

LOAD SHEDDING TECHNIQUES FOR SYSTEM WITH COGENERATION: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

In developing countries a large demand of power will be seen in future. It is essential to maintain power continuity and reliability. Contingencies like fault occurrence and generated power and load demand imbalance causes system frequency instability. Load-shedding is the ultimate solution to restore system frequency and ensure availability of electrical power to critical loads in the plant. This paper presents a review of traditional adaptive and computational intelligent load shedding scheme. A comparison of these entire schemes with corresponding advantages and disadvantages is summarized.

KEYWORDS

Under frequency; contingency; critical load; load shedding

1. INTRODUCTION

Reliable and secure operation of large power systems is the primary goal for system operators [2]. Industrial plants are prone to short-circuits, generation loss and sudden breakdown of distribution lines. These cause load imbalance which can lead to frequency decay, initial power deficiency, dangerous cascade effects, or even shutdown of one or more generators. Blackouts affect utilities, ships, refineries, mines, industrial processes and almost every power system in the world [5]. In order to prevent these events, various Load Shedding (LS) strategies are adopted to restore the generated and absorbed power balance [1, 7]. Basically, a load shedding scheme acts whenever it diagnoses a situation of danger for the system. A historical method for detecting power unbalances is to detect a fall or rise in the frequency of the power system [2, 10]. The threshold value of underfrequency (UF) or overfrequency (OF) is used as a triggering for shedding of loads or generators so that the power system stability can be maintained [7, 11]. Therefore, both underfrequency and overfrequency condition should also be prevented [5]. While load variations are considered as disturbances, LS algorithm must

Detect power deficiency and compute minimum load power to be removed using available spinning reserve [31]. Every power system has its own under frequency load shedding (UFLS) plan. A UFLS plan must be reliable, simple, efficient, fast, robust and properly coordinated with the neighboring power system [9].

This paper presents a review of load shedding schemes to restore load generation balance and keep system frequency within permissible limits. Therefore Load shedding helps to maintain the power system stability and reliability.

2. SYSTEM FREQUENCY RESPONSE

Power system frequency falls down rapidly if mismatch occurs between generation and the load demand in case a power disturbance occurs. [21]. Off-normal frequency can directly affect power system operation and reliability. A large frequency deviation can damage connected equipments, degrade load performance, cause transmission line overloading and can interfere with various protection schemes, ultimately causing system collapse in severe cases [1, 3, 24]. Depending on the frequency deviation range, supplementary control such as load-frequency control (LFC) and emergency control may be required in addition to the natural governor response [24]. Power plant auxiliary services are more sensitive in terms of minimum allowable frequency. They begin to malfunction at a frequency of 47.5 Hz. At frequency of about 44-46 Hz the asynchronous motors of the auxiliary services are disconnected by their protections [2, 33]. The steam turbines are more sensitive to frequency drops and can sustain up to 10 contingencies at 47.5 Hz for one second. Hence frequency fall below 47.5 Hz should be avoided [2]. On occurrence of a disturbance, frequency of generators depends on following factors.

- The generator closer to the disturbance location show a faster rate of initial frequency decay [2, 6, 8, 21].
- Generators with higher inertia constant have lower rate of frequency decline and less frequency decline [11, 34].
- Load damping factor is an important parameter in the settling system frequency following a disturbance. However, it has no significant effect on the initial frequency behavior of generator after a disturbance [8].

Hence, for minimum frequency deviations factors [8, 32, 34] are discussed in Figure 1. The values of the minimum frequency and the new steady-state frequency reached during the transient process are proportional to the power imbalance and depend on the dynamic properties of turbines, governors, loads, and other control devices [10].

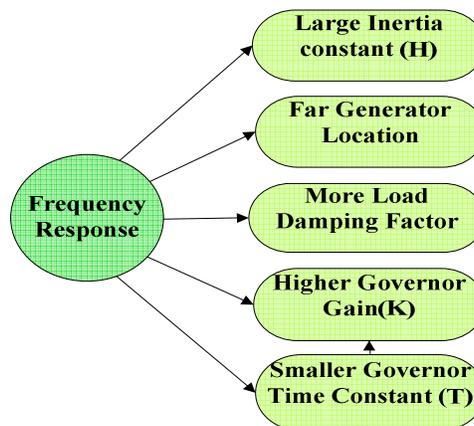


Figure1. Ideal Factors affecting frequency response of generators

3. CLASSIFICATION OF LOAD SHEDDING SCHEMES

Different authors have given various loads shedding classification. Uchhrang K. Jethwa along with his team in [13] has classified LS as cause-based scheme and effect-based scheme of load-

shedding [13, 14]. The overall load-shedding has been grouped as Primary load shedding: based on the generation deficit calculations and Slow load shedding: based on overloading of power system equipment [13]. According to M. Giroletti, M. Farina and R. Scattolini in [1] basically, load shedding can be done based on load or based on frequency.

3.1 Power-based load shedding (PLS)

It computes power deficiency and load power to be removed based on the instantaneous measurements.

3.2 Frequency-based load shedding (FLS)

It monitors frequency and its derivative at specified thresholds.

In order to overcome the main drawbacks of the PLS and FLS, hybrid load shedding (HLS) algorithm is proposed [1] which combines the significant features of above mentioned approaches i.e. robustness, unresponsive to measurement delays and the use the updated spinning reserve. The mismatch detection is performed by analyzing $\Delta df(t)/\Delta dt$ [6]. B. Delfino in [2] has classified load shedding scheme as traditional, semi-adaptive and adaptive.

3.2 The traditional load shedding

It is simplest and cheap method. The traditional scheme sheds a fixed amount of the load in case of frequency fall below specified threshold [2].

3.3 The semi-adaptive scheme [21]

In this method Load is shed by measuring df/dt if frequency threshold is reached.

3.4 The adaptive method

It employs the system frequency response model.

This paper classifies load shedding as Conventional, Adaptive and computational intelligent load shedding schemes as shown in Figure 2.

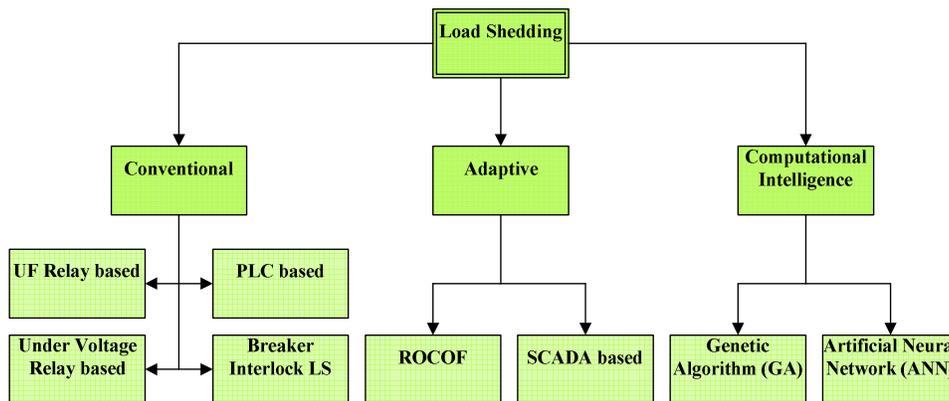


Figure 2. Classification of Load Shedding Techniques

4. LOAD SHEDDING TECHNIQUES AND THEIR TYPES

Small frequency deviations are automatically restored by governor natural response (primary control) [6, 7], while for larger frequency deviations, emergency control and protection schemes are required [21, 34]. The load shedding scheme should be quick, reliable, avoid unnecessary actions and shed a minimum amount of load [2, 33]. The main types of load shedding schemes are as below:

4.1. The traditional or conventional load shedding

The traditional scheme sheds a predefined amount of the load corresponding to fixed preset values of frequency [2, 5]. These values of the thresholds are decided off-line, on the basis of experience and simulations [9, 35].

4.1.1. Under frequency load shedding relays

Power plants are subjected to failure at low frequencies. If governor actions cannot activate spinning reserve quickly to restore the normal operating frequency, protective frequency relays trip generation units [36-39]. Under frequency load shedding relays are employed to prevent tripping of the generation units [5]. This scheme [5] involves formation of a contingency list according to worst possible impacts causing severe power imbalance. All the required data such as relays, Circuit breakers, corresponding time delays, operational frequency value, and the priority list of loads are specified by the user. Under frequency relay based load shedding is designed in [36] as below.

a) Maximum possible overload:

$$L = \frac{P_{TD} - P_G}{P_G} \quad (1)$$

Where, L : anticipated overload factor

P_{TD}, P_G : Total Demand, Total Generation

b) Load shed amount:

$$LS = \frac{\frac{L}{1+L} - d \left(1 - \frac{f}{f_0}\right)}{1 - d \left(1 - \frac{f}{f_0}\right)} \quad (2)$$

Where, L : per unit overload

f : Minimum permissible frequency

d : Load reduction factor

f_0 : Nominal frequency

c) Relay settings:

The UFLS relay is initialized to shed a fixed amount of load in predefined 3-5 steps when frequency falls below a certain predefined threshold in order to prevent a blackout [36, 37].

Under frequency relay based load shedding was tested on a commercial power system in [2] with total load under relief of 1000 MW i.e. about 30% of active load of the system. The relay delay time was set to 0.1 s, which is most common. Table 1. Shows the corresponding load shedding result of the schemes[2]. However they have some drawbacks [16] as described below.

- The scheme incorporates time delay. Due to time taken by the frequency to reach the pre-defined settings. These time delays as a sum result into a slow response [5].
- Usually setting of each frequency relay is based on the most severe disturbance conditions, so incorrect loadshedding may take place [16].
- Frequency relay settings require simulation of hundreds of transient stability studies which are not actually dependent on the real time operating conditions [16].

Table 3. Relay setting

Traditional under frequency relay based load shedding	Frequency threshold	%load shed	Time delay
Step 1	49.58Hz	40%	0.1sec
Step 2	49Hz	30%	0.1sec
Step 3	48.3Hz	30%	0.1sec

4.2.2. Under voltage relay based load shedding

When a fault takes place, within 1-2 seconds, the system voltage drops much faster than frequency decays [38]. Undervoltage protection schemes as per voltage tolerance curves (according to past data) of the critical loads [9] are employed to save in-plant loads and cogeneration units of an industrial system [41]. Time delay setting of undervoltage relays should minimum for easy activation [9,39]. A fault contingency and the residual voltage of the cogeneration units can be calculated by short circuit analysis. Transient stability analysis calculates time delays using the critical clear time (CCT) of the cogeneration system [39-40]. As the undervoltage relays can easily be activated by even small voltage disturbance [9, 39]. This is a drawback of undervoltage relay based load shedding.

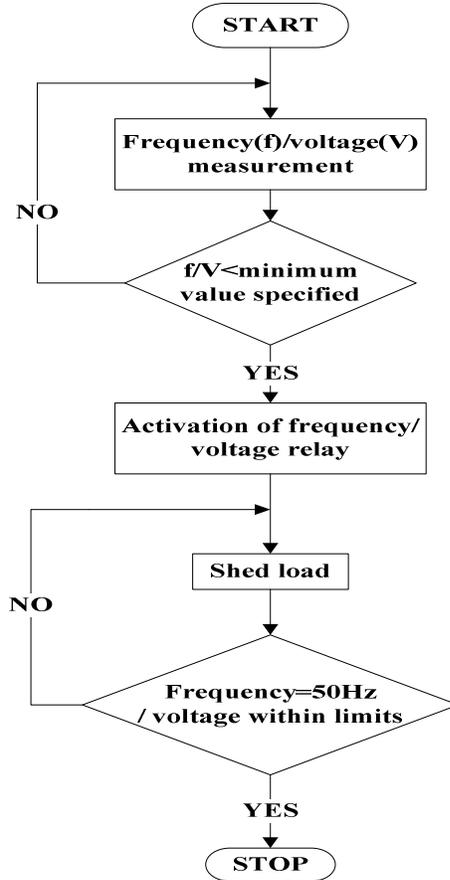


Figure 3. Flow chart for under frequency and under voltage relay based load shedding

4.2.3. Programmable Logic Controller-Based Load Shedding

Programmable logic controller is programmed at substations to initiate a trip signal to the appropriate feeder breakers. Programming is based on the number of generators, total amount of load, and the underfrequency conditions [42-43]. It involves continuous monitoring of circuit breaker positions, generator status, and overall power flows in the system. Possible contingencies are evaluated, and required load shedding is assembled [42]. However, this table is independent of any changes that may take place in the system [16, 42]. PLC systems are faster and accurate than underfrequency relays [16]. However, PLC systems, uses underfrequency relays as a backup [16] due to reasons such as:

- The processing time in PLC leads to slow response of load shedding.
- The monitoring is confined to a portion of the network.
- Some sequence of events may occur that are not programmed into the PLC, resulting in load shedding failure.

Despite its added complexity and cost, the PLC load-shedding system is preferred because of its speed of response and its ability to handle changing power system conditions [25].

4.2.4. Breaker Interlock Load Shedding

This is the simplest method of load shedding used when speed of LS is critical. The circuit breakers are linked to a set of load circuit breakers to trip [16]. Any power disturbance automatically sends a fast signals to the load breakers to open. Absence of processing in this scheme gives a fast response without any intentional time delay. Despite fast execution this scheme possesses a number of inherent drawbacks as below [16, 26]:

- Load shedding is based on worst conditions thus changing load priority is difficult.
- Only one stage of load shedding that can completely shut down the entire system.
- Unnecessary load shed than required because breaker interlock list is preselected without knowledge of system transient response
- Modifications to the system are costly

4.3. The adaptive scheme for load shedding

Conventional load-shedding strategies perform well in electrical system distributed on geographical bases, but not in industrial systems [6, 7]. UFLS very often disconnects more or less load than is required. This causes undesired damages and serious costs [10]. No traditional schemes take into account load-level changes, system inertia changes, changes in load composition, governor response characteristics, or changes in system topology [11]. In adaptive UFLS (AUFLS) these parameters are included and magnitude of disturbance is estimated online [7, 10]. This method is based on real time topology and communicates between remote protective relays and centralized UF appliance [10, 11]. The inertia compensation and load tracking system (ICLT) communicates directly to the generator relays and sheddable load relays through MUX.

Hence operation from thousands of kilometers away is possible without any compromise in timing or performance [11]. For the design of an AUFLS plan, The behavior of multi-machine electric power systems immediately after sudden load generation imbalance is initiated [21,34]. The disturbance location and initial slope seen by every relay along with inertia constant plan is designed using swing equation (3) [7,10].

$$\left. \frac{df}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = \frac{P_{step}}{2H} \quad (3)$$

Where,

- f : per unit (50 or 60 Hz)
- P_{step} : per unit on the total system MVA

From the estimated disturbance, number of steps, frequencies, time delays, and the amount of load to be disconnected from the network in every step is determined [10]. Load is shed in steps and not in one stroke which is an advantage to this scheme. A drawback of this scheme is that, the inertia changes of the system should be accordingly adapted [10].

4.3.1. Rate of change of Frequency (ROCOF) based Load Shedding

According to equation (3), the initial ROCOF following a disturbance is directly proportional to the power imbalance and also depends on the electric power system inertia [6,7]. The active-power deficit (P_{def}) is dependent on initial mechanical power on turbines, active power consumption just before the disturbance, spinning reserve, turbine-governor reaction and the active power load change due to voltage and frequency deviation. For effective load-shedding, firstly load shedding amount should be minimum, as not more than 20% of spinning reserve can be obtained in first few seconds [7]. Secondly frequency trajectory should be within limits. This

is done through partial shedding (Figure 4.). As first shedding stage ($f=47.5$ Hz) drastically changes the gradient and gives the turbine governor more time to react [12], only a part of P_{trip} is to be shed in the first step (eg. 35% of trip).

$$\frac{df_k}{dt} < 0 \text{ and } \frac{\frac{df_0}{dt} - \frac{df_k}{dt}}{\left| \frac{df_0}{dt} \right|} \cdot 100 \geq AP(f). \quad (4)$$

Where, $AP(f)$: %Ptrip that should be shed until the k_{th} checkpoint

The frequency gradient measurement can give misleading information about the active power deficit load bus voltages and characteristics of connected load (factor α_i) are unknown [12]. Power deficit can be calculated using the system frequency response model [6,19,44]. The model is based on largest time constants such as generation unit inertia and reheats time constant in the generation units of the isolated system [6]. The major drawback of using the frequency-response model for UFLS [7]:

- The load's voltage dependence is not included in the model.
- The frequency gradient soon after the disturbance is measured with some time delay.

Table 2 describes a refinement to the emergency control protection schemes can be achieved by using $\Delta f / \Delta t$ settings rather than df / dt settings [6].

Table 2

	df/dt	$\Delta f/\Delta t$
Accuracy	More deviated values	Closer values
Other Oscillations	Influence frequency	No influence on frequency
LS Speed	Faster	Slower
Risk of fake operation	More	Reduced

4.3.2. SCADA Based Load Shedding

To have a high reliability solutions, without any data transfer through communication links the SCADA system are preferred at UFLS [7]. Formal approach based on a finite state transition model [3] is introduced to define the load shedding actions for a medium/large industrial plant. Compared to the frequency based LS schemes, the response time is well within the power system requirements, no special relays or devices need to be installed and load unbalance calculation are much faster. LS scheme based on SCADA[8] is as below.

- Magnitude of disturbance is detected by collecting all generators rate of frequency decline.
- Critical overload is defined and SFR model is designed first.
- If the overload is more than the critical value, total load must be dropped with zero time delay.

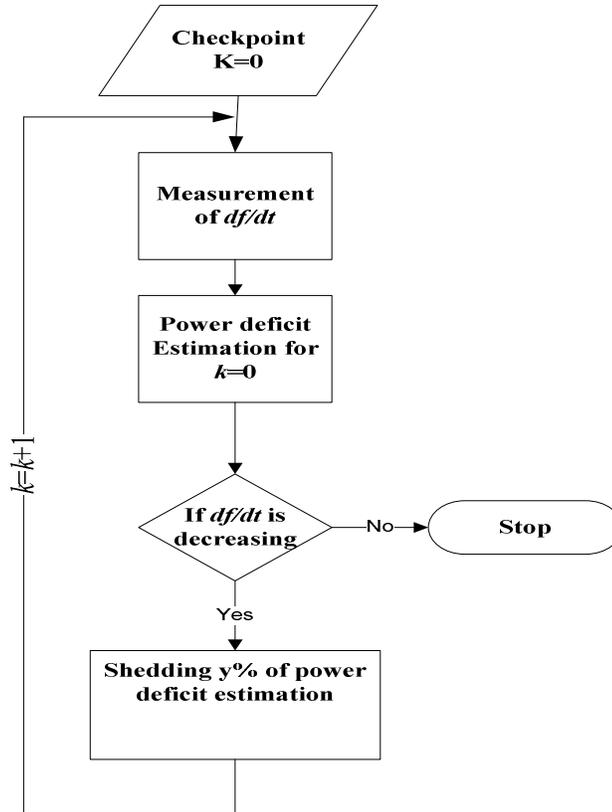


Figure 4. A flow chart for partial shedding of load w.r.t. 50Hz
 K:0,1,2.....
 $f(k) : 49, 48.8, 48.4, 47 \dots \text{Hz}$
 $y(k) : 35, 30, 20, 15\%$

System status is defined by CB position. “bit=0” represent an open CB and “bit=1” a closed CB. The position of these circuit breakers is detected by SCADA [8]. If the frequency drops below a set value (f_{min}) for a time longer than t_{min} ; the SCADA starts a step by step load-shedding with a fixed time cycle (t_{cycle}). The process stops when the frequency rises above the threshold. SCADA based scheme overcomes the shortcomings of adaptive UFLS procedures and provides a fast and reliable operation [8].

4.4. Computational Intelligent load shedding

Even with advanced techniques to improve load shedding efficiency such as adaptive techniques the tripping signal that starts the LS phenomenon is always the frequency or its derivative [3]. These methods does not fit the requirements of industrial plants as Generating capacity varies widely, flexible Distribution network, high Frequency decay rate and small Number of load [5]. This scheme overcomes the drawbacks of previous two schemes. Fast load shedding based on real time operating conditions is possible with exact amount of load shed requirement. An intelligent load shedding

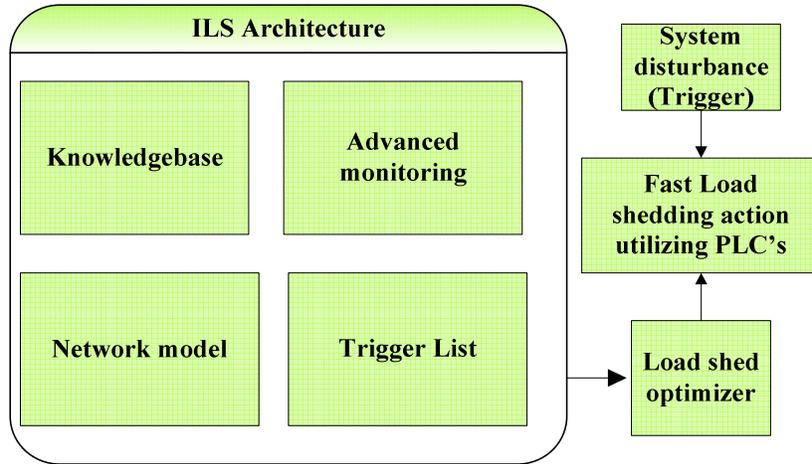


Figure 5. Functional blocks of computational intelligent load shedding scheme

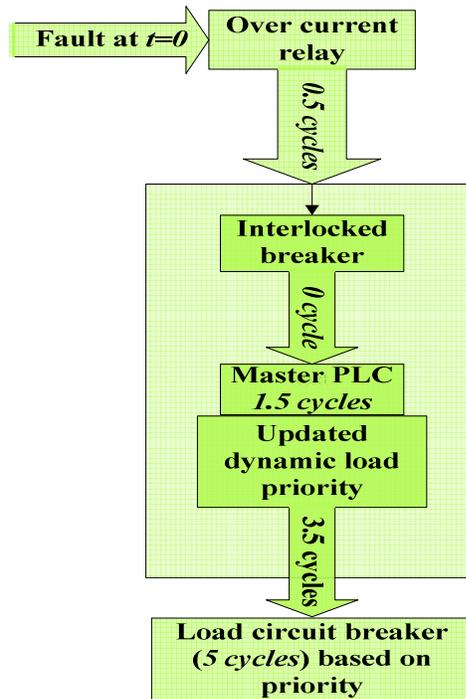


Figure 6. Load response time of computational intelligent LS

Scheme [16] incorporates Pre and post disturbance operating conditions, Nature, duration and System transient response to a disturbance. Techniques such as Neural Network (NN), Generic Algorithms (GA), Simulated Annealing (SA), Fuzzy Logic (FL) etc, offer effective problem solving, knowledge representation, planning and action, for highly non-linear problems. These techniques are user defined and minimum load shed are possible online. Figure 5. illustrates computational Intelligent Load Shedding scheme. Knowledgebase selects input/output data based on off-line system studies and simulations [16-17]. System operating conditions are surveyed through Advanced Monitoring. Network Models contain system topology. Based on compiled trigger list LS is executed which is fast and optimum. A computer simulation of an oil refinery

electrical system was performed [16] to illustrate the benefits of applying an ILS scheme over a conventional PLC based scheme. It was observed that the total load response time is less about 7 cycles. Figure 6.

4.4.1. Using Genetic Algorithm

Genetic algorithms (GA) are based on the mechanics of natural selection and genetics. The basis is the Darwinian ‘survival of the fittest’ concept [23]. Load shedding method in the previous section [16] often causes over shedding as it involves the entire feeder for disconnection neglecting information about type of load connected to it. It is important to supply power to the right load at right time [22]. This section proposes a time priority based load shedding scheme using genetic algorithm in a smart grid field. Fig.7. describes the scheme. The objective function is the error between the required load shedding amount at substation and the actual [16, 22]. At the control centre, the load power consumption is obtained in real time and is fed as input to the algorithm, including the time of the day and the required amount of load shedding. Fig.8. shows a flow chart for GA based load shedding [23]. The solution obtained tries to supply the power to the consumer at its priority time. The algorithm provides Load shedding error within 0.5% [22].

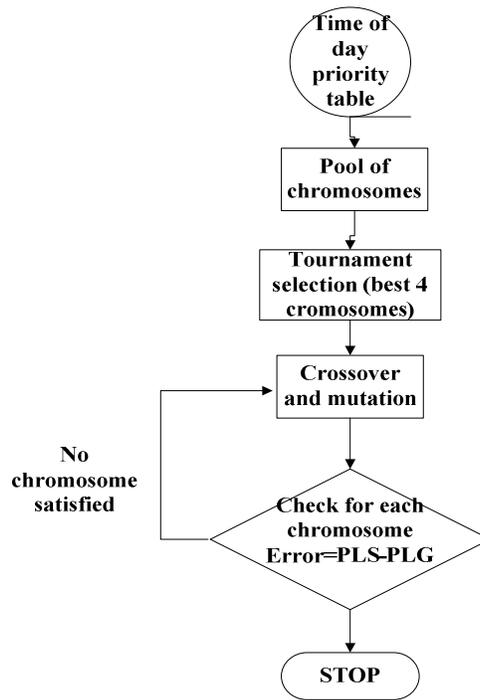


Fig.8 Flow chart for GA based load shedding

4.4.2. Neural-Networks for Under-Frequency Load Shedding System

The artificial neural-networks minimizes the computation time [18]. Each stage of the load shedding system has a time delay of its own. If frequency is recovered before the expiration of the time delay load shedding operation will not be executed [19]. The basic element of a neural-network is the artificial neuron. After a thorough examination the following neural-network model was developed for minimal frequency [17]:

- Each generating unit is represented by two input variables: the actual power and the available power along with spinning reserve.
- One neuron in output layer and a single hidden layer.
- Sigmoid transfer functions as the minimal frequency is a continuous variable.
- Full connectivity between the output and the hidden layers but Partial connectivity between the hidden and the input layers to decrease calculation times and maintain accuracy.

Each case in the data base specifies all the input variables as well as the output variable and contains real cases that occurred during previous years. The data base contains all kinds of forced outages of generating units [18]. The purpose of the neural-network is to predict which stages of the load shedding system would operate during a forced outage of a generating unit [18, 19].

5. COMPARISON OF LOAD SHEDDING SCHEMES

A summary of different load shedding techniques compared together is described in Table 3.

Table 3. Comparison of load shedding schemes

Conventional Load Shedding	Adaptive Load Shedding	Computational Intelligent Load Shedding
No account of system inertia changes, or system topology [11, 16].	Includes System inertia constant and other real time responses [10, 11].	Reflects true status and loading conditions for the sheddable loads [16].
No communication between remote protective relays and UF appliances [11, 25].	Fiber-optic communication, satellite technology ect. Enable fast data transmission [10, 11].	Scheme is user defined [5, 10].
Sheds fixed amount of load based on threshold frequency. Under/over shedding is seen [2, 5].	Stepwise Loadshedding is done depends on rate of change of frequency decline. LS error observed [7, 8].	Minimum load shedding based on real time status of sheddable loads. LS error is minimized [16, 18].
Time delay included. Therefore a slow response [5].	Includes time delay. Hence a slow response [19].	Fast response with minimum time delay [34].
Based on most severe conditions [35].	Depends on instantaneous frequency decay rate [21, 34].	Based on system dynamic characteristics on real time [19, 21].
Complex design with large number of I/O relays [11,26].	Decreased complexity increased reliability [11].	Decreased complexity [34].
Load priority list not properly classified [38].	It may happen that power is supplied to non-critical loads [44].	The load shedding priority list is updated and sub-categorized in critical and non-critical loads [7, 11].
Large simulation and transient stability studies required [16, 35].	Large simulation studies not required [10, 12].	Large simulation studies not required [44].

6. CONCLUSION

In an interconnected power system huge gap between power generation and demand is seen. Reliable techniques are required for fast and accurate load shedding. Factors affecting underfrequency conditions and the consequent effect on system equipments which can damage the entire network have been discussed. The conventional schemes shed fixed amount of load blocks which may cause insufficient load shedding. Adaptive methods take into account the rate

of change of frequency and load shedding is done based on a simple formulae. Due to inherent disadvantages in conventional and adaptive methods Computational intelligence techniques are required. This paper has presented a review of conventional, adaptive and computational intelligence techniques in load shedding and discussed the relative merits and demerits. It can be concluded that computational intelligence techniques in load shedding are more efficient than other methods with respect to fast response, exact load shedding amount and updated load priority list. However, further improvements are still needed. A summary of full comparison of load shedding methods is presented.

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