



<b>Title</b>	<b>Power system transient stability assessment based on quadratic approximation of stability region</b>
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<b>Citation</b>	<b>IEEE / P E S Transmission and Distribution Conference and Exhibition, Dalian, China, 14-18 August 2005</b>
<b>Issued Date</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>URL</b>	<b><a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10722/45863">http://hdl.handle.net/10722/45863</a></b>
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# Power System Transient Stability Assessment Based on Quadratic Approximation of Stability Region

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**Abstract**-- This paper presents an approach to estimate the Critical Clearing Time (CCT) of the multi-machine power systems based on the quadratic surface which approximates the boundary of stability region relating to the controlling unstable equilibrium point. A decomposition method is developed to obtain the coefficients of the quadratic approximation surface. The CCT is determined by the crossing point of the quadratic surface and the continuous faulted trajectory. Simulations in IEEE 9-bus and New England system show the effectiveness of the proposed approach.

**Index Terms**—Transient Stability Assessment, Stability Region, Quadratic Approximation, Controlling Unstable Equilibrium point, Critical Clear Time

## I. INTRODUCTION

IN the power system transient stability assessment (TSA), the concept of stability region (attraction region) and Controlling Unstable Equilibrium Point (CUEP) has been well recognized [1-6]. The boundary of the stability region for the power systems are composed of the stable manifolds of the unstable equilibrium point on the boundary [7], the CUEP is the unstable equilibrium point whose stable manifold is crossed by the continuous faulted trajectory. The CCT is determined by the crossing point of the stable manifold of the CUEP and the continuous faulted trajectory. Thus the description of the stable manifold of the CUEP plays an important role in TSA, various approximations to the stable manifold have been proposed. One way is to use the equal energy surface[8]-[13], which is determined by certain transient energy function, these approximations may always give out good results but have limitation for the non-existence

of transient energy function for general power system models. Another way is to obtain truncated approximations by applying the Taylor series expansion or the normal form method to the partial differential equation describing the stable manifold of the CUEP. With the idea of Taylor series expansion, ref. [14] obtained the hyper-plane approximation using the first order term and ref. [15] derived a hyper-surface approximation using the second order term. Recent work [16] also presented a quadratic approximation, but it lacks theoretical justification and need the energy correction procedure. Based on the extension of Poincare's classical result on normal form theory to approximate the stable manifold, the early work [17] first proposed an algorithm to compute relevant coefficient of stable manifold in power series presentation. The work [18] originally used the normal form to compute the boundary of stability region, it got the exact series representation of the stable manifolds characterizing the stability boundary. This series can be computed recursively. However, no numerical tests have been conducted. With the real normal form, ref. [19] obtained the second order approximation for the stability region boundary, but this method requires the computation for all the eigenvectors and eigenvalues of the Jacobian matrix, which results in burdensome computation. To improve the normal form computation, ref. [20] presented another method to calculate the quadratic approximation based on similarity transformation which avoiding the computation for all the eigenvectors, unfortunately, this approximation is not correct [21]. The above normal form approximations are based on the implicit equation which describing the stable manifold in a new coordinate. Recently, Cheng and Ma *et al.* [21,22] discovered the explicit equation which describing the stable manifold of type-1 equilibrium point in the original coordinate. Furthermore, they presented a quadratic approximation for the stable manifold of CUEP, which is the same as the hyper-surface proposed in [15]. This paper applies the proposed quadratic approximation to determine the CCT of the multi-machine power systems with the network-reduced structure. While obtaining the coefficients of quadratic approximation, we explore the special structure of the model and develop the decomposition method to reduce the computation. The estimated CCT is determined by the crossing point of the quadratic surface and the continuous faulted trajectory. The simulations in IEEE 9-bus and New England system show the

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This work is supported by National Key Basic Research Special Fund of China (G2004CB217902), National Science Foundation of China (No.50377018, No.50595411) and Research Grant Council of HKSAR(HKU7176/03E).

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effectiveness of the proposed approach.

The remainder of the paper is organized as following: Section II presents the quadratic approximation for the stable manifold of type-1 equilibrium point. Section III develops the decomposition approach to calculate the coefficients of the quadratic approximation to the stable manifold of CUEP for the multi-machine power systems which having the network reduction model and uniform damping. Section IV applies the proposed approach to different systems. Section V gives out the conclusions.

## II. QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION OF STABILITY REGION

Consider a nonlinear autonomous dynamic system described by the following differential equation defined on a manifold  $M$ ,

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{x} \in R^m$ ,  $\mathbf{f} \in C^2$ . An *equilibrium* point is a solution of the equation  $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$ . A *hyperbolic equilibrium* point is an equilibrium point at which the Jacobian  $D_x \mathbf{f}$  has no zero real part eigenvalue. A *type- $k$  equilibrium* point is a hyperbolic equilibrium point at which  $k$  eigenvalues of  $D_x \mathbf{f}$  are having positive real parts. A *hyperbolic stable equilibrium* point  $\mathbf{x}_s$  of system (1) is an equilibrium point at which all the eigenvalues of  $D_x \mathbf{f}$  (the Jacobian of the vector field) have negative real parts. The *flow* (or the solution with an initial state  $\mathbf{x}$ ) of system (1) is expressed as:

$$\varphi_t(\mathbf{x}) = \varphi(\mathbf{x}, t) \quad (2)$$

The stable manifold of a hyperbolic equilibrium point  $\mathbf{x}_0$  is the set of all those points from each of which the flow will converge to  $\mathbf{x}_0$  as time approaches positive infinite, i.e.

$$W^s(\mathbf{x}_0) = \{x \mid \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \varphi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \mathbf{x}_0\} \quad (3)$$

If  $\mathbf{x}_s$  is a hyperbolic stable equilibrium point for the system V I VI, then  $V(\mathbf{x}_s) = W^s(\mathbf{x}_s)$  is the stability region of the hyperbolic stable equilibrium point  $\mathbf{x}_s$ .

Under certain hyperbolic assumption for the autonomous system (1), the boundary of the stability region  $\partial V(\mathbf{x}_s)$  is composed of the stable manifolds of the unstable equilibrium points on the boundary of the stability region [5], that is

$$\partial V(\mathbf{x}_s) = \bigcup_{\mathbf{x}_e \in \partial V} W^s(\mathbf{x}_e) \quad (4)$$

Furthermore, the stable manifold of a type- $l$  equilibrium point  $\mathbf{x}_e$  can be described as following set [21,22]

$$W^s(\mathbf{x}_e) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \mid \begin{array}{l} h(\mathbf{x}) = 0, h(\mathbf{x}_e) = 0 \\ \mathbf{f}^T \cdot D_x h = \mu \cdot h \end{array} \right\} \quad (5)$$

where  $\mu$  is the unique unstable eigenvalue for the Jacobian

matrix  $\mathbf{J} = D_x \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x})|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_e}$  at  $\mathbf{x}_e$ .

Expanding the right side of equation (1) around the point  $\mathbf{x}_e$ , we obtain

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_e) + \mathbf{J} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e) + \begin{pmatrix} (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e)^T \mathbf{H}_1 (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e) / 2 \\ \vdots \\ (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e)^T \mathbf{H}_m (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e) / 2 \end{pmatrix} + \dots \quad (6)$$

where  $\mathbf{H}_i$  is the Hessian matrix of the function  $f_i$  at the point

$\mathbf{x}_e$ , i.e.  $\mathbf{H}_i = \left[ \frac{\partial^2 f_i}{\partial x_k \partial x_l} \right]_{m \times m}$ . Then we can obtain the

quadratic approximation for the stable manifold of the type- $l$  equilibrium point  $\mathbf{x}_e$  as following [22]

$$h_Q(\mathbf{x}) = [\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e]^T \boldsymbol{\eta} + [\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e]^T \mathbf{Q} [\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_e] / 2 \quad (7)$$

where  $\boldsymbol{\eta} = (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_m)^T$  is the left eigenvector for the Jacobian matrix, which satisfies

$$\mathbf{J}^T \boldsymbol{\eta} = \mu \boldsymbol{\eta} \quad (8)$$

and the quadratic coefficient  $\mathbf{Q}$  satisfies the following Lyapunov matrix equation

$$\mathbf{CQ} + \mathbf{QC}^T = \mathbf{H} \quad (9)$$

where the matrices  $\mathbf{C} = (\mu \mathbf{I}_m / 2 - \mathbf{J}^T)$ ,  $\mathbf{H} = \sum_{i=1}^m \eta_i \mathbf{H}_i$ ,

$\mathbf{I}_m$  is the  $m \times m$  identical matrix.

There are a variety of methods for solving the Lyapunov matrix equation [23]. Two most efficient methods are the Schur method [24] and Hessenberg-Schur method [25]. The explicit unique solution of Lyapunov matrix equation (9) is

$$\mathbf{Q} = V_c^{-1} [(\mathbf{C} \otimes \mathbf{I}_m + \mathbf{I}_m \otimes \mathbf{C})^{-1} V_c(\mathbf{H})] \quad (10)$$

where  $V_c$  is the column stack mapping [26,p.5], which

satisfies  $V_c(\mathbf{B}) = (b_{11}, \dots, b_{m1}, b_{12}, \dots, b_{m2}, \dots, b_{1m}, \dots, b_{mm})^T$

for any the  $m \times m$  square matrix  $\mathbf{B} = (b_{ij})_{m \times m}$ , and  $\otimes$  is

the Kronecker tensor product, which satisfies

$$\mathbf{A} \otimes \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} \mathbf{B} & \cdots & a_{1t} \mathbf{B} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{s1} \mathbf{B} & \cdots & a_{st} \mathbf{B} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{for any } s \times t \text{ matrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A} = (a_{ij})_{s \times t} \text{ and } k \times l \text{ matrix } \mathbf{B} = (b_{ij})_{k \times l}.$$

## III. APPLYING QUADRATIC APPROXIMATION TO MULTI-MACHINE SYSTEM

We review the classical model for transient stability analysis. Consider a power system consisting of  $n$  generators. Let the loads be modeled as constant impedances. Using the  $\#n$  machine as reference. Then dynamics of the  $k$ -th generator can be written with the usual notation as



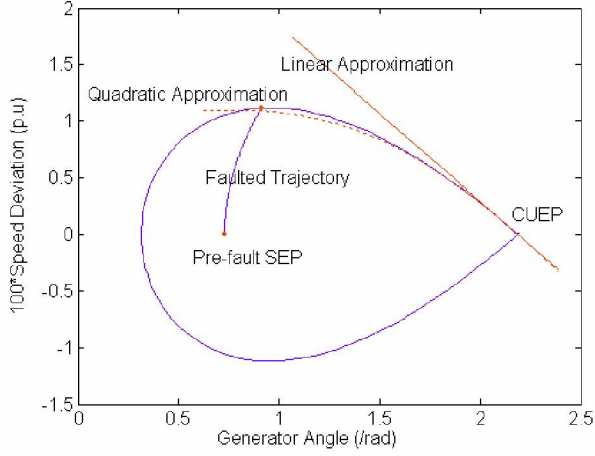


Fig.2 Mechanism of CCT Estimation by Stability Region Approximations

With the simulation time step being 0.001s, the time domain numerical integration method shows that the actual CCT is 0.086s, the quadratic approximation gives out a conservative estimation 0.084s, and the linear approximation gives out an over-estimated estimation 0.128s. Fig.2 shows the mechanism of estimating CCT with the approximations for the stability region. In Fig.2, the continuous faulted trajectory intersects the approximated boundary of stability region at the estimated CCTs, the quadratic approximation is slightly conservative at the exit point, thus, its estimation is accurate while the linear approximation is seriously over-estimated and its estimation is poor.

### B. The 3-Generator 9-Bus System

The simulation results in this subsection are based on a 3-generator, 9-bus power system, which is an IEEE test system [28, p.38]. The system is showed in Fig.3. The types of faults are three-phase faults. The system are modeled by the network-reduction model with classical generators having the uniform damping  $d_0=0.1661$ . The time step adopted in the simulation is 0.0005s.

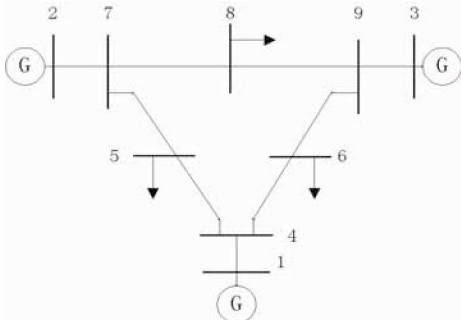


Fig.3 IEEE 3-Generator and 9-bus System.

Table I displays the estimated CCTs of six faults using five different methods: the time-domain numerical integration method (T-D), the quadratic and linear approximation of stability region, the BCU method [13] and the PEBS method [10]. The results from the time-domain numerical integration method are used as a benchmark. For example, the last row of

table I states that a three phase fault occurs at bus 7 and the post fault system is the system with the transmission line between buses 7 and 5 tripped, due to the openings of circuit breakers at both ends of the line. The CCT estimated by the time domain simulation is 0.2025s, the CCT estimated by the quadratic approximation method is 0.1990s and the CCT estimated by the linear approximation is 0.2595s, and the CCT estimated by the BCU and PEBS method is 0.2075s and 0.2195s, respectively.

TABLE I  
CCTs FOR FAULTS OF IEEE-9 BUS SYSTEM ( $D_0=0.1661$ )

Fault	CCTs Estimated (Unit: second) by different methods and Deviations									
	T-D	Quadratic		Linear		BCU		PEBS		
(4)4-6	0.3855	0.3895	1.04%	0.3935	2.05%	0.3815	-1.04%	0.3840	-0.39%	
(4)4-5	0.3865	0.3975	2.85%	0.4020	4.01%	0.3850	-0.39%	0.3860	-0.13%	
(9)9-6	0.2540	0.2670	5.12%	0.3025	19.09%	0.2315	-8.86%	0.2690	5.91%	
(9)9-8	0.2535	0.2595	2.37%	0.2655	4.73%	0.2305	-8.71%	0.2580	1.78%	
(7)7-8	0.2095	0.2155	2.86%	0.2310	10.26%	0.1830	-12.65%	0.2230	6.44%	
(7)7-5	0.2025	0.1990	-1.73%	0.2595	28.15%	0.2045	0.99%	0.2145	5.93%	

Table I demonstrates that the proposed quadratic approximation method offers fairly accurate direct analysis of transient stability for these faults. The quadratic approximation gives out slightly over-estimated or conservative results in estimating CCT, which is agree with the engineer requirements as BCU and PEBS methods, while the linear approximation gives out over-estimated and impractical results (which may exceed 28%). This suggests that the quadratic approximation is also a good alternative to estimate the CCT.

### C. New England System

The simulation results presented in this subsection are based on a 10-generator, 39-bus New England system [1]. The types of faults are three-phase faults with fault location both at generator and load buses. The system is modeled by the network-reduction model with classical generators having the uniform damping  $d_0=0.2$ . The time step adopted in the simulation is 0.001s.

Table II and Table III display the estimated CCTs of different faulted system using five different methods: the time-domain numerical integration method, the quadratic and linear approximation of stability region, the BCU method [13] and the PEBS method [10]. The results from the time-domain method are used as a benchmark.

TABLE II  
CCTs FOR GENERATOR BUS FAULTS OF NEW ENGLAND SYSTEM

Fault	CCTs Estimated (Unit: second) by different methods and Deviations									
	T-D	Quadratic		Linear		BCU		PEBS		
(25)25-26	0.204	0.244	19.61%	0.256	25.49%	0.188	-7.84%	0.210	2.94%	
(25)25-2	0.135	0.115	-12.21%	0.196	49.62%	0.102	-22.14%	0.141	7.63%	
(23)23-22	0.223	0.198	-11.21%	0.273	22.42%	0.174	-21.97%	0.199	-10.76%	
(10)10-13	0.242	0.249	2.89%	0.324	33.88%	0.258	6.61%	0.215	-11.15%	
(10)10-11	0.245	0.256	4.49%	0.343	40.00%	0.251	2.45%	0.224	-8.57%	
(21)21-22	0.167	0.148	-11.38%	0.308	84.43%	0.224	34.13%	0.139	-16.77%	

Table II demonstrates that the proposed quadratic approximation method offers not quite accurate direct analysis of transient stability for some faults at the generation buses.

The deviations of the CCTs obtained by the quadratic approximation method may be 20% or so, and the deviations of the CCT obtained by the linear approximation method are too serious to use. This suggests that the quadratic approximation may be not a good alternative to estimate the CCTs of the faults located at generator buses.

TABLE III  
CCTs FOR NON-GENERATOR BUS FAULTS OF NEW ENGLAND SYSTEM

Fault	CCTs Estimated (Unit: second) by different methods and Deviations								
	T-D	Quadratic			Linear		BCU		PEBS
(3) 3-4	0.266	0.280	5.26%	0.320	20.30%	0.261	-1.88%	0.258	-3.01%
(5) 5-6	0.243	0.245	0.82%	0.310	27.57%	0.241	-0.82%	0.222	-8.64%
(3) 3-18	0.258	0.268	3.88%	0.322	24.81%	0.269	-4.26%	0.259	0.39%
(18) 18-3	0.247	0.261	5.67%	0.334	35.22%	0.274	10.93%	0.248	0.40%
(29)29-26	0.091	0.086	-5.49%	0.128	40.66%	0.081	-10.99%	0.080	-12.09%
(29)29-28	0.061	0.057	-6.56%	0.111	81.97%	0.051	16.39%	0.051	16.39%

Table III demonstrates that the proposed quadratic approximation method offers fairly accurate direct analysis of transient stability for faults located at non-generator buses. The quadratic approximation gives out slightly conservative or over-estimated results in estimating CCT, the deviations are about 5%, while the linear approximation gives out much more over-estimated results (deviations range from 20% to 80%), and the BCU and PEBS methods may give out results with great large deviation. This suggests that the quadratic approximation method is a good alternative to estimate the CCTs of the faults located at non-generator buses.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

This paper applies the quadratic approximation of the stable manifold to approximate the boundary of stability region for the multi-machine power systems with network-reduced model, furthermore calculates the CCT. In obtaining the coefficients of quadratic approximation, we explore the special structure of the model and develop the decomposition method to reduce the computation. The CCT is estimated by the time corresponds to the continuous trajectory intersecting with the quadratic surface approximation for the stable manifold. The simulations in the 9-bus system and New England system show that the proposed approach could give out fairly good estimation for the CCT of median-size power system, while the simulation results in large-scale systems are still need to be developed.

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