking between simultaneous internal transitions.
Appendix B The Model of The Transmission Line (RDEVS Essential Model)

The formal definition of the essential model is the following:

\[
TL = < X, S, Y, \delta_{int}, \delta_{ext}, \lambda, \tau >
\]

where

\[
X = \{ \text{maintenance, active, inactive, outage, restoration} \}, \text{where}
\]
\[
\text{maintenance} = (\text{duration}) \text{ with duration } \in \mathbb{R}_{o,+},
\]
\[
\{ \text{active, inactive, outage, restoration} \} \in \mathbb{N}_o,
\]

\[
S = \{ \text{phase, sigma, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time} \} \text{ where}
\]
\[
\text{phase} \in \{ \text{active, maintenance, inactive, outage, sending inactive, sending active, sending inactive due outage, sending outage} \},
\]
\[
\text{sigma, time} \in \mathbb{R}_{o,+},
\]
\[
\{ \text{upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL} \} \in \mathbb{N}_o,
\]

\[
Y = \{ \text{active, inactive, outage} \}, \text{where}
\]
\[
\{ \text{active, inactive, outage} \} \in \mathbb{N}_o,
\]

\[
\delta_{int}(s) \begin{cases} 
\delta_{int}(\text{sending inactive,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}) = 
\text{(inactive, } \infty, \text{upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+sigma)} \\
\delta_{int}(\text{sending active,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}) = 
\text{(active, } \infty, \text{upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+sigma)} \\
\delta_{int}(\text{sending inactive due maintenance,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}) = 
\text{(maintenance, duration, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+sigma)} \\
\delta_{int}(\text{maintenance,sigma,upstreamTL,U,time}) = 
\text{(inactive, } \infty, U, U, time+sigma)} \\
\delta_{int}(\text{sending active,0,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}) = 
\text{(sending active, 0, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+sigma)} \\
\delta_{int}(\text{sending inactive due outage,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}) = 
\text{(sending inactive due outage, sigma, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+sigma)} \\
\delta_{int}(\text{sending inactive due outage,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}) = 
\text{(outage, } \infty, \text{upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+sigma)} \\
\end{cases}
\]

\[
\delta_{ext}(s,x,e) \begin{cases} 
\delta_{ext}((\text{active,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}),\text{maintenance,e}) = 
\text{(sending inactive due maintenance,0,upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{active,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}),\text{active,e}) = 
\text{(active, } \infty, \text{upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL-1, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{inactive,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}),\text{active,e}) = 
\text{(sending active, 0, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL-1, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{active,sigma,upstreamTL,inactiveUpstreamTL,time}),\text{inactive,e}) = 
\text{(active, } \infty, \text{upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL+1, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{active,sigma,U,U-1,time}),\text{inactive,e}) = 
\text{(sending inactive, 0, upstreamTL, U, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{phase,sigma,upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time}),\text{outage,e}) = 
\text{(sending inactive due outage, 0, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{outage,sigma,upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time}),\text{restoration,e}) = 
\text{(sending active, 0, upstreamTL, inactiveUpstreamTL, time+e)} \\
\delta_{ext}((\text{outage,sigma,U,U, time}),\text{restoration,e}) = 
\text{(inactive, } \infty, U, U, time+e)} \\
\end{cases}
\]

\[
\Delta_{ext}(s,x,e)
\]
Conflict of interest
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\[ \lambda(s) = \begin{cases} \text{inactive} & \text{if sending inactive, sigma, upstream TL, inactiveUpstream TL, time} \\ \text{active} & \text{if sending active, sigma, upstream TL, inactiveUpstream TL, time} \\ \text{inactive} & \text{if sending inactive due maintenance, sigma, upstream TL, inactiveUpstream TL, time} \\ \text{inactive} & \text{if sending inactive due outage, sigma, upstream TL, inactiveUpstream TL, time} \\ \text{outage} & \text{if sending outage, sigma, upstream TL, inactiveUpstream TL, time} \end{cases} \]

\[ \tau(s) = \sigma, \text{ where } s \in S. \]


