

# EFFICIENT META HEURISTIC FOR MULTI-STAGES EXPANSION-PLANNING PROBLEM OF MULTI-TASK DEGRADATION POWER SYSTEMS

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**Abstract**— Usually power energy demand increase randomly with time. To enhance system performance, expansion-planning to adapt the power system capacity to the demand is predicted. This paper uses a harmony search meta-heuristic optimization method to solve the multi-stage expansion problem for multi-state series-parallel power systems. The study horizon is divided into several periods. At each period the demand distribution is forecasted in the form of a cumulative demand curve. A multiple-choice of additional components among a list of available product can be chosen and included into any subsystem component at any stage to improve the system performance. The components are characterized by their cost, performance (capacity) and availability. The objective is to minimize of each investment over its study period while satisfying availability or performance constraints. A universal generating function technique is applied to evaluate power system availability. The harmony search approach is required to identify the optimal combination of adding components with different parameters to be allocated in parallel at each stage.

**Index Terms**— Expansion-planning; harmony search; Redundancy optimization; Power system; Universal generating moment function.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In many industrial systems, expansion planning systems has considered as an important problem design, e.g., in power systems, water distribution and in manufacturing systems. Such as modifying existing structure, designing a new structure and adding  $r(k)^*$  or retrieving  $r(k)^{**}$  components belonging to the redundancy optimization problem as suggested in [1]. This latter is a well known combinatorial optimization problem where adding components is achieved by numerous discrete choice made from components available on the market. Based on the cost, availability and performance, the objective function is to minimize the investment-costs over each study period within the planning horizon for a certain availability or (reliability) requirement. The figure 1 shows the typical series-parallel power structure. However, the capacity of many production systems is defined by multiple, heterogeneous units. In this situation the system can have a

several range level of performance depending from perfect working to total failure; in this case it is considered as a *multi-state* system (MSS).

The MSS system consists of  $n$  subsystems  $C_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) in series arrangement. Each subsystem  $C_i$  can contain several components of type  $i$  connected in parallel from various versions which are proposed by the suppliers on the market. Each version in turn can contain one or more identical components in parallel. Components are characterized by their cost, availability and performance according to their version. Different versions of components may be chosen for any given subsystem component. Thus, our study is not limited to the case where only the homogeneous components are used. Beside a lot of alternatives lead to change the performance and reliability as in series-parallel replacement and modernization problems [2-3]. The simplest method in this work to help system performance to face to the increase demand is its expansion

### 1.1. Literature Review

The classical reliability theory is based on the binary assumption that the system is either working perfectly or completely failed. However, in many real life situations we are actually able to distinguish among various levels of performance for both subsystem and its components. In this case, it is important to develop MSS reliability theory. Most of research works in MSS reliability (availability) analysis extend the results in binary state system theory to the multi-state case. A good and extensive recent review of the literature can be found for example in [4] or [5]. Generally, the methods of MSS reliability assessment are based on many different approaches as: The structure function approach, the stochastic process (mainly Markov) approach, the simulation technique (Monte-Carlo) and the universal moment generating function (UMGF) approach.

The problem of total investment-cost minimization, subject to reliability or availability constraints, is well known as the redundancy optimization problem (ROP). The ROP for series parallel systems is NP-hard [6] and has been studied in many different forms as summarized in [7] and more recently in [8]. In most existing works on ROP, it is usually assumed that a system may experience only two possible states. The ROP for the multi-state reliability was introduced in [9]. In [10] and [1], genetic algorithms were

used to find the optimal or nearly optimal power system structure. In [11] the multi-stage expansion-planning problem for multi-state series-parallel system is solved by using a genetic algorithm as an optimization tool.

This paper uses a *harmony search* optimization to solve the multi-stage expansion-planning problem for multi-state series-parallel electrical power system. The idea of employing a harmony search to solve combinatorial optimization problems was recently proposed in [12]. It has been recently adapted for the reliability design of binary state systems [13]. The harmony search method has not yet been used for the multi-stages expansion problem.

## II. EXPANSION PLANNING PROBLEM

There has been much interest in production scheduling models, where expansion-planning (EPP) is considered. To formulate the expansion-planning problem of power system, let consider a series-parallel power system containing  $n$  subsystems  $C_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) in series arrangement as sketched in figure 1. Each component  $C_i$  in turn contains a number of different components connected in parallel. All components of any given subsystem component belonging to different version  $v$ . Components are characterized by their availability ( $A_{iv}$ ), cost ( $C_{iv}$ ) and performance ( $r_{iv}$ ) according to their version. The structure of subsystem component  $i$  can be defined by the numbers of parallel components (of each version)  $k_{iv}$  for  $1 \leq v \leq V_i$ , where  $V_i$  is a number of versions available for component of type  $i$ . Figure 2 illustrates these notations for a given component  $i$ . Each version  $k_{iv}$  contains  $m$ -identical components which are also connected in parallel. The entire system can therefore be defined by the set of triplets  $k_0 = \{A_{iv}, \sum_{iv} C_{iv}\}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq v \leq V_i$ ). Where  $k_0$  represent the initial system structure. In fact, for given triplet  $k_0$ , the total cost of the initial power system structure can be calculated as:

$$C_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{v=1}^{V_i} k_{iv} C_{iv} \quad (1)$$

### 2.1. Partial optimal design problem

The multi-state EPP of electrical power system at the initial period can be formulated as follows: find the minimal cost system configuration  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n$ , such that the corresponding availability exceeds or equal the specified availability  $A_0$ . That is,

$$\text{Minimize } C_0 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{v=1}^{V_i} k_{iv} C_{iv} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{subject to } A(k_1, k_2, \dots, k_n, D, T) \geq A_0 \quad (3)$$

### 2.2. Determination of the expansion-plan

In the cases when the production system is not able to satisfy the consumer demand. The existing system structure must be reinforced. This is way to enhance system performance and/or reliability to be improved. This solution is more realistic, practical and rather than designing a new structure. Indeed, the system should be expanded at different stage of the study period  $Y$ , in which the load curve demand varies from stage to stage. Each stage  $\theta$  begins  $\tau(\theta)$  years after the initial stage (i.e., initial stage  $\theta$ ). To provide the desired level of productivity and reliability, systematically the adding or retrieve by replacement of components can be chosen from different versions of any given subsystem component. To distinguish between components characteristics of existing structure and the adding components the notation of component versions is introduced. For each subsystem component  $i$  there are several component versions available in the market. A set of parameters contain the nominal capacity ( $r_{ih}$ ), availability ( $A_{ih}$ ) and cost ( $C_{ih}$ ) is specified for each version  $h$  of component of type  $i$ . Therefore, component can be defined by  $r_{ih}(\theta)$  ( $1 \leq h \leq H_i$ ) where  $H_i$  define the total number versions of the expanding components.

The entire expansion system may be defined by the vectors  $r_i(\theta) = \{r_{ih}(\theta)\}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq h \leq H_i$ ) at stage ( $\theta$ ). For given set of  $r_1(\theta), r_2(\theta), \dots, r_n(\theta)$ , the total cost of the system expansion at stage ( $\theta$ ) can be calculated at present value as:

$$C(\theta) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^{H_i} r_{ih}(\theta) C_{ih} \pm \frac{1}{(1+IP)^{\tau(\theta)}} C_0 \quad (4)$$

where  $IP$  represent the interest rate.

For given expansion structure  $k$  defined by the vectors  $k = \{r_1(\theta), r_2(\theta), \dots, r_n(\theta)\}$ , the total cost investment during all the study period  $Y$  can be calculated as follows

$$C(k) = \sum_{\theta=1}^Y \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^{H_i} r_{ih}(\theta) C_{ih} \pm \frac{1}{(1+IP)^{\tau(\theta)}} C_0 \right) \quad (5)$$

### 2.3. Total optimal design problem

The multi-state system redundancy expansion optimization can be formulated as follows: find the minimal cost of system expansion structure ( $k_0, k, D(\theta), T(\theta)$ ) that meets or exceeds the required availability  $A_0$ . That is,

**Minimize**

$$C(k) = \sum_{\theta=1}^Y \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{h=1}^{H_i} r_{ih}(\theta) C_{ih} \pm \frac{1}{(1+IP)^{\tau(\theta)}} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{v=1}^{V_i} k_{iv} C_{iv} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Subject to } A(k_\theta, k, D(\theta), T(\theta)) \geq A_0 \quad (7)$$

To estimate the availability index at each stage of study, it is necessary to calculate the overall probability that the load demand corresponding to this stage is not met. This method is referred to the availability of reparable multi-state system.

#### 2.4. Availability of reparable multi-state systems

The considered system is a series-parallel power system composed of a number of failure prone units, such that the failure of some components leads only to a degradation of the system performance. This system is considered to have a range of performance levels from perfect functioning to complete failure. In fact, the system failure can lead to decreased capability to accomplish a given task, but not to complete failure. An important MSS measure is related to the ability of the system to satisfy a given demand.

When applied to electric power systems, reliability is considered as a measure of the ability of the system to meet the load demand ( $D$ ), i.e., to provide an adequate supply of electrical energy ( $E$ ). This definition of the reliability index is widely used for power systems: see e.g., [16-17-18] and [1]. The Loss of Load Probability index (LOLP) is usually used to estimate the reliability index [19]. This index is the overall probability that the load demand will not be met. Thus, we can write  $R = \text{Prob}(E \geq D)$  or  $R = 1 - \text{LOLP}$  with  $\text{LOLP} = \text{Prob}(E < D)$ . This reliability index depends on consumer demand  $D$ . For reparable MSS, a multi-state steady-state availability  $E$  is used as  $\text{Prob}(E \geq D)$  after enough time has passed for this probability to become constant [18]. In the steady-state the distribution of states probabilities is given by equation (8), while the multi-state stationary availability is formulated by equation (9):

$$P_j = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} [\text{Prob}(\sum(t) = \sum_j)] \quad (8)$$

$$E = \sum_{\sum_j \geq D} P_j$$

At each operation period of stage ( $\theta$ ) the demand distribution represented by the cumulative curve is predicted. If the period of stage ( $\theta$ ) is divided into  $M_\theta$  intervals with duration's  $T_j(\theta)$  ( $1 \leq j \leq M_\theta$ ) and each interval has a required demand level  $D_j(\theta)$ . We denote by  $D(\theta)$  and  $T(\theta)$  the

### III. HPTIMIZATION PROBLEM

The problem formulated in this paper is a complicated combinatorial optimization problem. The total number of different solutions to be examined is very large, even for rather small problems. An exhaustive examination of the enormous number of possible solutions is not feasible given reasonable time limitations. Thus, because of the search space size of the ROP for MSS, a new meta-heuristic is developed in this section. This meta-heuristic consists in an adaptation of the harmony search optimization method.

#### 3.1. The HS principle

Recently, [20] introduced a new approach to optimization problems derived from the study of musician, called "Harmony Search Algorithm". The HS algorithm mimics musical improvisation process where the musicians try to find a better harmony. A musician always desires to reach the best harmony, which can be obtained by numerous practices. The pitches of the instruments are adjusted after each practice. The HS will be explained in the following, similar to the work in [21]. Fig. 3 demonstrates the analogy between HM and power system design. HM is the most important part of HS, which is shown in Fig. 1. Jazz improvisation is the best example for clarifying the HM. Many jazz of five music instruments consist of a guitarist, double bassist, and pianist. Each musician in the trio has different pitches: guitarist (Sol, Si, Re, Fa, Mi); double bassist (Fa, Mi, Re, La, Si); pianist (Si, Re, Mi, Do, La). Let the guitarist randomly play Sol out of its pitches (Sol, Si, Re, Fa, Mi), double bassist Si out of (Fa, Mi, Re, La, Si) and pianist Re (Si, Re, Mi, Do, La). Therefore, the new harmony (Sol, Si, Re) becomes another harmony (musically G-chord). If the new harmony is better than existing worst harmony in the HM, new harmony is included in the HM and the existing worst harmony is excluded from the HM. The process is repeated until the best harmony is obtained.

We consider a power system design process to built, which consists of five different design variables: First design variable is selected from generators sub-system:  $x_1^1 \rightarrow \{x_{11}^1, \dots, x_{18}^1\}$ , second from MT/HT transformers sub-system  $x_2^1 \rightarrow \{x_{21}^1, \dots, x_{25}^1\}$ , third from THT lines sub-system  $x_3^1 \rightarrow \{x_{31}^1, \dots, x_{34}^1\}$ , fourth from HT/MT transformers sub-system  $x_4^1 \rightarrow \{x_{41}^1, \dots, x_{45}^1\}$ , and the end from the MT lines sub-system  $x_5^1 \rightarrow \{x_{51}^1, \dots, x_{55}^1\}$ . At *initial stage* a vector solution is selected randomly from each sub-system one and /or more components are selected. For this stage the process starting to optimise the power designs.

If the new selected power design is better than the existing worst power design, the worst power design present the highest objective function value, the new design is included, and the worst design is excluded from vector solution of power design process. This procedure is repeated until the terminating criterion is satisfied.

An analogy is presented between the music improvisation process [20] and the optimum electrical power design can be established in the following way: The harmony denotes the power design vector; whereas the different harmonies during the improvisation represent the different power design vectors throughout the optimum power design process. Each musical instrument denotes the sub-system power design variables (set of electrical components) of objective function. The pitches of the instruments represent the design variable's values (components technology with no position). A better harmony represents local optimum, and the best harmony is the global optimum.

### 3.2. HS -based initial solution approach

The optimum design algorithm developed for power design based on harmony search method treats the sequence number of the components technology in the list selected for each sub-system components as a design variable. Once a sequence number of technology is selected then the sub-system components designation and properties of this latter become a new available for the algorithm. Hence the design vector consists of the integer numbers that are the sequence number of technologies in the discrete set. Since each row of the harmony memory matrix corresponds to a candidate for power design, the components of this matrix represent the order number of components technologies. The design algorithm consists of the following steps.

The optimum power design algorithm using HS is sketched basically as shown in Fig. 4.

#### 3.2.1. Initialize the harmony search parameters:

The HS algorithm parameters are attained in this step. These are harmony memory size (HMS), harmony memory consideration rate (HMCR), pitch adjustment ratio (PAR), and stopping criteria (number of improvisation). These parameters are selected depending on the problem.

#### 3.2.2. Initialize harmony memory:

The HM matrix is filled with randomly generated designs as the HMS.

Each vector denotes a power design vectors solutions in the HM  $x_{1k}^1, x_{2k}^2, \dots, x_{gk}^{HMS}$  and the corresponding unconstrained objective function value, respectively  $f(x^1), \dots, f(x^{HMS})$ . The power system designs are stored by the unconstrained objective function values  $f(x^1) < f(x^2), \dots, < f(x^{HMS})$ . The aim of using HM is to preserve better power systems designs in the search process.

Calculate the initial cost power design at the initial stage:  $C_0$

Calculate the Availability of the initial power design at the initial stage:  $A_0$

#### 3.2.3. Improve a new harmony:

A new harmony  $[x^{nv}] = \{x_{11}^{nv}, x_{12}^{nv}, \dots, x_{gk}^{nv}\}$  is improvised from either the HM or entire technologies from each sub-systems list. Three rules are used for the generation of a new harmony. These are HM consideration, pitch adjustment, and random generation. In the HM consideration, the value of the first power design variable  $[x_{g-1,1}^{nv}]$  for a new harmony is chosen from any value HM (ie.  $\{x_{1k}^1, \dots, x_{gk}^{HMS}\}$ ) or entire available technology in the market denoted the available technologies by  $[Y_{AT}]^2$ . HMCR is applied as follows:

$$\begin{cases} x_{gi}^{nv} \in \{x_{gi}^1, x_{gi}^2, \dots, x_{gi}^{HMS}\} & \text{If } \text{ran} \leq \text{HMCR} \\ x_{gi}^{nv} \in Y_{TA} & \text{If } \text{ran} > \text{HMCR} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

(**ran**) is the random number uniformly distributed over the interval [0,1] and generated. If the **ran** number is less than the HMCR value,  $i^{th}$  power design variable of new power design  $[x_{gk}^{nv}]$  is selected from the current values stored in the  $i^{th}$  column of HM. Otherwise the  $i^{th}$  power design variable of new power design  $[x_{gk}^{nv}]$  is selected from the entire available technologies list  $[Y_{AT}]$ .

Any power system design variable of the new harmony,  $[x^{nv}] = \{x_{11}^{nv}, x_{12}^{nv}, \dots, x_{gk}^{nv}\}$ , obtained by the memory consideration is examined to determine whether it is pitch-adjusted or not. Pitch adjustment is made by PAR. PAR investigates better power system design in the neighboring of the current power system design. PAR is applied as follows:

$$\text{PAD for } x_{gi}^{nv} \begin{cases} \text{Yes If } \text{ran}_1 \leq \text{PAR} \\ \text{No If } \text{ran}_1 > \text{PAR} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

(**ran**<sub>1</sub>) is the random number uniformly distributed over the interval [0,1] and generated. If this random number is less than the PAR,  $x_{gi}^{nv}$  is replaced with its neighbor technology components list. If this random number is not less than PAR,  $x_{gi}^{nv}$  remains the same.

#### 3.2.4. Update the harmony memory:

If the new harmony  $[x^{nv}] = \{x_{11}^{nv}, x_{12}^{nv}, \dots, x_{gk}^{nv}\}$  is better than the worst power design in the HM, the new power design is included in the HM, and the existing worst harmony is excluded from the HM. In this process, it should be noted that HM matrix is sorted again by

unconstrained objective function and the same power design is not permitted in the HM more than once.

#### 4.2.5. Stopping criterion:

The steps in Section 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 are repeated until a termination criterion is satisfied or reaching the number of improvisation (NI).

Calculate the initial optimal cost power design at the initial stage:  $\tau(0) = 0 \rightarrow C_0$

Calculate the Availability of the optimal power design at the initial stage:  $\tau(0) = 0 \rightarrow A$

Considering now the case when the power demand increases or decreases randomly. For any stage  $\tau(\theta) \neq 0$ , the process starts by proposing the following method:

### IV. ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

To illustrate the proposed harmony search algorithm, a numerical example is solved by use of the data given in table 1. Each component of the subsystem is considered as a unit with total failures. Figure 6 contains the data of cumulative load demand. The maximum numbers of electrical components  $k_{max}$  in parallel are set to (7, 8, 4, 9, 4). The numbers of music instruments are equal to the power sub-systems. The simulation results depend greatly on the HS algorithm parameters values: HMCR = 0.7; PAR = 0.5; HMS = 5; and NI = 75 for the first design. Several simulations are made for the expansion-planning power system where  $0.7 \leq HMCR^{\tau(1)} \leq 0.8$   $0.5 \leq PAR^{\tau(1)} \leq 0.65$ ;  $HMS^{\tau(1)} = 0.5$ ;  $HMS^{\tau(\theta)}$  and  $NI^{\tau(1)} = 100$  the best solution is obtained in 81 improvisations. The simulation was implemented to a real example taken from Algerian network. Table 2 presents the obtained optimal electrical configuration.

#### 5.1. Description of the system to be optimized

The electrical power station system which supplies the consumers is designed with five basic subsystems (stations) as depicted in figure.7. The figure.6 showed the detailed process of the electrical power station system distribution. The process of electrical power system distribution follows as: The electrical power is generated from the station units (subsystem 1). Then transformed for high voltage (HT) by the HT transformers (subsystem 2) and carried by the HT lines mashed electrical network (subsystem 3). A second transformation in HT/MT transformers (subsystem 4) which supplies the MT load by the MT mashed electrical network (subsystem 5).

### Optimization result and discussion

Much work in the field of reliability optimization analysis has been devoted using meta-heuristics methods. So, few of them treat the problem of expansion-planning EPP. The proposed harmony search method seeks system configuration that provides the optimal combination of components cost with adding or retrieving new component from the existing design structure under reliability constraint. Usually a gain in performance and reliability can only be obtained at an extra – trade-off between components (figure 8). To reinforce the existing design adding or retrieving components by replacement depend greatly on increasing or decreasing demand levels.

The natural objective function is to define the minimal investment design configuration under given reliability constraints at each stage. The whole of the results obtained by the proposed harmony search for given values of  $A_0$  is illustrated in Table 2. This latter show the best initial optimal power design and the optimal power design at each stage for the EPP for one desired reliability levels  $A_0$  (0.991). Table 2 illustrates the computed cost and reliability index of the corresponding power design. The choice of these values affects strongly the solution. A quality solution measure is proposed taken from NN method and the best solution is selected from the lower NN coefficient

$$\alpha = \frac{\text{ObjectiveFunction}(\%) }{\text{Constraint}(\%)}$$

Since it is a meta-heuristic method only near optimal solutions can be obtained.

### V. THE CONCLUSION

In this paper, we solve the electrical expansion-planning power design optimization which is a very interesting problem often reencountered in energy industry. It is formulated as redundancy optimization problem. The resolution of this problem uses a developing harmony search algorithm. This new algorithm for choosing an optimal series-parallel electrical power system design for EPP is proposed which minimizes total investment cost subject to reliability constraints. This algorithm seeks and electrical components technologies according to their availability, nominal capacity (performance) and cost. Also defines the number and the kind of series-parallel electrical power components to put in each subsystem when consumers' demand changes by selects adding / or retrieving from initial power design. The proposed method allows a practical way to solve wide instances of reliability optimization problem of multi-state systems without limitation on the diversity of electrical components technologies put in series-parallel. A combination is used in this algorithm based on the universal moment generating function UMGF and an HS algorithm.

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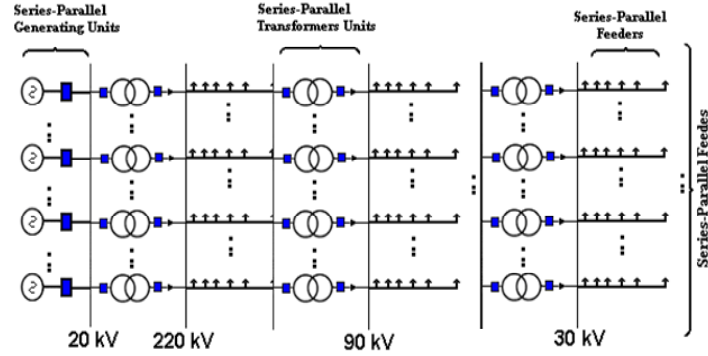


Figure 1. Synoptic of the detailed electrical Network system

TABLE 1. DATA OF AVAILABLE DIFFERENT POWER COMPONENTS TECHNOLOGIES

Sub-System #	Data Components # %	Technologies #								
		# 1	# 2	# 3	# 4	# 5	# 6	# 7	# 8	# 9
Generators 1	Reliability	0.890	0.977	0.982	0.978	0.983	0.920	0.984	/	/
	Cost	0.590	0.535	0.470	0.420	0.400	0.180	0.220	/	/
	Performance	120	100	85	85	48	31	26	/	/
MT/HT Transformers 2	Reliability	0.995	0.996	0.997	0.997	0.998	/	/	/	/
	Cost	0.205	0.189	0.091	0.056	0.042	/	/	/	/
	Performance	100	92	53	28	21	/	/	/	/
Lignes HT 3	Reliability	0.971	0.973	0.971	0.976	/	/	/	/	/
	Cost	7.525	4.720	3.590	2.420	/	/	/	/	/
	Performance	100	60	40	20	/	/	/	/	/
HT/MT Transformers 4	Reliability	0.977	0.978	0.978	0.983	0.981	0.971	0.983	0.982	0.977
	Cost	0.180	0.160	0.150	0.121	0.102	0.096	0.071	0.049	0.044
	Performance	115	100	91	72	72	72	55	25	25
Lignes MT 5	Reliability	0.984	0.983	0.987	0.981	/	/	/	/	/
	Cost	0.986	0.825	0.490	0.475	/	/	/	/	/
	Performance	128	100	60	51	/	/	/	/	/

#### Solution obtained by harmony search optimization algorithm

Table 2. Optimal solutions for expansion-planning problem EPP

$A_0$	Structure	Stage 0 Current Year	Stage1=2 Years	Stage 2=3 Years
		Cost = 13.60	Cost = 17.703	Cost = 12.997
<b>0.991</b>		<b>A(k)</b> 0.9927	0.9935	0.997
	Sub-System 1	4-4-6-7-4	4-4-6-7-4; 1(4) <sup>*</sup> -1(7) <sup>*</sup>	4-4-6-7-4; 1(4) <sup>**</sup>
	Sub-System 2	4-4-4-4-4-4-4	4-4-4-4-4-4-4	4-4-4-4-4-4; 2(4) <sup>**</sup>
	Sub-System 3	1-4	1-4; 2(4) <sup>*</sup>	1-4
	Sub-System 4	7-7-7-9	7-7-7-9; 1(8) <sup>*</sup>	7-7-7-9; 1(7) <sup>**</sup>
	Sub-System 5	4-4-4	4-4-4; 2(4) <sup>*</sup>	4-4-4