# A modified sine cosine algorithm for improving wind plant energy production

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# ABSTRACT

This paper presents a Modified Sine Cosine Algorithm (M-SCA) to improve the controller parameter of an array of turbines such that the total energy production of wind plant is increased. The two modifications employed to the original SCA are in terms of the updated step size gain and the updated design variable. Those modifications are expected to enhance the variation of exploration and exploitation rates while avoiding the premature convergence condition. The effectiveness of the M-SCA is applied to maximize energy production of a row of ten turbines. The statistical performance analysis shows that the M-SCA provides the highest total energy production as compared to other existing methods.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the primary issues of the wind plant research nowadays is that the optimal controller parameter of individual turbine does not guarantee an optimal energy production of the whole wind plant. This is due to the wake interaction between turbines in the wind plant that degrades the total energy production of the wind plant. So far, there are several of strategies that have been proposed to find the optimal controller parameters of an array of turbines in the wind plant. One of the recent popular strategies is based on the data-driven method that totally relies on the total energy production data of wind plant. These include Safe Experimentation Dynamics (SED) [1] and cooperative static control [2]. Those methods are under the class of game theoretic method that defines the controller parameter of each turbine as a player to achieve the given goal which is the total energy production. In [3], the researchers propose a Maximum energy Point Tracking (MPPT) method by incorporating a time varying energy production measurement of wind plant. Here, they show that the MPPT method provides faster convergence of total energy production than the method in [1]. Similarly, the works in [4] also considered the same model of wind plant as in [3]. Here, by manipulating the structure of the given wind plant, the proposed Multi-Resolution Simultaneous Perturbation Stochastic Approximation (MR-SPSA) is able to produce faster convergence and higher total energy production than the strategy in [3]. Other recent strategies include Bayesian Ascent [5], Random Search [6], Spiral Dynamics Algorithm [7], Particle Swarm Optimization [7] and Moth Flame Optimization [8].

On the other hand, a Sine Cosine Algorithm (SCA) [9] can also be considered as a potential tool for improving energy production of wind plant. This is because the SCA has been successfully solved various types of real world problems [10-20]. The essential features of the SCA algorithm is that the pseudo-code is

slightly simple where the design variable is updated using only a random perturbation from the sine and cosine signals. However, based on our preliminary works using a row of ten turbines, the standard SCA is still not able to provide high accuracy of total energy production. Therefore, it motivates us to modify the standard SCA algorithm such that a better total energy production of wind plant can be achieved.

This paper presents a Modified Sine Cosine Algorithm (M-SCA) to improve energy production of wind plant. In order to solve the premature convergence issue in maximizing the energy production of wind farm, two modifications are adopted to the standard SCA as follows. Firstly, an existing linear updated mechanism in the standard SCA is modified to a new nonlinear updated mechanism, which is based on our preliminary study in [21]. Secondly, the updated design variable of each agent is modified to include an average design variable between current design variable of each agent and the best current design variable. Furthermore, a single row wind plant based on Park model [22] with ten turbines is used to assess the effectiveness of the M-SCA. The statistical performance analysis of the wind plant total energy production using the proposed method is shown. In addition, a comparative assessment between the M-SCA, the standard SCA, the PSO and the SED [1] approaches is presented.

# 2. PROBLEM FRAMEWORK

Consider the energy production of turbine k is defined by Ek (h1, h2, ..., hm) (k = 1, 2, ..., m), where m is the total number of turbines in the wind plant and hk (k = 1, 2, ..., m) is the controller parameter of each turbine k. Naturally, the incoming wind speed to a wind plant can be considered in various angle of directions with random position of turbines. Hence, the controller parameters of other turbines h1, h2, ..., hk-1, hk+1, ..., hm, which is not include controller parameter of turbine k, would also influence the energy production Ek of turbine k due to the wake interactions between turbines. Equivalently, the changes of hk might also influence the energy productions of other turbines E1, E2, ...., Ek-1, Ek+1, ..., Em. The exact formulation of function Ek (h1, h2, ..., hm) can be negligible in this study due to highly complex turbulence interactions among turbines, which are too problematic to obtain its mathematical model. Nevertheless, it can be assumed that the energy production data of each turbine is measureable. Thence, the total measured energy production can be written as follows:

$$\overline{E}(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_m) = \sum_{k=1}^m E_k(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_m)$$
(1)

Finally, this wind plant data-driven control problem can be stated as:

**Problem 2.1:** Find the controller parameter of each turbine  $h_k$  (k = 1, 2, ..., m) such that the total energy production  $\overline{E}(h_l, h_2, ..., h_m)$  in (1) is maximized without any knowledge on the relation between  $h_k$  (k = 1, 2, ..., m) and  $\overline{E}$ .

#### 3. MODIFIED SINE COSINE ALGORITHM

In this section, the proposed M-SCA for optimizing controller parameters of wind turbines in wind plant is explained. Firstly, a standard Sine Cosine Algorithm (SCA) is briefly described. This is followed by the description of the modification in SCA, which is able to provide better total energy production of wind plant.

#### 3.1. Summary of the Standard SCA

A brief description of the standard SCA, which is introduced in [9], is shown here. Consider  $g: \mathbf{R}^n \to \mathbf{R}$  is the cost function, vi (i =1, 2, ..., N) is the design variable and N is the number of agents. Let vij (j = 1, 2, ..., n) is j-th element of the vector vi. Thence, a maximization problem is expressed as:

$$\arg \max_{\mathbf{v}_i(1),\mathbf{v}_i(2),\dots} g_i(\mathbf{v}_i(t)) \tag{2}$$

For iteration t = 1, 2, ... and for each agent i. The SCA algorithm updates each element of design variable for each agent iteratively as:

$$v_{ij}(t+1) = \begin{cases} v_{ij}(t) + r_{1}\sin(r_{2}) \times \left\| r_{3}P_{j} - v_{ij}(t) \right\| & \text{if } r_{4} < 0.5, \\ v_{ij}(t) + r_{1}\cos(r_{2}) \times \left\| r_{3}P_{j} - v_{ij}(t) \right\| & \text{if } r_{4} \ge 0.5, \end{cases}$$
(3)

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Where,

$$r_1 = a - \frac{at}{T} \tag{4}$$

for maximum iteration T and constant positive value a. Note that r2, r3 and r4 are random values that are generated independently and uniformly in the ranges  $[0, 2\pi]$ , [0, 2] and [0, 1], respectively. The detailed justification on the selection of the coefficients r1, r2, r3 and r4 are clearly explained in [9]. In (3), the symbol Pj (j = 1, 2, ...,n) is denoted as the best current design variable in j-th element that is kept during tuning process. Please see [9] for the detail of the SCA pseudo-code.

#### **3.2.** Modified SCA (M-SCA)

There are two modifications are proposed to the original SCA, which are the updated step size r1 in (4) and the updated in (3). In the original version of SCA, the r1 value is linearly decayed from a to 0 during the tuning process, which is claimed to provide an exact balance between exploration and exploitation. Nevertheless, the setting in (4) maybe limited to several applications only, while it is good to propose more generic of r1 that can cover more general class of applications. Motivated from the above limitation, (4) is modified to produce a new generic of updated step size as follows:

$$\hat{r}_I = a \left( I - \left(\frac{t}{T}\right)^a \right)^s \tag{5}$$

which is directly adopted from our previous work in [21]. In (5), the symbols  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  are the positive constant values that are introduced to regulate the portion of exploration and exploitation during the tuning process. Although there are several researchers that proposed exponential [23] and quadratic [24] curves in the original r1, their are limited to only one curve, while (5) can generate two curves during the whole iterations. As a result, it is expected that our new  $\hat{r}_1$  can provide more choices of exploration and exploitation portions as compared to the exponential and quadratic versions.

On the other hand, the original version of SCA updates each element of the design variable by randomly perturb the current vij using the sine or cosine function that is multiplied with absolute error of the best current design variable and current design variable of each agent as shown in (3). However, there is high possibility of the current updated design variable vij(t+1) in (3) traps in local minima since the existing random perturbation alone is still not enough to avoid this premature convergence. In order to solve this issue, it is better to perturb an average element of both vij(t) and Pj, instead of perturbing only the current vij(t) in (3). As a result, the current best design parameter can assist any outliers design variable to jump out from the local minima and continues a new searching track. Therefore, the new updated is proposed as follows:

$$v_{ij}(t+1) = \begin{cases} \frac{v_{ij}(t) + P_j}{2} + r_1 \sin(r_2) \times \left\| r_3 P_j - v_{ij}(t) \right\| & \text{if } r_4 < 0.5, \\ \frac{v_{ij}(t) + P_j}{2} + r_1 \cos(r_2) \times \left\| r_3 P_j - v_{ij}(t) \right\| & \text{if } r_4 \ge 0.5. \end{cases}$$
(6)

Finally, the M-SCA will follow the same SCA by replacing (3) and (4) with (6) and (5), respectively.

#### 3.3. Applications of M-SCA for Improving Energy Production of Wind Farm

The procedure for data-driven control of wind plant based on M-SCA is given as follows:

**Step 1:** Select the values of  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  in (5).

**Step 2:** Execute the M-SCA by setting  $\overline{E} = g_i$  and  $h_k$  (k = 1, 2, ..., m) =  $v_{ij}$  (j = 1, 2, ..., n) for each *i*.

**Step 3:** The algorithm stops with the solution  $h_k^*$  (k = 1, 2, ..., m) =  $P_j$  (j = 1, 2, ..., n) after *T* iterations and the corresponding total energy production  $\overline{E}(h_1^*, h_2^*, ..., h_m^*)$  is observed.

The detail of the pseudo-code can be downloaded from the following link: http://bit.do/m-sca.

## 4. NUMERICAL RESULTS

The effectiveness of the M-SCA is observed in this section. The performance of M-SCA is verified on a 10 turbines row wind plant as presented. The wind plant model based on the Park model [22] is adopted for ten turbines (m = 10) with 80 m of turbine rotor diameter on each. Please see [22] for the detail of the wind plant model. The location of wind turbine is positioned in a row with a same 560 m distance between each turbine. The values of incoming wind speed, air density and the turbulence gradient parameters are U = 8 m/s,  $\rho = 1.225$  kg/m3 and  $\phi = 0.04$ , respectively.

In this work, a comparative assessment between the proposed M-SCA and the original SCA, PSO and SED in terms of maximum total energy production is considered. The coefficients of M-SCA is set as  $\alpha = 0.01$ ,  $\gamma = 1$  and a = 0.43, with N = 10 and T = 1000, after performed several initial investigations. Similarly, the coefficient of SCA is set as a = 2, with the same combinations of N and T as M-SCA. The coefficients of PSO is fixed as c0 = 0.9, c1 = 0.1, and c2 = 0.5, with N = 20 and T = 500, to produce the same number of function evaluations. Please see [25] for the details of the PSO algorithm. Meanwhile, the SED with interval step size KG = 0.03, the probability of changing the design variable e = 0.3 and T = 10,000 are adopted. Please see [1] for the detail of SED algorithm. The initial control parameter of each turbine for M-SCA, SCA and PSO are set randomly between ranges of [0, 1\3], while the initial control parameter of SED is set at 1/3 for all turbines.

Table 1 tabulates the statistical performance of the total energy production after 100 independent trials in terms of its mean, best, worst and standard deviations. It can be seen that the M-SCA yields the highest average total energy production, followed by the PSO, SED and the SCA. A similar trend can be observed for the corresponding best and worst values. Furthermore, the proposed M-SCA also produces slightly lower value of standard deviation than the SCA, PSO and SED. The finding justifies that the proposed M-SCA is robust to the stochastic effect while consistently improving total energy production. On the other hand, the best optimal controller parameters of the M-SCA are recorded as hk (k = 1, 2, ..., 10) = (0.2061, 0.1611, 0.1648, 0.1651, 0.1698, 0.1173, 0.2258, 0.1877, 0.1837, 0.3333). It shows that the optimum values of the controller parameters of the upstream wind turbines are lower than the 1/3 to reduce the turbulence effect and increase the accumulation wind speed to the downstream turbines. In contrast, since there is no more downstream turbine for the final turbine, its controller parameter is fixed at the full capacity of 1/3. This trend is similar to existing investigation on data-driven control of wind plant, e.g., [1], while improving the total energy production.

able 1.	Comparative Assess	sment of Total E	nergy rioductio	in Detween M-S	CA, SCA, FSO	and SI
	Statistical results	M-SCA	SCA [9]	PSO [25]	SED [1]	
	Mean (MW)	4.7648415722	4.6337747727	4.7648415625	4.7644075485	
	Best (MW)	4.7648415723	4.7380950026	4.7648415723	4.7648415242	
	Worst (MW)	4.7648415719	4.4327003068	4.7648414855	4.7627457259	

83861.0326

0.0141665007

4.513106×10<sup>2</sup>

0.00010657

Table 1. Comparative Assessment of Total Energy Production Between M-SCA, SCA, PSO and SED

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Standard Deviation

In this study, a new Modified Sine Cosine Algorithm (M-SCA) for improving wind farm control parameters has been presented. The proposed M-SCA is verified on a single row wind plant of 10 turbines. The results prove that the two proposed modifications on the original SCA have significantly improved the total energy production of wind plant. In particular, the M-SCA has produced a slightly higher total energy production than the original SCA, PSO and SED with more consistent results. Thence, it justifies the potential of M-SCA for data-driven control of wind plant.

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