

Effects of Dynamic Penalty Parameters on the Convergence of MOGA in Optimization of a Large Gas Pipeline Network

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Abstract

This paper presents a method based on varying the dynamic penalty function in a Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithm (MOGA) scheme to optimize the operational targets of a large gas pipeline network based on minimum compressor fuel consumption, within boundaries of upper and lower linepack over a broad range of system throughputs. The network contains 22 compressor stations and 54 decision variables resulting in an optimization space of 1.85×10^{78} cases. The GA calls a hydraulic/thermal model of the pipeline network as well as a detailed station model where the compressor characteristics of each unit are taken into account to define the possible operating point without violating constraints such as surge and stonewall limits, maximum and minimum speeds, and maximum power available. It was found that for such large network systems, penalty parameters needed to be adjusted during the optimization runs to achieve uniform distribution of the targets along the Pareto fronts. The paper discusses the approach taken to arrive at optimal values for these parameters and presents examples for two-objective optimizations (Pareto fronts) to maximize throughput and minimize fuel consumption.

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