



Profit Based Unit Commitment using Improved Pre-prepared Power Demand (IPPD) Table and Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) Algorithm

L. Nagalakshmi, C. Nithyanandam

PG Scholar [Power Systems Engineering], Department of EEE, Sri Muthukumar Institute of Technology, Chennai, India

Assistant Professor, Department of EEE, Sri Muthukumar Institute of Technology, Chennai, India

ABSTRACT: The advent of restructured power system has led to the unbundling of vertically integrated utility to horizontally integrated utility with the objective of improving its efficiency by providing a more reliable energy at least cost to customers. Deregulation emphasizes on maximizing the profit of GENCOs rather than satisfying demand and reserve requirements and hence it differs from the traditional Unit Commitment (UC) with respect to objective function. This project presents a new approach for solving Profit Based Unit Commitment (PBUC). Mathematically, the PBUC problem is a mixed integer and continuous nonlinear optimization problem, which is complex to solve because of its enormous dimensionality due to a nonlinear objective function and large number of constraints. Hence, PBUC problem is divided into two sub-problems. The first sub-problem involves the determination of output powers of the committed units (ED). This project utilizes Improved Pre-prepared Power Demand (IPPD) table for UC and Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm for ED. This approach has been tested on a 10 unit power system using MATLAB and the simulation results are compared with those values obtained using NACO and PABC.

Keywords: Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm; Improved Pre-prepared Power Demand table; Nodal Ant Colony optimization; Parallel Artificial Bee Colony Algorithm; Profit Based Unit Commitment and deregulation.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1996, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of the United States of America has implemented the Energy Policy Act of 1992 by issuing Orders No.888 and No.889. Order 888 mandated all public utilities who own transmission to file Open Access non-discriminatory Transmission Tariffs (OATTs) and permitted public utilities and transmitting utilities to seek recovery of stranded costs. In Order No.888, FERC also recommended establishing Independent System Operators (ISOs) to monitor the reliability of the power system and coordinate the supply of electricity in each region. Order No.889 initiated the Open Access Same-Time Information System (OASIS) and standards of Conduct, which requires utilities to open information about their available transmission capacity, price and access to transmission services non-discriminatorily. Additionally, the historical structure of power system whereby a vertically integrated utility that owned generating plants, HV transmission system, and distribution lines as well as provided all electric services was required to be changed [13]. Obligatorily, all vertically utilities into the restructured regions needed to separate their assets and services into generation, and retail sales. Therefore, a distinction can be made between generation companies (GENCOs), transmission companies (TRANSCOs), distribution companies (DISCOs), and load serving entities (LSEs). The power industry became more competitive and more regionalized. Some regions are organized by an Independent System Operator (ISO) or a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) which was established by FERC in Order No.2000. the main roles of the ISOs and RTOs are to perform transmission planning, ensure wholesale power grid reliability as well as equal access to the grid, and economically balance electricity demand and supply.

Unit Commitment is a complex optimization problem of determining the schedule of generating units within a power system subject to all prevailing constraints [2]. In deregulated power system, the unit commitment problem



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(UCP) has a different objective than that of UCP in a traditional system. Previously, electric utilities had an obligation to serve their customers that all demand and spinning reserve must be completely met. But this is not necessary in the restructured system and generation companies can now consider a schedule that produces less than the predicted load demand and reserve but creates maximum profit. This problem is referred as Profit Based Unit Commitment (PBUC) problem. Under restructured environment, the individual GENCOs run its unit commitment in order to maximize their own profit [16]. In this profit based unit commitment, demand forecasts and expected market prices are important inputs to determine how much power should be offered on market for achieving maximum profit.

Mathematically, the PBUC problem is a mixed integer and continuous nonlinear objective optimization problem. Previous efforts for solving PBUC were based on conventional methods such as dynamic programming and LR methods. Recently, GA[4] have been used to solve the PBUC problem. Chandram et al.[5] proposed Muller method and IPPD table to solve PBUC problem. Raglend et al. [17] demonstrated the application of PSO technique to maximize the GENCOs profit.

The focus of this paper is to develop an accurate and comprehensive model for the profit-based thermal UC that yield feasible unit ON/OFF status for power generation companies. Improved Pre-prepared Power Demand(IPPD) table is used for UC and Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) algorithm is used for solving ED using MATLAB on a Pentium IV, 3GHZ personal computer with 512-MB RAM. The paper is organized in the following sections. The formulation of PBUC problem is introduced in section II. The description of the algorithm for solving PBUC problem is given in section III .Simulation results of the proposed approach for various generating units are presented in section IV. Conclusions are finally given in the last section.

II. PBUC PROBLEM FORMULATION

A. Nomenclature

PF	:	Profit of GENCOs
RV	:	Revenue of GENCOs
TC	:	Total cost of GENCOs
$F(P_{ij})$:	Fuel cost function of j^{th} generating unit at i^{th} hour
X_{ij}	:	ON/OFF status of j^{th} generating unit at i^{th} hour
P_{ij}	:	Output power of j^{th} generating unit at i^{th} hour
SP_i	:	Spot price at i^{th} hour
ST	:	Start up cost
T	:	Number of hours
N	:	Number of generating units
PD_i	:	Power demand at i^{th} hour
R_{ij}	:	Reserve j^{th} generating unit at i^{th} hour
P_{ij}^{min}	:	Minimum output power of j^{th} generating unit at i^{th} hour
P_{ij}^{max}	:	Maximum output power of j^{th} generating unit at i^{th} hour
T_j^{on}	:	Minimum time that the j^{th} generating unit has been continuously online
T_j^{off}	:	Minimum time that the j^{th} generating unit has been continuously offline.
T_j^{up}	:	Minimum up time of j^{th} generating unit
T_j^{down}	:	Minimum down time of j^{th} generating unit

B. Objective function:

The objective function of PBUC is to maximize power company's profit.

$$Max PF = RV - TC \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)$$



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$$RV = \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{j=1}^N P_{ij} S P_i X_{ij} \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

$$TC = \sum_{i=1}^T \sum_{j=1}^N F(P_{ij}) X_{ij} + ST .X_{ij} \dots\dots\dots(3)$$

C. Constraints:

The objective function is subjected to the following constraints:

- Power demand constraint: In the PBUC problem, it is not necessary to allocate generating units to meet power demand. Therefore, the power balance constraint is modified as a power demand constraint. Here, the sum of output powers of allocated generating units is always less than the forecasted power demand.

$$\sum_{j=1}^N P_{ij} X_{ij} \leq PD_i ; i = 1,2,3,\dots,T \dots\dots\dots(4)$$

- Reserve constraint

$$\sum_{j=1}^N R_{ij} X_{ij} \leq SR_i ; I = 1,2,3,\dots,T \dots\dots\dots(5)$$

- Real power operating limit

$$P_{ij}^{min} \leq P_{ij} \leq P_{ij}^{max} ; i = 1,2,3,\dots,T \dots\dots\dots (6)$$

- Minimum up/down time constraint

$$T_j^{on} \geq T_j^{up} \dots\dots\dots(7)$$

$$T_j^{off} \geq T_j^{down} \dots\dots\dots(8)$$

III. SOLUTION METHODOLOGY

Solution of the PBUC problem is decomposed into the following steps. The PBUC problem involves an on and off decision for units depending on variations in power demand.

A. Formation of the IPPD table

The procedure to form the IPPD table is given below.

Step-1 Determine minimum and maximum values of λ for all generating units at their P_{ij}^{min} and P_{ij}^{max} for each units two λ values are possible. Then arrange these λ values in ascending order and index them as λ_j (where $j=1,2,\dots,2N$).

Step-2 Evaluate output powers $\{P_{ij} = [(\lambda_j - b_i)/2c_i]\}$ for all generators at each value. Incorporate P_{ij}^{min} and P_{ij}^{max} as below.

(i) Setting of the minimum output power limit

$$\text{If } \lambda_j < \lambda_{j,min} \text{ then set } P_{ij} = 0 \dots\dots\dots (9)$$

$$\text{If } \lambda_j = \lambda_{j,min} \text{ then set } P_{ij} = P_{i,min} \dots\dots\dots(10)$$

But, for must run generators

$$\text{If } \lambda_j < \lambda_{j,min} \text{ then set } P_{ij} = P_{i,min} \dots\dots\dots(11)$$

(ii) Setting of the maximum output power limit

$$\text{If } \lambda_j \geq \lambda_{j,max} \text{ then set } P_{ij} = P_{i,max} \dots\dots\dots(12)$$

Step-3 λ values, output powers and sum of output powers (SOP) at each λ are arranged in the table in ascending order of λ values. This table is known as the Improved Pre-prepared Power Demand (IPPD) table.

Salient features of the IPPD table are listed below

1. The generating unit with the least lambda value is in the first row of the IPPD table. Minimum output power of the first generating unit is available and the output powers of the remaining units are zero in the first row.



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Therefore, the available output power is the minimum output power of that generating unit with the least lambda.

2. From the second row onwards, generating units are added in the IPPD table based on the ascending order of the lambda values of the generating units.
3. On or Off states of the generating units are available in the IPPD table up to the addition of the last generating unit.

B. Formation of the RIPP table

Profit is obtained only when the forecasted price at the given hour is greater than the incremental fuel cost of the given unit. Therefore, the forecasted price is taken as the main index to select the Reduced IPPD (RIPP) table from the IPPD table.

There are two options to select the RIPP table from the IPPD table.

Option 1: At the predicted forecasted price, two rows from the IPPD table are selected such the predicted forecast price lies within the lambda limits. Assume here that the corresponding rows are m and m+1.

Option 2: At the predicted power demand, two rows from the IPPD table are selected such that the predicted power demand lies within the Sum of Powers (SOP) limits. Assume here that the corresponding rows are n and n+1.

Therefore, the Reduced IPPD table is as follows:

(i) If $m < n$, then the RIPP table is selected based on option 1. Here, the power demand is modified as the SOP of m+1 row. In the PBUC problem, the power demand constraint is relaxed and it is not necessary to operate the generating units so as to meet power demand.

(ii) If $m > n$, then the RIPP table is selected as option 2.

Once the RIPP table is identified, the information about the Reduced Committed Units (RCU) table is generated by simply assigning +1 if the output power of the unit 'i' $P_i \neq 0$ and 0 if $P_i = 0$. The RCU table will have binary elements indicating the status of all units.

Now, "incorporation of no-load cost", "de-commitment of units" and "inclusion of minimum up time and minimum down time constraints" in the PBUC problem need to be addressed.

C. Incorporation of no load cost

Formulation of the IPPD table is based on incremental fuel costs (λ). Therefore, a no-load cost is not considered in the IPPD table. In the fuel cost data, some generating units may have huge no-load costs and less incremental fuel costs. Hence, incorporation of a no-load cost is needed to reduce the total fuel cost.

The priority List may not exactly reflect the actual status of the operation cost of medium load units because these units may operate at a lower output power than their maximum output power. This aspect may lead to a higher operational cost for medium units.

Step 1: Calculate the cost per MW at its average output-power between minimum and maximum output power limits. The cost per MW is taken as $Cost_{index,i}$.

$$Cost_{index,i} = [F_i(P_{average,i})] / P_{average,i} \dots\dots(13)$$

$$\text{Where } P_{average,i} = (P_{i,min} + P_{i,max}) / 2$$

This index exactly reflects the status of the operational cost of medium units at lower output power than the maximum output power.

Step 2: Arrange all units in ascending order of the $Cost_{index,i}$

Step 3: Modify the initial commitment and input data of the units according to the ascending order of the $Cost_{index,i}$.

Step 4: Last on-state unit at each hour is identified. Status of the units is changed as follows: If any unit on the left side of the last on-state unit is in an off state, then it is converted as an off state, then it is converted as an on-state unit. The complete mechanism of incorporating the No-load cost is shown in fig.1.

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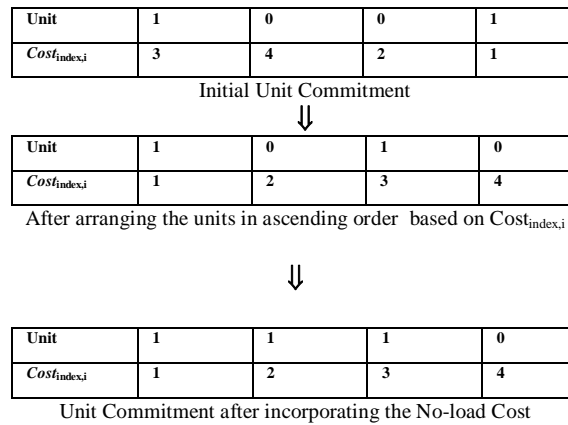


Fig. 1 Complete mechanism of incorporating the No-load Cost

D. De-commitment of units

The committed units may have excess spinning reserves due to a greater gap between the selected lambda values in the RIPP table. Therefore, de-commitment of units is necessary for getting more economical benefits.

When there is an excessive spinning reserve in hour 't', the following steps are used to De-commit the units.

Step-1: Identify the commitment units.

Step-2: De-commit the last 'ON' state unit in the Unit Commitment after incorporating the No-load Cost and check the spinning reserve. If the spinning reserve constraint is satisfied after de-commitment of the unit, then de-commit that unit.

Step-3: Repeated step-2 and de-commit possible units without violating the spinning reserve constraint.

E. Inclusion of Minimum up time and Minimum down time constraints

Minimum up and minimum down time constraints can be satisfied by adjusting the unit status.

- **Minimum Up time constraint**

If the on time of the unit is less than its' up time, then that unit will be on. Assume that the minimum up time of the unit is 4 hours. Fig 2 depicts the procedure to incorporate the minimum up time constraint.

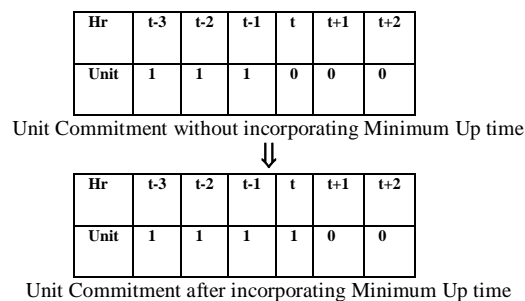


Fig. 2 Procedure to incorporate the minimum up time constraint

- **Minimum Down time constraint**

If the off time of the unit is less than the minimum down time, then the status of that unit will be off in the committed unit table. Fig.3 provides the procedure to incorporate the minimum down time constraint.

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Hr	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t+1	t+2
Unit	0	0	0	1	1	1

Unit Commitment without incorporating Minimum down time



Hr	t-3	t-2	t-1	t	t+1	t+2
Unit	0	0	0	0	1	1

Unit Commitment after incorporating Minimum down time

Fig. 3 Procedure to incorporate the minimum down time constraint

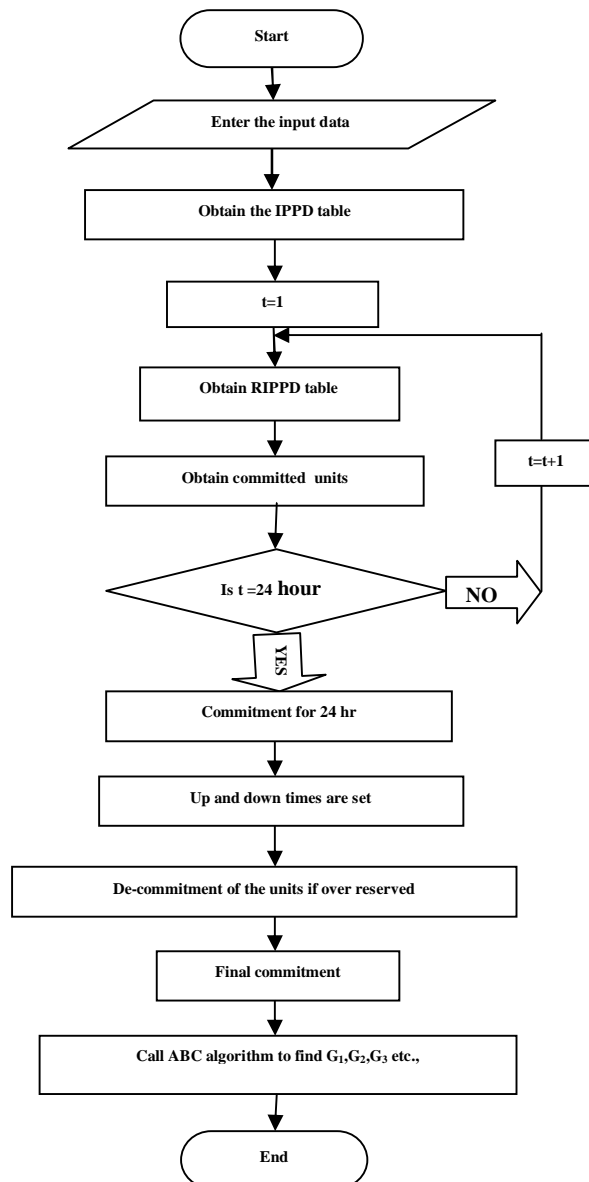


Fig. 4 Flow chart of complete strategy



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F. Artificial Bee Colony(ABC) for solving Economic Dispatch

Artificial Bee Colony(ABC) is one of the most recently defined algorithms by Dervis Karaboga in 2005, motivated by the intelligent behavior of honey bees. It is as simple as PSO and DE algorithms, and uses only common control parameters such as colony size and maximum cycle number. ABC as an optimization tool, provides a population-based search procedure in which individuals called foods positions are modified by the artificial bees with time and the bee's aim is to discover the places of food sources with the high nectar amount and finally the one with the highest nectar. In ABC system, artificial bees fly around in a multidimensional search space and some (employed and onlooker bees) choose food sources depending on the experience of themselves and their nest mates, and adjust their positions. Some (scouts) fly and choose the food sources randomly without using experience. If the nectar amount of a new position is higher than that of the previous one in their memory, they memorize the new position and forget the previous one. Thus, ABC system combines local search methods, carried out by employed and onlooker bees, with global search methods, managed by onlookers and scouts, attempting to balance exploration and exploitation process.

The model consists of three essential components: employed and unemployed foraging bees, and food sources. The first two components, employed and unemployed foraging bees, search for rich food sources, which is the third component, close to their hive. The model also defines two leading modes of behavior which are necessary for self-organizing and collective intelligence: recruitment of foragers to rich food sources resulting in positive feedback and abandonment of poor sources by foragers causing negative feedback.

- i. Food Sources: In order to select a food source, a forager bee evaluates several properties related with the food source such as its closeness to the hive, richness of the energy, taste of its nectar, and the ease or difficulty of extracting this energy.
- ii. Employed foragers: An employed forager is employed at a specific food source which she is currently exploiting. She carries information about this specific source and shares it with other bees waiting in the hive. The information includes the distance, the direction and the profitability of the food source.
- iii. Unemployed foragers: A forager bee that looks for a food source to exploit is called unemployed. It can be either a scout who searches the environment randomly or an onlooker who tries to find a food source by means of the information given by the employed bee. The mean number of scouts is about 5-10%.

The main steps of the algorithm are as follows:

- Initialization phase
- REPEAT
- Employed Bees Phase→Place the employed bees on their food sources
- Onlooker Bees Phase→ Place the onlooker bees on the food sources depending on their nectar amounts
- Scout Bees Phase→ Send the scouts to the search area for discovering food sources
- Memorize the best solution achieved so far
- UNTIL (Cycle=Maximum Cycle Number or a Maximum CPU time)

➤ Pseudo-code of the ABC algorithm

1. Initialize the population of solutions X_i $i= 1,2,\dots,SN$
2. Evaluate the population
3. Cycle = 1
4. REPEAT
5. Produce new solutions V_i for the employed bees by using

$$V_{ij} = X_{ij} + \Phi_{ij}(X_{ij} - X_{kj}) \dots \dots \dots (14)$$

Where $k \in \{1,2,\dots,SN\}$ and $j \in \{1,2,\dots,D\}$ are randomly chosen indexes and $\sum_{n=1}^{SN} fit \Phi_{ij}$ is a random number between [-1,1].

6. Apply the greedy selection process for the employed bees.



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7. Calculate the probability values $p_i = \frac{fit_i}{\sum_{n=1}^{SN} fit_n}$ (15)

8. Produce the new solutions V_i for the onlookers from the solutions X_i selected depending on p_i and evaluate them.

9. Apply the greedy selection process

10. Determine the abandoned solution for the scout, if exists, and replace it with a new randomly produced solution X_i

$$X_i^j = X_{min}^j + \text{rand}[0,1] (X_{max}^j - X_{min}^j) \dots\dots\dots(16)$$

11. Memorize the best solution achieved so far.

12. Cycle = Cycle + 1

13. UNTIL cycle = MCN

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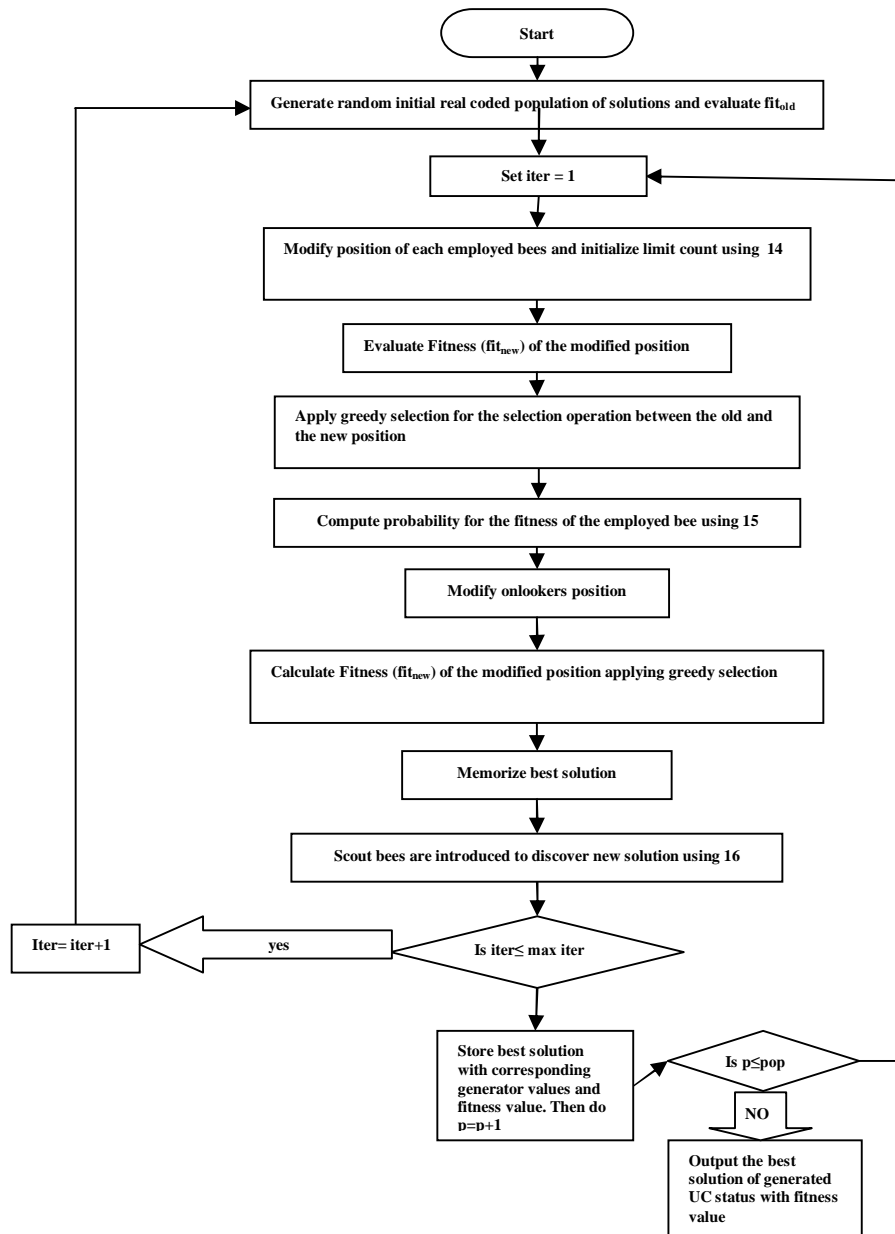


Fig. 5 Flow chart for solving ED using ABC algorithm

IV. TEST CASES AND SIMULATION RESULTS

The proposed approach has been implemented in MATLAB and executed on a Pentium IV (3 GHz) personal computer with 512MB RAM. The proposed method has been tested on 10 generating unit system to solve profit based unit commitment problem. Simulation results of the proposed algorithm were compared in terms of profit with traditional unit commitment method and heuristic methods such as TS-IRP algorithm.

Example: Here, a 10 generating unit system is considered. The fuel cost data of this system was obtained from [1] and given in Table 1.



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TABLE 1. Fuel cost data of a 10 unit system

Unit	$P_{i,max}$	$P_{i,min}$	a_i	b_i	c_i	$T^{on}(i)$	$T^{off}(i)$	Ini-state
1	455	150	1000	16.19	0.00048	8	8	9
2	455	150	970	17.26	0.00031	8	8	8
3	130	20	700	16.6	0.002	5	5	-5
4	130	20	680	16.5	0.00211	5	5	-5
5	162	25	450	19.7	0.00398	6	6	-6
6	80	20	370	22.26	0.00712	3	3	-3
7	85	25	480	27.74	0.00079	3	3	-3
8	55	10	660	25.92	0.00413	1	1	-1
9	55	10	665	27.27	0.00222	1	1	-1
10	55	10	670	27.79	0.00173	1	1	-1

TABLE 2. Market data for 10 unit system

Hour	Forecasted demand(MW)	Forecasted reserve(MW)	Forecasted price(\$)
1	700	70	22.15
2	750	75	22
3	850	85	23.1
4	950	95	22.65
5	1000	100	23.25
6	1100	110	22.95
7	1150	115	22.5
8	1200	120	22.15
9	1300	130	22.8
10	1400	140	29.35
11	1450	145	30.15
12	1500	150	31.65
13	1400	140	24.6
14	1300	130	24.5
15	1200	120	22.5
16	1050	105	22.3
17	1000	100	22.25
18	1100	110	22.05
19	1200	120	22.2
20	1400	140	22.65
21	1300	130	23.1
22	1100	110	22.95
23	900	90	22.75
24	800	80	22.55



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Initially lambda values (λ) are calculated at their minimum and maximum output powers of the generating units, then lambda values at minimum output powers of the units are arranged in ascending order and finally the fuel cost functions of generating units are rearranged based on the ascending order of the lambda values at minimum fuel output powers. All lambda values, the output powers are evaluated and IPPD table is formulated and given in table 4. The dimension of IPPD table is 20 X 12.

TABLE 3. IPPD Table for 10 unit system

λ (\$/MW)	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄	P ₅	P ₆	P ₇	P ₈	P ₉	P ₁₀	SOP
16.33	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150
16.58	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
16.62	455	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	455
16.68	455	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	475
17.04	455	0	0	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	585
17.12	455	0	130	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	715
17.35	455	150	130	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	865
17.54	455	455	130	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	1170
19.89	455	455	130	130	25	0	0	0	0	0	1195
20.98	455	455	130	130	162	0	0	0	0	0	1332
22.54	455	455	130	130	162	20	0	0	0	0	1352
23.40	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	0	0	0	1412
26	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	10	0	0	1422
26.37	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	55	0	0	1467
27.31	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	55	10	0	1477
27.51	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	55	10	0	1522
27.77	455	455	130	130	162	80	25	55	55	0	1547
27.82	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	55	55	10	1532
27.87	455	455	130	130	162	80	85	55	55	0	1607
27.98	455	455	130	130	162	80	85	55	55	55	1662

Assume forecasted price of 22\$/MW and power demand of 750MW. At predicted power demand, two rows from the IPPD table are selected such that the predicted forecasted demand lies within the SOP limits. This table is called RIPP table and is given in Table 4.

TABLE 4. RIPP table for 10 units system

λ (\$/MW)	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄	P ₅₋₁₀	SOP
17.12	455	0	130	130	0	715
17.35	455	150	130	130	0	865

First row of RIPP table gives the initial information of committed units. Further the commitment of units can be modified as follows: If the predicted forecasted price is less than the lambda at maximum output power of the generating unit, then that corresponding unit will be off. After getting the information of committed units, ED problem is solved using Artificial Bee Colony algorithm. The final solution is given in table 5.



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TABLE 5. Final solution by the proposed method

Hr	P ₁	P ₂	P ₃	P ₄	P ₅	P ₆	P ₇	P ₈₋₁₀	RV(\$)	FC(\$)	Profit (\$)
1	455	245	0	0	0	0	0	0	15505	13683	1821
2	455	295	0	0	0	0	0	0	16500	14554	1945
3	455	395	0	0	0	0	0	0	19635	16302	1926
4	455	455	0	0	0	0	0	0	20612	17353	3258
5	455	455	0	0	0	0	0	0	21158	17353	3804
6	455	455	0	130	0	0	0	0	23868	20214	3654
7	455	455	0	130	0	0	0	0	23400	20214	3186
8	455	455	0	130	0	0	0	0	23036	20214	2822
9	455	455	130	130	0	0	0	0	26676	23100	3570
10	455	455	128	130	161	71	0	0	41090	28774	12319
11	455	455	130	130	162	80	0	0	42572	29048	13523
12	455	455	130	130	161	69	0	0	44690	29048	15641
13	455	455	130	130	161	69	0	0	34440	28780	5669
14	455	454	128	130	133	161	69	0	31850	26194	5654
15	455	454	117	129	46	0	0	0	27000	24197	2808
16	455	394	82	94	25	0	0	0	23415	21554	1891
17	455	291	114	115	25	0	0	0	22250	20653	1572
18	455	389	105	126	25	0	0	0	24255	22400	1850
19	455	453	130	112	51	0	0	0	26640	24211	2445
20	455	455	130	130	162	0	0	0	30170	26852	3318
21	455	455	130	130	130	0	0	0	30030	26186	3817
22	455	385	130	130	0	0	0	0	25245	21879	3364
23	455	445	0	0	0	0	0	0	20475	17178	3297
24	455	345	0	0	0	0	0	0	18040	15427	2612
Total											107184

The profits obtained by PBUC are compared with Traditional UC and shown in fig.6. Forecasted and dispatched power demands are compared in fig.7. Profits obtained using proposed and existing methods are compared in fig.8.

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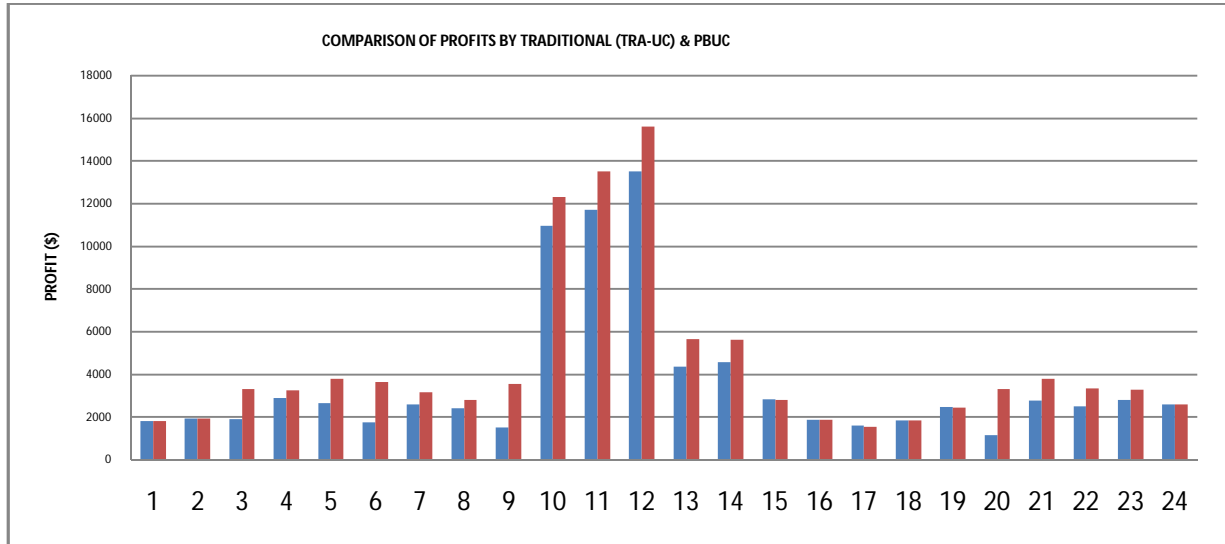


Fig.6. Comparison of profits by Traditional UC and PBUC

From fig.6, it is clear that PBUC provides more profit for GENCOs compared to Traditional UC.

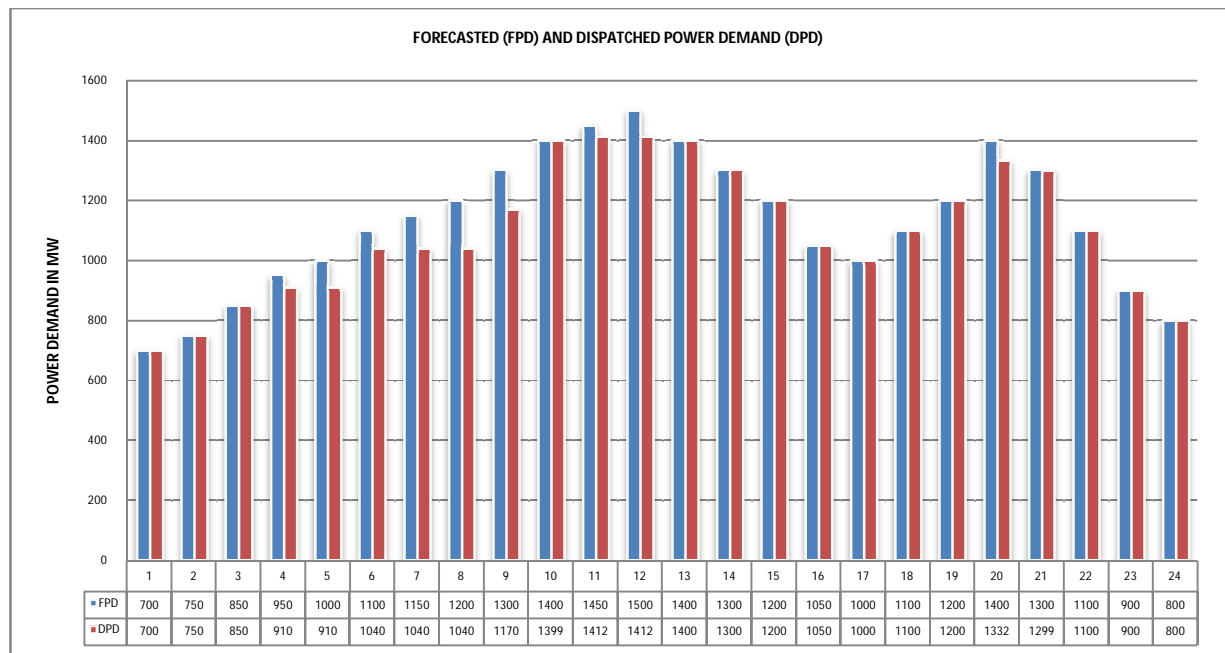


Fig.7. Comparison of forecasted and dispatched Power demands

From fig.7, it is clear that the forecasted and dispatched power demand were not equal thus satisfying PBUC constraint.

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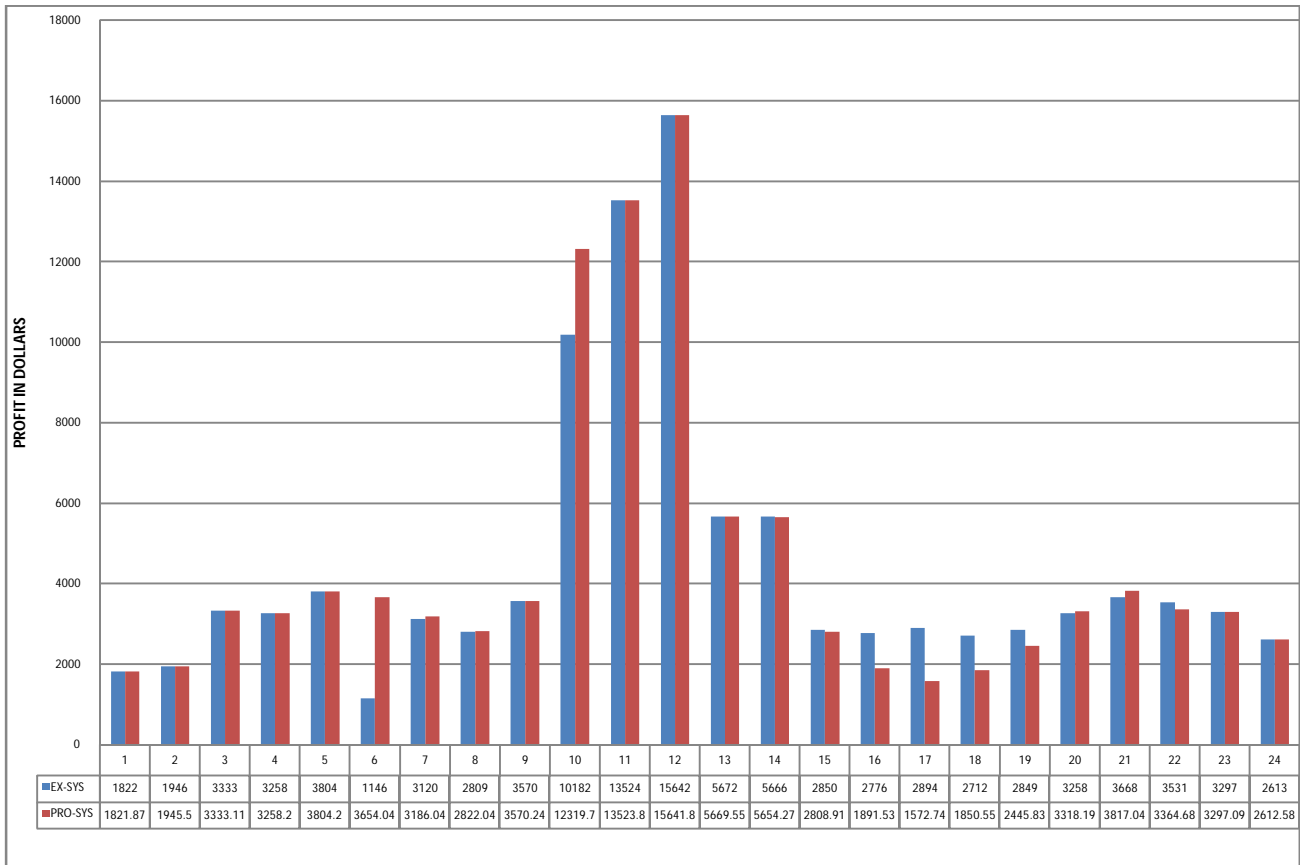


Fig.8. Comparison of profits of existing and proposed PBUC

From fig.8, it is clear that the profit obtained using IPPD table and Artificial Bee Colony (ABC)[proposed system] is more than that obtained using NACO and PABC (existing system) algorithm.

V. CONCLUSION

A new approach using IPPD table and Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) has been proposed in this paper for solving Profit Based Unit Commitment (PBUC). While solving the PBUC problem, the information of forecasted price is known. The PBUC problem is solved in two stages in the proposed approach. Initially, information regarding the committed units is obtained by framing IPPD table and finally Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) is used to find the non-linear programming sub-problem of Economic Dispatch. Simulation results for the proposed method have been compared with existing methods and also with traditional unit commitment. It is observed from the simulation results that the proposed algorithm provides maximum profit compared with existing methods and is thus amenable for the real-time operation required in a deregulated environment.

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