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Optimal Placement and Sizing of Wind Generators in AC Grids Considering Reactive Power Capability and Wind Speed Curves

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Abstract: This paper presents an optimization model for the optimal placement and sizing of wind turbines, considering their reactive power capacity, wind speed, and demand curves. The optimization model is nonlinear and is focused on minimizing power losses in AC distribution networks. Also, paired wind turbine and power conversion systems are treated via chargeability factor η at the peak hour. This factor represents the percentage of usage of the power conversion system in the nominal wind speed conditions, and allows to support reactive power dynamically during all periods of the day as a function of the distribution system requirements. In addition, an artificial neural network is used for short-term forecasting to deal with uncertainties in wind power generation. We assume that the number of wind power distributed generators could be from zero to three generators integrated into the system, considering unit power factors and reactive power injections to follow up the effect of reactive power compensation in the daily operation. The General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS) is employed to solve the proposed optimization model.

Keywords: wind power generation; artificial neural networks; chargeability factor; reactive power capacity; wind speed and demand curves

1. Introduction

Recently, the rapid growth of flexible AC distribution systems, smart grid, renewable energy sources, energy storage devices, and DC networks has led many researchers to study the optimal planning and operation of these systems [1]. This has been propelled mainly for the integration of renewable energy sources into the electrical power system around the world [2,3]. However, renewable generation sources have inherent technical and operational challenges, such as the need for appropriate integration without congesting the transmission lines, increasing energy losses, or voltage profiles degradation, among others [2,4]. Hence, the placement, sizing, and operation of renewable energies are important and play a fundamental role in the electrical system performance [5]. Due to these facts,

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 2 of 20

it is necessary to propose strategies for optimal placement and sizing of renewable energies in order to reduce the network power losses without affecting performance and quality of service.

In this context, several methodologies have been proposed for optimal placement and sizing of renewable energy resources in the electrical distribution system. In [6], the optimal location of the distributed generators was introduced in order to reduce the power losses. In [7], a method for optimal sizing and optimal placement of renewable energy was presented, implementing an iterative search approach along with the Newton Raphson method. In [8], an adaptive quantum-inspired evolutionary algorithm was employed to locate and size distributed generators to reduce power losses in the networks. In [9], a multi-objective function was described to minimize the real power and reactive losses and to enhance the voltage profiles using the General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS). In [10], an improved variant of the genetic algorithm has been proposed for optimal planning of wind power generators considering reactive power dispatch capabilities. In [2], a Bat algorithm for optimal placement and sizing of the distributed energy resources was developed, considering load variations to minimize power loss and enhance voltage profile. In [11], to solve this same problem, an invasive weed optimization algorithm was proposed. In [12], an analytical approach for optimal size and location of solar photovoltaic was proposed. The authors of [12] focus on reducing power losses and improving the voltage profiles. In [13], the optimal distributed generator placement in radial distribution networks based on a symbiotic organism's search algorithm was presented to reduce the network losses. Many other approaches have been developed based on evolutionary algorithms for the integration of renewable energy sources considering several aims, such as the harmony-based search algorithm (HSA) [14], artificial bee colony (ABC) [15], teaching and learning optimization method [16], particle swarm optimization [17], among others. Multiple hybrid approaches that combine two optimization techniques have also been introduced. In [18], ant colony optimization and fuzzy approaches were mixed. In [19], a combination of ant colony optimization and ABC algorithm was performed. A mixture of the particle artificial bee colony with the HSA algorithm was shown in [20]. In [21], incremental learning and PSO algorithms were mixed. The authors of [22] present a PSO algorithm combined with a feasible solution search to optimize the reactive power dispatch in a wind farm test system. Although there is plenty of research on the optimal location and size for wind power, all are focused on considering reactive power capacity, wind speed curves or load variation, but none of them take these problems simultaneously.

This study tackles the problem of optimal placement and sizing renewable energy resources based on wind turbines in AC distribution networks considering demand and load curves. The main contribution in regards with literature approaches lies in the proposal of a mixed-integer nonlinear programming (MINLP) model that includes variable reactive power capabilities in the power conversion system that composes the wind generation system. In this model, the chargeability factor in the voltage source converters is introduced as a function of the peak active power generation. This creates variable reactive power, making it possible to use the wind power system as a variable energy compensator that can operate with lagging or leading power factor depending on the grid requirements. The General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS) is employed to solve the proposed MINLP model due to its excellent results in similar optimization problems [5,23]. In summary, the contributions of this paper are:

- A methodology for optimal placement and sizing of wind power generators considering reactive
 power capability and wind speed curves is described. In addition, the methodology also takes into
 account demand curves over a 24-h period.
- The proposed methodology is focused on minimizing power losses, which can be applied to radial and mesh networks.
- A chargeability factor η is proposed to represent the capacity to support the reactive power of a wind power system.

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 3 of 20

This study is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the mathematical modeling for the problem of the optimal location of wind power sources in AC distribution networks considering load variations and wind speed curves. Section 3 introduces the artificial neural network to forecast wind speed variations. Section 4 presents the main characteristics of the software implementation of the proposed mathematical model. In Section 5 the test system is presented, and Section 6 presents the numerical simulations. Lastly, the main concluding remarks derived from this research are shown in Section 7.

2. Mathematical Modeling

The problem of the optimal location of wind power sources in AC distribution networks considering load variations and wind speed curves is a nonlinear, non-differentiable, and non-convex optimization problem that combines continuous and discrete variables. In general terms, these characteristics generate an MINLP model, as reported in [5]. The main interest of this MINLP model is to minimize the total daily energy losses in all the branches of the AC grid. The complete mathematical model is presented below:

Objective function:

$$\min z = \sum_{t \in \Omega_T} \left[\sum_{i \in \Omega_N} V_{i,t} \left(\sum_{j \in \Omega_N} V_{j,t} Y_{ij} \cos \left(\theta_{i,t} - \theta_{j,t} - \phi_{ij} \right) \right) \right] \Delta_T, \tag{1}$$

where z is the value of the objective function related to the minimization of the daily energy losses, $V_{i,t}$ ($V_{j,t}$) is the voltage magnitude at node i (j) at the period of time t. Y_{ij} is the magnitude of the admittance that relates nodes i and j. $\theta_{i,t}$ ($\theta_{j,t}$) is the angle of the voltage at node i (j) at the period of time t; ϕ_{ij} is the angle of the admittance that relates nodes i and j. Observe that Δ_T is the period of time of the analysis (typically defined as 1 h for daily economic dispatch); and Ω_N and Ω_T are the sets that contain the nodes and the periods of time, respectively.

Set of constraints:

$$P_{i,t}^{CG} + y_i^{WT} P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}} - P_{i,t}^D = V_{i,t} \sum_{j \in \Omega_N} V_{j,t} Y_{ij} \cos\left(\theta_{i,t} - \theta_{j,t} - \phi_{ij}\right), \quad \{\forall i \in \Omega_N, \forall t \in \Omega_T\}$$
 (2)

$$Q_{i,t}^{CG} + Q_{i,t}^{WT} - Q_{i,t}^{D} = V_{i,t} \sum_{j \in \Omega_N} V_{j,t} Y_{ij} \sin\left(\theta_{i,t} - \theta_{j,t} - \phi_{ij}\right), \quad \{\forall i \in \Omega_N, \forall t \in \Omega_T\}$$
(3)

$$V_i^{\min} \le V_{i,t} \le V_i^{\max}, \quad \{ \forall i \in \Omega_N, \forall t \in \Omega_T \}$$
 (4)

$$0 \le y_i^{WT} \le P_i^{WT_{\text{max}}} x_i^{WT}, \qquad \{ \forall i \in \Omega_N \}$$
 (5)

$$-\frac{y_{i}^{WT}}{\eta}\sqrt{1-\eta^{2}\left(P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}}\right)^{2}} \leq Q_{i,t}^{WT} \leq \frac{y_{i}^{WT}}{\eta}\sqrt{1-\eta^{2}\left(P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}}\right)^{2}}, \quad \{\forall i \in \Omega_{N}, \forall t \in \Omega_{T}\}$$
 (6)

$$\sum_{i \in \Omega_N} x_i^{WT} \le NG_{WT}^{\max},\tag{7}$$

where $P_{i,t}^{CG}$ is the active power generation at node i at the period of time t by the conventional generator; y_i^{WT} is the decision variable that defines the size of the wind turbine located at node i; $P_{i,t}^{WT_{nom}}$ is the nominal curve in per unit of the active power generated by the wind turbine connected at node i in the period of time t (this curve is obtained after applying the artificial neural network (ANN) forecasting methodology). $P_{i,t}^D$ is the active power consumption at node i in the period of time t. $Q_{i,t}^{CG}$ is the reactive power generation at node i at the period of time t by the conventional generator; $Q_{i,t}^{WT}$ is the reactive power generated by the wind turbine connected at node i in the period of time t (this value depends of the active power transported by the paired wind turbine–power converters). $Q_{i,t}^D$ is the reactive power consumption at node i in the period of time t. V_i^{min} and V_i^{max} are the minimum and maximum bounds for the voltage profile at node i. $P_i^{WT_{max}}$ is the maximum active power generation capability

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 4 of 20

(size) of the wind turbine that can be connected at node i. x_i^{WT} is the binary variable related to the location of a wind turbine at node i, i.e., if $x_i^{WT}=1$ the generator is located, and $x_i^{WT}=0$ otherwise. The constant η corresponds to the chargeability factor of the paired wind turbine–power converter at the maximum active power point, i.e., $0<\eta\leq 1$. Here we assume that this chargeability factor equals 90%. NG_{WT}^{max} is the maximum number of wind turbines available for location on the AC grid.

The mathematical model defined from (1) to (7) has the following interpretation: Equation (1) represents the objective function at it determines the total energy losses in an operation period of 24 h. In (2) and (3) are defined the active and reactive power balance equations; Expression (4) represents a box-type constraint that represents the minimum and maximum voltage regulation bounds in the AC grid. Equation (5) determines the size of the wind turbine that can be located at node i if the decision variable x_i^{WT} is activated. Equation (6) determines the maximum and minimum reactive power bounds of the wind turbine located at node i; note that this reactive power can be positive or negative, which implies that the wind turbine can work with lagging or leading power factor as variable energy compensator. In (7) the maximum number of wind turbines available for location in the AC grid is defined.

In Figure 1 the interconnection scheme of the wind turbine to the electrical AC network is presented. This connection is made via back-to-back voltage source converters. In this connection, via nonlinear control strategies such as passivity-based control [24,25], sliding mode control [26,27] or feedback linearization [28,29], among others, it is possible to control the active and reactive power flow exchanged between the AC grid and the wind turbine system independently.

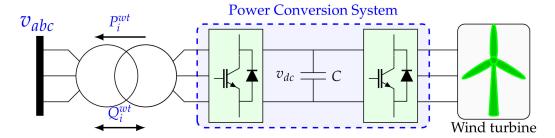


Figure 1. Electrical interconnection of a wind turbine to AC three-phase distribution network via voltage source converters using back-to-back configuration for type-D connections [30].

Based on Figure 1, and considering that the power losses in the power conversion system and transformer are negligible, the reactive power inequality constraint reported in (6) is reached as follows: first, we assume that when the maximum active power is obtained from the wind turbine system the power conversion system works at 90%, we name this factor as η , which implies that under this condition, if a wind turbine is located at node i, the per unit representation is as follows:

$$\max_{t \in \Omega_T} \left\{ P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}} \right\} = \eta S_i^{WT_{\text{nom}}}. \tag{8}$$

Second, if we consider the reactive power variable $Q_{i,t}^{WT}$ in per unit representation, then, the following result yields:

$$Q_{i,t}^{WT} = \pm \sqrt{\left(S_i^{WT_{\text{nom}}}\right)^2 - \left(P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}}\right)^2}.$$
(9)

Now, if we substitute (8) in (9), we obtain the result presented below:

$$Q_{i,t}^{WT} = \pm \frac{1}{\eta} \sqrt{\left(\max_{t \in \Omega_T} \left\{ P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}} \right\} \right)^2 - \eta^2 \left(P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}} \right)^2}.$$
 (10)

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 5 of 20

Since our interest is to support reactive power dynamically, we replace the equality sign in (10) by an inequality constraint as reported in (6). Observe that in per unit representation $\max_{t \in \Omega_T} \left\{ P_{i,t}^{WT_{\text{nom}}} \right\} = 1$. Figure 2 illustrates the reactive power limits of wind energy for an active power delivered at the given time.

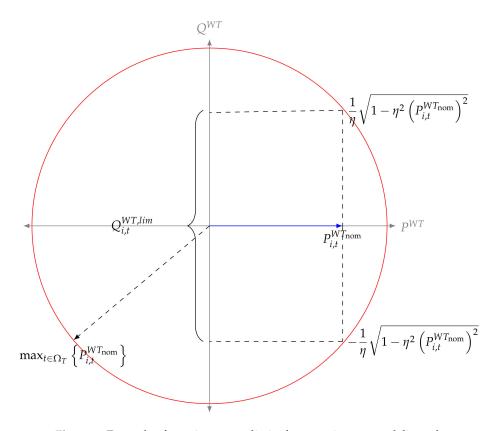


Figure 2. Example of reactive power limits for an active power delivered.

In the case of the real and imaginary power dispatches (control strategy), i.e., active and reactive power generation in WTs, it is important to mention that the control of these are made via nonlinear strategies applied to the power system conversion presented in Figure 1. This picture presents a type-D (or Type-4) WT connection, where the first voltage source converter controls the active power providing by the wind generator and supports all its reactive power requirements. While the second voltage source converter adjusts this active power to be transferred to the electrical grid with an adequate frequency at the same time that interchanges reactive power with this [30]. In addition, the voltage source converter also enables reactive power to be delivered or absorbed. In this part, we are interested in presenting the tertiary control stage in power system operation, i.e., the optimization stage in hierarchical control structures. The tertiary control stage is also called optimal power flow and it can be implemented as centralized or distributed [31]. This works if links are sent to each active device (e.g., power electronic converters) to provide references to primary and secondary controls [32].

3. Wind Power Forecasting

The integration of renewable energy sources is a great challenge, framed in the intermittence of their primary resources. Therefore, it is essential to consider these intermittences in the planning, and their potential for power generation. Additionally, improper placement and sizing of the wind powers may cause troubles, such as transmission line overload, voltage profiles, and increases in power losses [33]. Hence, the placement and sizing of these generators should take into account the

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 6 of 20

high variability of the wind speed with the purpose of minimizing the forecasting errors and, therefore, avoiding the issues mentioned above.

Here we adopt the methodology proposed in [23], which is based on ANN. The ANN needs as input information the temperature, humidity, pressure, and time to properly estimate the wind speed. The historical wind speed data are depicted in Figure 3, which are taken from [33] and [34].

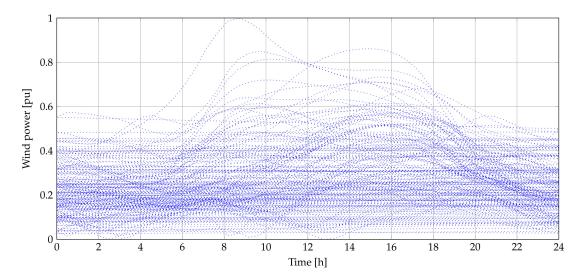


Figure 3. Historical wind speed data used for the artificial neural network (ANN) training process (adapted from [23,33]).

Note in Figure 3 that the illustrated wind speed comprises multiple days over the course of the 24-h period, which provides the ANN with sufficient information to make an adequate prediction. It is also important to mention although the plots are not shown for the temperature, humidity, pressure, and time, this information is also implemented for the ANN. These data are found in the Caribbean region of Colombia, and the availability of wind speed energy is measured over a year.

Artificial Neural Network

The ANN has implemented several topics, such as pattern classification, clustering, optimization, function approximation, and prediction [35]. The ANN is a mathematical tool that can store and remind the characteristics of a system and, therefore, obtain learning for the purpose of predicting future events or stochastic variables. The ANN has some advantages such as fast time in processing information and small data size, no complexity in pattern recognition tasks, and reprogramming is not required [36].

The training process of an ANN requires input and output data of the system to obtain a nonlinear mapping. The ANN is implemented when it does not have a system model in which the input and output data are related. The nonlinear learning rule is reached, as follows:

$$y(t) = f(y(t-1), ..., y(t-n_y), x(t-1), ..., x(t-n_x))$$
(11)

where $x \in R^n$ and $y \in R$ are input and output data. n_y and n_x are the last values of the prediction and the input data, respectively. Observe that y also depends on the last n_y values of the variable under prediction.

The *ntstool* of MATLAB software was used in the training process of the ANN to predict the wind speed. The ANN configuration is composed of four inputs (temperature, humidity, pressure, and time), four delays, and 12 hidden neurons. We set up the ANN in the training, adjustment, and validation processes with a 70%, 15%, and 15% of the data, respectively. In Figure 4 the ANN scheme with the wind speed predictions implemented in MATLAB is shown.

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 7 of 20

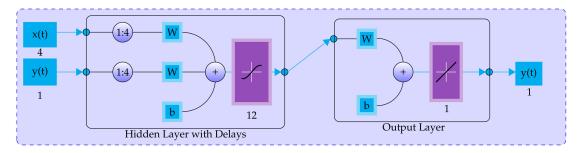


Figure 4. ANN scheme for wind speed prediction [23].

4. Solution Methodology

To solve the MINLP model that represents the optimal placement and sizing of wind turbines in AC distribution networks considering wind and demand curves, in this research the general algebraic modeling system is employed, widely known in specialized literature as GAMS. This optimization package has been successfully used for solving nonlinear large-scale optimization problems, such as optimal location and sizing of distributed generators in AC and DC distribution networks [5,37]; optimal operation of battery energy storage systems [23,38]; multi-objective optimization of the stack of a thermoacoustic engine [39] and optimization of pump and valve schedules in complex, large-scale water distribution systems [40], and so on. The main characteristics of GAMS implementation are listed below [23].

- ✓ Representation of the mathematical models by sets, which generates a compact formulation.
- ✓ The mathematical structure of the model, i.e., (1)–(7), is preserved via symbolic representation by using a plain text.
- ✓ This optimization software allows solving multiple optimization problems, such as linear programming, discrete models, and general non-convex formulations.
- ✓ Availability of a free version for demonstration, useful to introduce undergraduate students with mathematical optimization.
- ✓ Non-advanced programming skills are required for using GAMS, since it has an intuitive manner to implement a mathematical model using a basic plain text interface.

The basic elements for implementing a mathematical model in the GAMS interface are presented in Algorithm 1.

Algorithm 1: Main features for implementing a mathematical optimization model in GAMS

Data: Define the nature of the optimization problem and select the test system.

Sets Definition of sets, parameters (constant vectors), scalars (constant number), and tables (constant matrices).

Variables: Determine the type of variables, e.g., integer, continuous or binary.

Equations: Write the optimization problem, i.e., the set of Equations (1)–(7).

Solution: Select a MINLP solver to reach the solution via minimization of the objective function.

Visualization: Extract the variables of interest, i.e., location of the generators and their sizes, the value of the objective function, etc.

Result: Optimal location and sizing of wind turbines in AC distribution networks under daily operative scenarios.

General characteristics about GAMS implementations, such as reserve words and specialized functions can be consulted in [41].

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 8 of 20

5. Test Systems

To validate the proposed mathematical model for optimal location and placement of renewable energy sources such as wind power considering reactive power capabilities in AC distribution networks, we consider two test systems with a radial structure composed of 27 and 69 nodes, respectively. These systems are presented below.

5.1. 27-Node Test System

The 27-node test system is a radial test system with similar characteristics of the Colombian distribution networks located in the Caribbean region [37]. The branch information and nodal demands at the peak hour are reported in Table 1, and the electrical configuration of this test feeder is depicted in Figure 5. For this test system, we employ 13.8 kV and 1000 kW as voltage and power bases, respectively. To evaluate the daily operation of this system, including PV systems, we employ the demand variation and the wind generation capacity reported in Figure 6. Note that in this test feeder, the maximum size of each wind turbine is left free to verify the effect of the renewable injection to reduce the daily energy losses.

No	Node R_i		X_{ij}	P_j	Q_j	No	ode	R_{ij}	X_{ij}	P_j	Q_j
i	j	$[\Omega]$	$[\Omega]$	[kW]	[kW]	i	j	$[\Omega]$	$[\Omega]$	[kW]	[kW]
1	2	0.15208	0.19855	0	0	14	15	0.87630	0.41330	106.3	65.8
2	3	0.65805	0.59745	0	0	15	16	0.87630	0.41330	25	158
3	4	0.19742	0.17924	297.5	184.4	3	17	0.87630	0.41330	255	158
4	5	0.43848	0.26038	0	0	17	18	0.52578	0.24798	127.5	79
5	6	0.48720	0.28931	255	158	18	19	0.78867	0.37197	297.5	184.4
6	7	0.48197	0.22732	0	0	19	20	0.83248	0.39263	340	210.7
7	8	0.87630	0.41330	212.5	131.7	20	21	0.87630	0.41330	85	52.7
8	9	1.09540	0.51663	0	0	4	22	0.87630	0.41330	106.3	65.8
9	10	0.87630	0.41330	266.1	164.9	5	23	0.87630	0.41330	55.3	34.2
2	11	0.87630	0.41330	85	52.7	6	24	0.35052	0.16532	69.7	43.2
11	12	1.07780	0.50836	340	210.7	8	25	0.52578	0.24798	256	158
12	13	0.65722	0.30998	297.5	184.4	8	26	0.52578	0.24798	63.8	39.5
13	14	0.49073	0.23145	191.3	118.5	26	27	0.70104	0.33064	170	105.4

Table 1. Branch and load information of the 27-node test system.

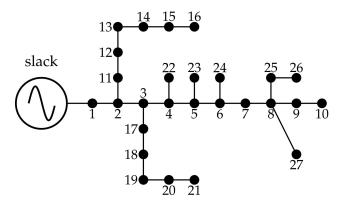


Figure 5. Electrical configuration of the 27-node test system.

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 9 of 20

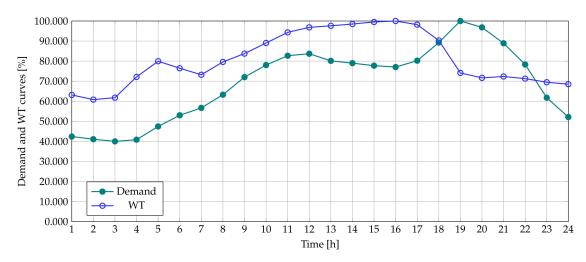


Figure 6. Percentage of power consumption and availability on a typical sunny day in the Caribbean region of Colombia [37].

5.2. 69-Node Test Feeder

This test feeder illustrated in Figure 7 is widely known in specialized literature as the Baran and Wu test system with 69 nodes and 68 branches with 12.66 kV of operating voltage [21]. This test feeder has 3890.7 kW and 2693.6 kVAr of total active and reactive power demand. The initial active energy losses of this system equals 3525.7520 kWh/day. For this test system, we also considered the possibility of installing 3 wind turbines, limited from 0 kW to 2000 kW each. In addition, we also considered 12.66 kV and 1000 kW as voltage and power base values, respectively.

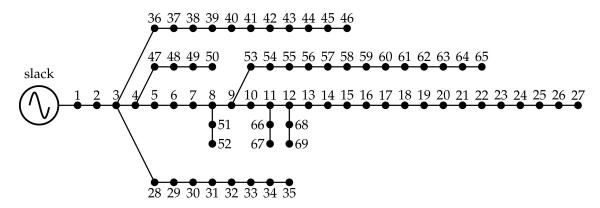


Figure 7. Electrical configuration of the 69-node test system.

The information of the branches and the load consumption of the 69-node test feeder is presented in Table 2. Additionally, the demand and wind turbine curves are the same presented in Figure 6.

Table 2. Parameters of the 69-node test feeder.

No	ode	R_{ij}	X_{ij}	P_j	Q_j	No	de	R_{ij}	X_{ij}	P_j	$\overline{Q_j}$
i	j	[Ω]	[Ω]	[kW]	[kW]	i	j	[Ω]	[Ω]	[kW]	[kW]
1	2	0.0005	0.0012	0	0	3	36	0.0044	0.0108	26	18.55
2	3	0.0005	0.0012	0	0	36	37	0.0640	0.1565	26	18.55
3	4	0.0015	0.0036	0	0	37	38	0.1053	0.1230	0	0
4	5	0.0251	0.0294	0	0	38	39	0.0304	0.0355	24	17
5	6	0.3660	0.1864	2.6	2.2	39	40	0.0018	0.0021	24	17
6	7	0.3811	0.1941	40.4	30	40	41	0.7283	0.8509	102	1
7	8	0.0922	0.0470	75	54	41	42	0.3100	0.3623	0	0
8	9	0.0493	0.0251	30	22	42	43	0.0410	0.0478	6	4.3
9	10	0.8190	0.2707	28	19	43	44	0.0092	0.0116	0	0
10	11	0.1872	0.0619	145	104	44	45	0.1089	0.1373	39.22	26.3
11	12	0.7114	0.2351	145	104	45	46	0.0009	0.0012	39.22	26.3
12	13	1.0300	0.3400	8	5	4	47	0.0034	0.0084	0	0
13	14	1.0440	0.3450	8	5	47	48	0.0851	0.2083	79	56.4
14	15	1.0580	0.3496	0	0	48	49	0.2898	0.7091	384.7	274.5
15	16	0.1966	0.0650	45	30	49	50	0.0822	0.2011	384.7	274.5
16	17	0.3744	0.1238	60	35	8	51	0.0928	0.0473	40.5	28.3
17	18	0.0047	0.0016	60	35	51	52	0.3319	0.1140	3.6	2.7
18	19	0.3276	0.1083	0	0	9	53	0.1740	0.0886	4.35	3.5
19	20	0.2106	0.0690	1	0.6	53	54	0.2030	0.1034	26.4	19
20	21	0.3416	0.1129	114	81	54	55	0.2842	0.1447	24	17.2
21	22	0.0140	0.0046	5	3.5	55	56	0.2813	0.1433	0	0
22	23	0.1591	0.0526	0	0	56	57	1.5900	0.5337	0	0
23	24	0.3463	0.1145	28	20	57	58	0.7837	0.2630	0	0
24	25	0.7488	0.2475	0	0	58	59	0.3042	0.1006	100	72
25	26	0.3089	0.1021	14	10	59	60	0.3861	0.1172	0	0
26	27	0.1732	0.0572	14	10	60	61	0.5075	0.2585	1244	888
3	28	0.0044	0.0108	26	18.6	61	62	0.0974	0.0496	32	23
28	29	0.0640	0.1565	26	18.6	62	63	0.1450	0.0738	0	0
29	30	0.3978	0.1315	0	0	63	64	0.7105	0.3619	227	162
30	31	0.0702	0.0232	0	0	64	65	1.0410	0.5302	59	42
31	32	0.3510	0.1160	0	0	11	66	0.2012	0.0611	18	13
32	33	0.8390	0.2816	10	10	66	67	0.0047	0.0014	18	13
33	34	1.7080	0.5646	14	14	12	68	0.7394	0.2444	28	20
34	35	1.4740	0.4873	4	4	68	69	0.0047	0.0016	28	20

6. Computational Validation

The solution of the general MINLP model defined from (1) to (7) for the optimal placement and sizing of wind turbines considering reactive power capabilities is made using the GAMS optimization package with the CONOPT solver in a desktop computer with an INTEL(R) Core(TM) i5-3550 3.5 GHz processor and 8 GB of RAM running a 64-bit version of Windows 7 Professional [37].

In order to verify the effectiveness of using wind turbines considering the reactive power capability in the converters, we solve the problem from zero to three possible distributed generators considering unity power factor and reactive power injections; these cases allow to detect the effect of reactive power compensation in the daily operative behavior of the AC distribution systems in regards to the energy losses minimization [5].

6.1. 27-Node Test Feeder

For this test system we evaluate the the operation of the paired wind turbine power electronic converter with unity and variable power factor. In Table 3 the solution achieved by GAMS considering unity power factor is reported and in Table 4 the solution with variable reactive power compensation is presented. Note that in these simulation results, the chargeability factor is selected as $\eta=0.9$ p.u. In this test system the daily energy losses is 1652.0190 kWh/day.

Table 3. Solution reached by General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS) considering unity power factor for the 27-node test system.

Number of WTs	Location [Node]	Size [kW]	Energy Losses [kWh/Day]
1	18	1547.17725	1185.164
2	{7, 14}	{1477.5895, 878.1173}	823.6474
3	$\{8, 15, 20\}$	{1019.7799, 650.5079, 680.1683}	628.4598

Table 4. Solution reached by GAMS considering variable factor for the 27-node test system.

Number of WTs Location [Nod		Size [kW]	Energy Losses [kWh/Day]		
1	8	1432.89260	827.9621		
2	{9, 13}	{1100.6703, 1069.0459}	582.6569		
3	{9, 13, 19}	{777.5496, 767.6551, 798.0454}	283.1916		

Results in Tables 3 and 4 show the positive effect of including renewable generation in the daily operation of AC distribution networks. It is important to mention that depending on the operative consign of the wind turbine, i.e., unity power factor or variable power factor, the location and size of the generators are susceptible to change; for example in the case of three WTs when power factor is unitary, the location of the generators is at nodes 8, 15, and 20 with a total active power generation at the peak hour about 2350.4561 kW; while in the case of the variable power factor the location of the generators is at nodes 9, 13 and 19, with a total active power generation at the peak hour about 2343.2501 kW. Note that nodes suffer slight variations in their locations for both scenarios, nevertheless, with a little reduction of the total power capability (7.2060 kW) the variable power factor approach allows a reduction in about 345.2682 kWh/day passing from 628.4598 kWh/day to 283.1916 kWh/day when unitary power factor changes from being unitary to variable. The previous results confirm the conclusions reached by authors of [6], where both cases were analyzed for AC distributed networks considering only the peak hour in their analysis.

Results in Figure 8 confirm the positive effect of using variable power factor in wind turbine applications via power conversion system to dynamically support active and reactive power to the AC grid. In this sense, for one WT the reduction in the daily energy losses is about 21.62%, for two WTs is about 14.59%, and for three wind turbines is about 20.90% when compared unitary and variable power factor approaches.

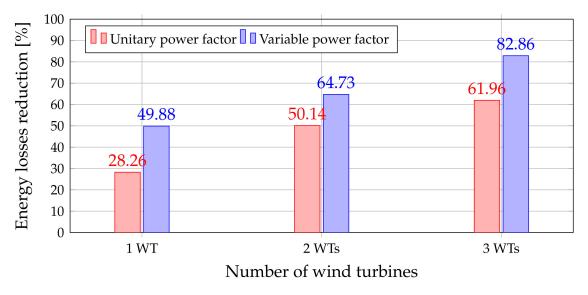


Figure 8. Energy losses reduction in the 27-node test system.

An important fact in the results presented in Figure 8 is that there is no linear relation between the number of renewable sources placed in the distribution system and the energy losses reduction, since the effect of an additional renewable source is less in comparison with the previous case, as concluded in [37] for photovoltaic plants. This behavior is expected, since the objective function (1) is nonlinear and non-convex, which implies that linear tendencies cannot be extrapolated from it.

It is worthy to mention that for this test feeder when unitary power factor is considered the GAMS package takes about 25 s to solve the problem, while in the variable power factor case this time is increased to 45 s. This increment is caused by the fact that in the variable power factor scenario appears the amount of reactive power as a variable, which introduces complexity to the optimization model and the solution space increases substantially with a rate of about 24 additional variables per WT.

6.2. 69-Node Test Feeder

Tables 5 and 6 present the optimal location and sizing of wind turbines in the 69-node test feeder considering unity and variable power factor, respectively.

In the case of the unitary power factor approach reported in Table 5 we can observe node 60 with a strong effect in the energy losses reduction, since in all the three cases, it appears with important power injections. Here it is important to mention that for one WT, the daily energy losses are about 1179.3480 kWh/day; while for three WT units this number is reduced to 949.2134 kWh/day. This implies that the nonlinear relation between number of renewable sources and energy losses is strongly demonstrated in the 69-node test feeder, since the difference in both cases is only 230.1346 kWh/day passing from 1639.2766 kW to 1993.7893 kW in the peak hour regarding the amount of power installed, i.e., 354.5127 kW of additional power.

Table 5. Solution reached by GAMS considering unity power factor for the 69-node test system.

Number of WTs	Location [Node]	Size [kW]	Energy Losses [kWh/Day]		
1	60	1639.2766	1179.3480		
2	{17, 60}	{450.1575, 1554.3188}	1048.7920		
3	$\{17, 60, 61\}$	{450.1243, 189.2822, 1354.3828}	949.2134		

Table 6. Solution reached by GAMS considering variable factor for the 69-node test system.

Number of WTs	Location [Node]	Size [kW]	Energy Losses [kWh/Day]		
1	62	1597.3204	380.2232		
2	{63, 69}	{1472.3336, 562.0680}	268.0452		
3	$\{18, 61, 64\}$	{456.7767, 1280.2409, 256.9057}	159.6235		

When variable power factor is analyzed the effect of reactive power injection is evident (see Table 6), since the daily energy losses present strong reduction for all the combinations of wind turbines. For example, if we observe the case of two WTs, then, the daily energy losses pass from 1048.7920 kWh/day to 268.0452 kWh/day by injecting at the peak hour a total of 2034.4016 kW; which is similar to the 2004.4763 kW in the unitary power factor scenario. Figure 9 confirms that the variable power factor approach increases by about 30% the daily losses reduction when compared to unitary power factor approach. This result indicates that distributed generators with dynamic reactive power compensation can be a powerful alternative to improve the electrical performance of the AC distribution networks, only by using adequate control schemes in the power conversion system presented in Figure 1.

Similarly, as shown by the 27-node test system, in the 69-node case the number of generators and their impact in the total energy losses reduction is strongly nonlinear, since for two and three WTs we observe a clear saturation in the objective function performance, with a small increment of about 5%. This implies that for utilities it is important to consider these nonlinear phenomena in their grids, since large penetrations of renewable energy can affect negatively their electric power system performances.

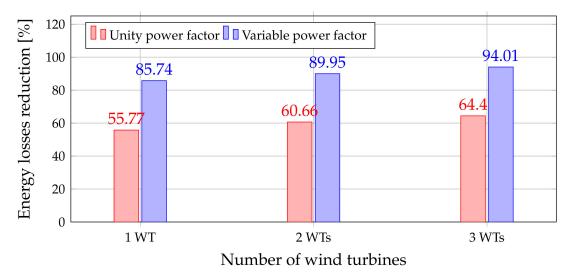


Figure 9. Energy losses reduction in the 69-node test system.

The processing times required in the case of the 69-node test feeder when the unity power factor was used was about 120 s, while in the case of the variable power factor, it increases to 450 s. This increment has the same explanation presented for the 27-node test feeder, and it is related to the increment in the number of variables in the optimization problem.

6.3. Large-Scale Power System Evaluation

To evaluate the applicability of the proposed mathematical model for optimal location and sizing of wind turbines in electrical networks with reactive power capabilities via power electronic converters, we implement a large-scale power system composed of 24 nodes with 38 interconnections via transmission lines and transformers [42,43]. This system has a total of active and reactive power demands of about 2850 MW and 580 MVAr, respectively. In addition, these power demands are fed by 10 conventional generators and 1 reactive power compensator. The electrical configuration of this test feeder is presented in Figure 10 and the parameters are reported in Tables 7–9, respectively (the voltage and power bases for this test feeder are 100 MW and 220 kV). For this test system, we assume that the slack node corresponds to the generator located at node 13, which is set with voltage output of 1.050 p.u. It is important to mention that the rest of the generators are free for generating the required power to minimize the total daily energy losses, and the voltage regulation bounds for this power system are 0.900 p.u. and 1.100 p.u., respectively.

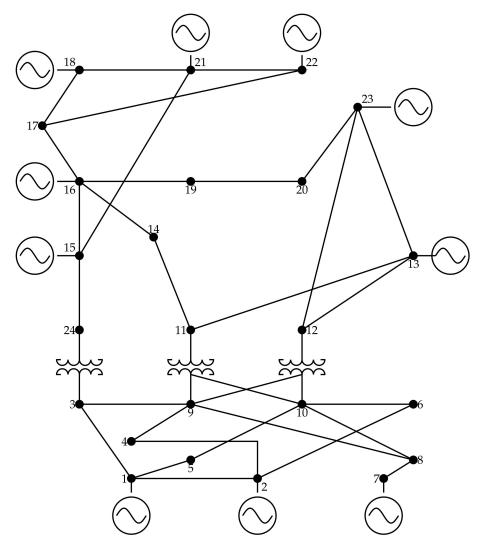


Figure 10. Electrical configuration of the IEEE 24-node test system.

 Table 7. Conventional generator capabilities.

Node	P_g^{\min}	P_g^{\min}	Q_g^{\min}	Q_g^{max}	Node	P_g^{min}	P_g^{\min}	Q_g^{\min}	Q_g^{max}
1	0.500	2.500	-0.750	0.750	16	0.150	1.350	-0.500	0.750
2	0.250	1.850	-0.900	0.700	16	0.150	1.350	-0.500	0.750
7	0.400	3.000	-0.800	1.200	18	0.500	4.000	-1.850	2.000
13	0.000	6.000	-5.000	5.000	21	0.450	4.500	-1.500	1.500
14	0.000	0.000	-1.500	1.500	22	0.250	2.800	-1.000	1.000
15	0.250	1.500	-0.750	0.800	23	0.750	6.000	-1.650	1.750

All data is per unit.

Table 8. Demand information for the 24-node test feeder.

Node	P_d	Q_d									
1	1.080	0.220	7	1.250	0.250	13	2.650	0.540	19	1.810	0.370
2	0.970	0.200	8	1.710	0.350	14	1.940	0.390	20	1.280	0.260
3	1.800	0.370	9	1.750	0.360	15	3.170	0.640	21	0.000	0.000
4	0.740	0.150	10	1.950	0.400	16	1.000	0.200	22	0.000	0.000
5	0.710	0.140	11	0.000	0.000	17	0.000	0.000	23	0.000	0.000
6	1.360	0.280	12	0.000	0.000	18	3.330	0.680	24	0.000	0.000

All data is per unit.

Node i	Node j	r_{ij}	x_{ij}	b_j	Tap	Node i	Node j	r_{ij}	x_{ij}	b_j	Tap
1	2	0.0026	0.0139	0.4611	0	12	13	0.0061	0.0476	0.0999	0
1	3	0.0546	0.2112	0.0572	0	12	23	0.0124	0.0966	0.2030	0
1	5	0.0218	0.0845	0.0229	0	13	23	0.0111	0.0865	0.1818	0
2	4	0.0328	0.1267	0.0343	0	14	16	0.0050	0.0389	0.0818	0
2	6	0.0497	0.1920	0.0520	0	15	16	0.0022	0.0173	0.0364	0
3	9	0.0308	0.1190	0.0322	0	15	21	0.0063	0.0490	0.1030	0
3	24	0.0023	0.0839	0	1.015	15	21	0.0063	0.0490	0.1030	0
4	9	0.0268	0.1037	0.0281	0	15	24	0.0067	0.0519	0.1091	0
5	10	0.0228	0.0883	0.0239	0	16	17	0.0033	0.0259	0.0545	0
6	10	0.0139	0.0605	2.4590	0	16	19	0.0030	0.0231	0.0485	0
7	8	0.0159	0.0614	0.0166	0	17	18	0.0018	0.0144	0.0303	0
8	9	0.0427	0.1651	0.0447	0	17	22	0.0135	0.1053	0.2212	0
8	10	0.0427	0.1651	0.0447	0	18	21	0.0033	0.0259	0.0545	0
9	11	0.0023	0.0839	0	1.030	18	21	0.0033	0.0259	0.0545	0
9	12	0.0023	0.0839	0	1.030	19	20	0.0051	0.0396	0.0833	0
10	11	0.0023	0.0839	0	1.015	19	20	0.0051	0.0396	0.0833	0
10	12	0.0023	0.0839	0	1.015	20	23	0.0028	0.0216	0.0455	0
11	13	0.0061	0.0476	0.0999	0	20	23	0.0028	0.0216	0.0455	0
11	14	0.0054	0.0418	0.0879	0	21	22	0.0087	0.0678	0.1424	0

Table 9. Branch information for the 24-node test feeder (all data in p.u.).

To simulate the 24-node test feeder, we consider the case that reactive power is available to be injected into the power system since results for 27- and 69-node test feeders have demonstrated that variable power is more efficient regarding energy losses reduction than unity power factor. In Table 10 the optimal solutions reached by the GAMS package is reported on the high-voltage meshed power system depicted in Figure 10.

Table 10. Solution reached by GAMS considering variable factor for the 24-node test system.

No. of WTs	Loc. [Node]	Size [MW]	Energy Losses [MWh/Day]	Reduction [%]	
1	6	208.9887	225.8110	45.0384	
2	{6, 11}	{180.2410, 396.0309}	169.4930	58.7460	
3	{3, 6, 11}	{167.1043, 183.3276, 358.0971}	131.8012	67.9201	

From the results in Table 10, we can observe that:

- To reach a total daily energy losses reduction of about 45.0384% it is required to install a WT at node 6 with a nominal rate of 208.9887 MW; and to increase the daily energy reduction by 13.7075%, 576.2719 MW is required to be installed, which implies more than 100% of additional power injection. This result implies that energy losses formulated in (1) have a strong nonlinear relation between the amount of power injection by renewable energy resources and their location in regards with the objective function minimization. Note that this behavior was also observed in both radial test feeders previously reported.
- The proposed mathematical model is suitable to be applied for both radial medium voltage and high-voltage meshed networks, which confirms that it is general and scalable for multiple grid topologies.

On the other hand, Figure 11 presents the behavior of the reactive power for the case of the installation of one wind turbine at node 6.

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 16 of 20

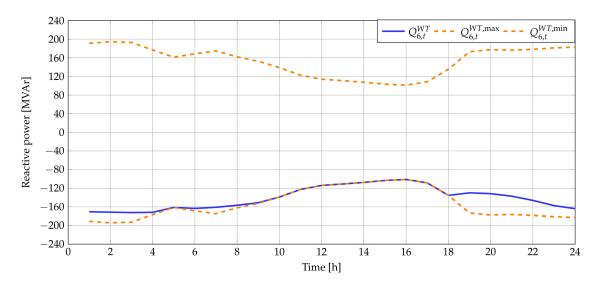


Figure 11. Reactive power generation for the case of one WT installed at node 6.

Observe that positive and negative reactive power bounds depicted in Figure 11 correspond to the graphical behavior of constraint (6) when y_6^{WT} is 208.9887 MW. It is important to highlight that these bounds are variable as a function of the active power generation since the power electronic converter that interfaces this WT has limited apparent power capabilities and function of the chargeability factor η , as demonstrated in Section 2. Finally, it is worth mentioning that in the case of the one wind turbine, the power electronic converter works in the second quadrant, because it provides active power at the same time that absorbs reactive power. This implies that this converter is absorbing the excessive reactive energy supplied by all the conventional power sources.

6.4. Assessment of ANN Performance

To demonstrate the efficiency of the ANN approach for predicting the renewable energy availability in wind turbines, we fix the locations reported in Table 4 for the 27-node test feeder and Table 6 for the 69-node test feeder for the WTS to evaluate the objective function when using the real wind energy curve (the real wind power curve can be consulted in [23]). In Figure 12 the absolute error regarding the objective function between the real and estimated curves for both test systems is presented. Note that the error reported in this picture is calculated, as follows:

$$\epsilon = \frac{|v_r - v_e|}{v_r},\tag{12}$$

where ϵ is the estimation error, v_r is the real value of the objective function and v_e the estimation reached with the ANN prediction.

Figure 12 reports the estimation errors reached when the ANN prediction is compared with the real generation curve. This picture allows to conclude that the maximum error for both test feeder does not overpass 1.35% for different possibilities of wind turbine locations. This result confirms that the ANN is a powerful tool for renewable generation prediction, as previously published in [5,23] for wind and photovoltaic applications.

Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 17 of 20

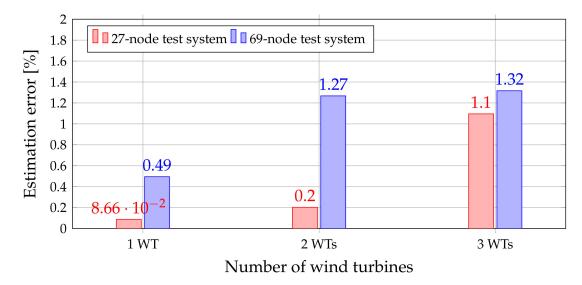


Figure 12. Error between the real generation curve for wind turbines and the predicted curve provided by the ANN approach.

7. Conclusions and Future Works

The variable energy compensation problem in AC distribution networks has been analyzed in this paper via optimal placement and sizing of wind turbines, considering daily wind and demand curves. The main contribution of this study is the nonlinear formulation related to the paired wind turbine and power conversion system via chargeability factor η at the peak hour. This factor represents the percentage of usage of the power conversion system in the nominal wind speed conditions, and it allows supporting reactive power dynamically during all periods of the day as a function of the distribution system requirements.

The effect of the variable power factor in comparison to the unitary scenario was evident for both test feeders since the reduction of the energy losses was at least 20% superior by using practically the same installed capability regarding active power injection at the peak hour. These results confirm that power conversions systems presented in the integration of renewable can be used to replace classical approaches, such as capacitor banks with fixed of variable steps. Power conversion systems can be operated with lagging or leading power factors, which is a definite advantage in variable demand scenarios.

Artificial neural networks employed for renewable generation forecasting evidenced estimation errors lower than 1.35% when real and predicted curves are compared in terms of the objective function estimation, which allows to demonstrate the efficiency and robustness of this tool for economic and optimal power dispatch problems in the presence of renewable uncertainties.

As future work, it will be possible to solve the proposed optimization problem via metaheuristic techniques by using a master-salve structure with genetic algorithms and vortex optimizers. Additionally, it will also be possible to include the chargeability factor η as an optimization variable. This will allow to identify the optimal size of the power conversion system. An additional future work might be related to the inclusion of contingency analysis in meshed power systems in order to identify the best location and size of the renewable source to make the entire system more reliable and secure under fault conditions.

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Sustainability **2020**, 12, 2983 20 of 20

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