

## Optimal Placement and Sizing of Capacitors for Power Loss Reduction in Radial Distribution Systems

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### ABSTRACT

This paper introduces a novel and robust approach known as the Slime Mould Algorithm (SMA) for the optimal placement and sizing of capacitors in an IEEE distribution network. Initially, candidate buses for capacitor installation are identified using various indices, including Loss Sensitivity Factors (LSF), Voltage Stability Index (VSI), and Power Loss Index (PLI). These indices aid in determining the most suitable locations for capacitor installation. Subsequently, the SMA is applied to optimize the size and placement of capacitors at these selected buses. The primary objective function focuses on minimizing the total net cost and maximizing annual savings. The proposed method is applied to an IEEE distribution system and its results are compared with other conventional techniques to highlight its effectiveness. The findings demonstrate significant improvements in reducing power losses, lowering costs, and enhancing the voltage profile, thereby showcasing the potential of the SMA for improving the performance of radial distribution networks.

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## 1. Introduction

The innovative slime mould algorithm for its application within optimization of placement and sizing for capacitor in an IEEE distribution network, including the underlying problem of significant net cost and a practical viewpoint related to its applicability with optimization of algorithms power system. The main research question is to inquire about the validity of SMA when applied in a capacitor placement. That is further elaborated into five sub-research questions which are as follows: how can LSF help decide the best position for capacitors, the relevance of VSI in the location of capacitors, how will PLI play a role in loss reduction, will SMA optimize both size and place of capacitors, and whether outcomes from SMA could be compared with that of other methods or not. The research is quantitative in nature, where SMA is the main independent variable, and outcomes such as net cost reduction, improvement in voltage, and savings are dependent variables. The paper continues with a literature review, methodology exposition, presentation of results, and a concluding discussion on the theoretical and practical implications of SMA in power distribution networks.

## 2. Literature Review

This section reviews existing research on capacitor placement optimization using various methodologies, structured around five core areas derived from our sub-research questions: the role of LSF in optimal bus identification, the impact of VSI on capacitor siting, the influence of PLI on loss reduction, the effectiveness of SMA in capacitor optimization, and comparative analyses with other methods. These questions point to specific results, such as: "LSF in Optimal Bus Identification," "VSI's Role in Capacitor Siting," "PLI's Contribution towards Loss Reduction," "Effectiveness of SMA on Capacitor Optimization," and "Comparative Comparison of SMA Results." Gaps still appear in the advanced versions, particularly on the sparse evidence of the long-term effects of LSF, under optimized VSI applications, understudied PLI's overall

implications, and missing robust comparisons of the algorithm itself. The paper now formulates hypotheses from these identified gaps.

### **2.1 LSF for Optimal Bus Identification**

Early work with LSF concentrated on its ability to identify candidate buses for capacitor placement. LSF succeeded in early success but could not be included in in-depth longitudinal analysis of its effectiveness. Later research improved methodologies and created much more robust bus identification without integrating it fully with other indices for comprehensive optimization. Recent studies attempt to fill these gaps but are quite narrow in scope. Hypothesis 1: LSF significantly improves the identification of buses for installing capacitors for enhanced network efficiency, is postulated.

### **2.2 VSI's Effect on Capacitor Location**

The first set of studies showed the promising potential of VSI in the capacitor siting problem but relied mostly on simplified models. As the methodologies developed, studies started exploring the role of VSI in more complex network scenarios, showing very promising results but still lacking in comprehensive integration. The latest attempts at broader applications still fall short of full-scale network modelling. Hypothesis 2: VSI plays a critical role in the determination of optimal capacitor siting, enhancing voltage stability across distribution networks, is proposed.

### **2.3 PLI's role in loss reduction**

Early research on PLI focused on its potential for loss reduction, but these studies were often constrained by narrow data sets and short-term analyses. Subsequent work broadened the scope, incorporating PLI into larger optimization frameworks, but still did not fully address comprehensive loss evaluation. More recent work has enhanced analysis techniques but still has not captured the full extent of PLI's impact. Hypothesis 3: PLI makes a significant contribution to power loss reduction, improving the overall efficiency of the network, is proposed.

### **2.4 Effectiveness of SMA in Capacitor Optimization**

Initial research on optimization algorithms tended to neglect SMA, favouring more traditional methods. As interest in SMA increased, research started to emphasize its superiority in certain applications but failed to provide an overall comparison with the established methods. Recent studies try to establish SMA as a best practice but are still not well supported. Hypothesis 4: SMA optimizes the size and placement of capacitors effectively, surpassing conventional methods, is presented.

### **2.5 Comparative Analysis of SMA Outcomes**

Early comparative studies were on traditional optimization techniques and served as a starting point for benchmarking new approaches, such as SMA. The research then started to incorporate the results of SMA but often lacked the completeness of datasets. Current analyses try to be more holistic but still need further comprehensive evaluations. Hypothesis 5: The results of SMA are significantly better than other optimization techniques in terms of reducing cost and improving the voltage profiles, is presented.

## **3. Method**

This section discusses the quantitative research methodology used in testing the hypotheses. It discusses data collection and variable selection in the process. The SMA is at the core of this methodology. Its use ensures that accuracy and reliability in testing its efficacy in capacitor placement within distribution networks are guaranteed.

**3.1 Data** Data is collected via a systematic survey of IEEE distribution networks, which calculates performance indices based on simulation. The use of historical network operation data analyzes key

indices: LSF, VSI, and PLI. Sampling represents different network configuration cases to assure full analysis of the data collected. The datasets collected are robust and adequate for the determination of the SMA impact on optimization of capacitors.

### **3.2 Variables**

The independent variable is the application of the Slime Mould Algorithm in capacitor optimization. The dependent variables are network efficiency metrics like power loss reduction, voltage profile improvement, and cost savings. The control variables will include all of these: network configuration, load demand, and existing capacitor placements, to ensure that the effect of the SMA was isolated. Literature on the optimization method is referenced to validate the use of variable measurement techniques.

## **4. Results**

This results section gives the detailed statistical analysis of data taken from IEEE distribution network simulations for the validation of hypotheses proposed. Regression analyses justify the efficacy of the SMA in terms of optimization for capacitor placement because it brings an improvement in terms of network efficiency, cost cutting, and voltage stability. The empirical findings support all the hypotheses proposed herein: Hypothesis 1---LSF indeed identifies an optimal bus, Hypothesis 2---VSI, indeed plays a vital role in capacitor siting, Hypothesis 3---PLI is proven to reduce losses significantly, Hypothesis 4---SMA performed better than other approaches in finding an optimal capacitor, and Hypothesis 5---SMA does have advantages over conventional methods. The above results provide statistical evidence in favor of the applicability of SMA to power distribution networks.

### **4.1 LSF's Role in Optimal Bus Identification**

This finding supports Hypothesis 1, which states that LSF significantly improves the identification of optimal buses for capacitor installation, thus improving network efficiency. Statistical analysis of network simulations shows that buses identified using LSF criteria exhibit reduced power losses and improved stability. The correlation between LSF and network performance metrics underscores its effectiveness, with significant reductions in power loss observed. Empirical import of the results points toward the fact that the integration of LSF in optimization can result in efficient distribution networks, thus supporting theories on network optimization and efficiency enhancement.

### **4.2 Contribution of VSI to Capacitor Siting**

Hypothesis 2 is also confirmed as it is revealed that there is a strong contribution of VSI for calculating optimum capacitor siting, therefore improving voltage stability throughout a distribution network. The analysis of simulation data shows that the integration of VSI in siting decisions improves the voltage profile and reduces instability incidents. The variables are VSI metrics and voltage stability indicators, and statistical significance confirms the impact of VSI on network stability. Empirical implications show the importance of VSI in guiding capacitor placement strategies and support theories on voltage stability and network optimization.

### **4.3 Impact of PLI on Loss Reduction**

This result supports Hypothesis 3, showing that PLI significantly contributes to reducing power losses, thereby improving overall network efficiency. Simulation analysis shows that networks utilizing PLI for optimization exhibit lower power loss rates and enhanced efficiency metrics. The correlation between PLI usage and loss reduction is statistically significant, suggesting that integrating PLI into optimization strategies can lead to more efficient power distribution. The empirical significance reinforces theories on loss minimization and network efficiency improvement.

#### 4.4 SMA's Effectiveness in Capacitor Optimization

This finding validates Hypothesis 4, indicating that SMA effectively optimizes capacitor size and position, outperforming conventional methods. Comparative analysis of simulation results shows that networks optimized using SMA exhibit superior performance metrics, including reduced costs and improved voltage profiles. Key variables include SMA application and network performance indicators, with statistical significance confirming SMA's advantages. The empirical implications suggest that SMA's innovative approach to optimization can lead to significant improvements in distribution network performance, supporting theories on algorithmic optimization and efficiency enhancement.

#### 4.5 Comparative Advantages of SMA Outcomes

This finding supports Hypothesis 5, emphasizing that SMA outcomes significantly surpass those of other optimization algorithms in reducing costs and improving voltage profiles. Comparative analysis of simulation data shows that the networks optimized with SMA realize greater cost saving and improved stability than those that used traditional methods. Key variables include optimization algorithm types and performance metrics, with statistical significance confirming the superiority of outcomes from SMA. The empirical significance underlines the potential of SMA in advancing the optimization of the distribution network by supporting theories on algorithmic innovation and efficiency improvement.

### 5. Conclusion

This synthesis study reviews findings on the application of the Slime Mould Algorithm to optimize the placement of capacitors in IEEE distribution networks. Its roles include network efficiency enhancement, cost reduction, and voltage stability improvement. The practical and theoretical significance of SMA in the optimization of power systems is brought to the forefront, though some limitations, such as dependence on simulation data and broader real-world validations, are also noted. Future studies should extend their scope of diversified network topologies and actual real-world data in order to more widely validate SMA. This way, the present research gaps would be bridged and strategies could be further fine-tuned for power distribution networks, leading to optimized global practical applications of optimization algorithms. Addressing such areas can contribute to future studies offering a more integrated and comprehensive perspective of SMA contributions towards power system developments in multiple scenarios.

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