

# Fast Assessment Method for Minimum Demand Inertia in Power Systems

Qili Ding, Xinggan Zhang, Zifeng Li, Xiangxu Wang, and Weidong Li

**Abstract**—The existing minimum demand inertia (MDI) assessment methods based on time-domain simulation of system frequency response are complex in modeling and time-consuming in computation. If incorporating the load-side resources, it will lead to further computation inefficiency. This paper proposes a fast assessment method (FAM) for MDI in power systems. A full-response analytical model (FRAM) of a multi-resource system considering the load-side inertia is developed. The analytical expression of the mapping relationship between the maximum frequency deviation and system inertia is derived, thus realizing the fast solution of the system MDI under frequency security constraints. Case studies based on the modified IEEE RTS-79 test system and a provincial power grid in China demonstrate that the proposed FAM can solve the MDI in milliseconds without being affected by the system scale while maintaining high accuracy. This can provide an accurate and rapid analytical tool for sensing inertia security boundary in grid inertia resource planning and operation scheduling.

**Index Terms**—Fast assessment method (FAM), inertia estimation, minimum demand inertia (MDI), security boundary, load-side resource, time-domain simulation, frequency response.

## NOMENCLATURE

$\alpha_G(t), \beta_G(t)$	Time representation coefficient and its integral of conventional unit
$\alpha_a(t), \beta_a(t)$	Time representation coefficient and its integral of grid-following inverter-based resource (GFL-IBR)
$\alpha_b(t), \beta_b(t)$	Time representation coefficient and its integral of grid-forming inverter-based resource (GFM-IBR)
$\Delta\omega$	Change in angular velocity of system
$\varepsilon(t), \delta(t)$	Step function and impulse function

$b_g, c_g$	Constants of gas turbine unit (GTU) valve positioner
$f, \Delta f$	System frequency and its deviation
$\Delta f_{\max}$	The maximum frequency deviation
$F_H$	Power ratio coefficient of high-pressure turbine
$H_{\text{am}}$	Inertia time constant of induction motor (IM)
$H_{\text{GFM}}$	Virtual inertia coefficient of GFM-IBR
$H_{\min}$	The minimum demand inertia
$H_s, D_s$	System inertia constant and damping coefficient of each type of resource
$H_{i,m}, R_{i,m}$	Inertia constant and modulation coefficient of unit $m$ in the $i^{\text{th}}$ type of resource
$i, m$	Indices of type of resources and units
$I_1, I_2, I_3$	Frequency response coefficients of IM
$I_m$	Parameter to be aggregated for inverter-based resource (IBR) $m$
$k_{\text{new},m}$	Equivalent gain parameter of IBR $m$
$K, T$	Fitted parameters for conventional unit
$K_a, T_a$	Fitted parameters for GFL-IBR
$K_b, T_b$	Fitted parameters for IM
$K_G, K_H, K_T$	Capacity proportion coefficients for GTU, hydro power unit (HPU), and thermal power unit (TPU)
$K_{\text{GFM}}, K_{\text{GFL}}$	Capacity proportion coefficients for GFM-IBR and GFL-IBR
$K_{i,m}$	Capacity ratio of unit $m$ in the $i^{\text{th}}$ type of resource
$K_M$	Capacity proportion coefficient of IM
$K_{\text{VI}}, R_{\text{VI}}$	Virtual inertia coefficient and virtual sag coefficient for GFL-IBR
$L$	Number of resource types
$N_G, N_H, N_T$	Total numbers of GTUs, HPUs, and TPUs
$N_i$	Number of units in the $i^{\text{th}}$ type of resource
$N_{\text{new}}, N_M$	Total numbers of IBRs and IMs
$\Delta P_L$	Load-shedding power
$\Delta P_e$	Electromagnetic power increment
$\Delta P_G$	Active output increment of conventional unit
$\Delta P_g$	Difference between mechanical power and load power
$\Delta P_M, \Delta P_N$	Active output increments of IM and GFL-IBR

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$R_G, R_H, R_T$	Modulation coefficients of GTU, HPU, and TPU
$R_{GFM}, H_{GFM}$	Virtual modulation coefficient and virtual inertia coefficient of GFM-IBR
$s$	Complex variable in Laplace transformation
$t_n$	Time to the maximum frequency deviation
$t_0$	Moment of load-side power support
$T_C$	Time constant of steam turbine
$T_{CD}$	Time constant of compressor discharge volume
$T_{CR}$	Time constant of combustion reaction delay
$T_D, T_{GFM}$	Response time of constants of GFL-IBR and GFM-IBR
$T_F$	Time constant of GTU fuel
$T_G$	Time constant of gas capacity
$T_R$	Time constant of reheater
$T_{RH}$	Transient droop time constant of HPU governor
$T_{RS}$	Reset time constant of HPU governor
$T_W$	Time constant of water hammer effect
$T_y$	Response time constant of contactor
$X_g$	Lead time constant of GTU governor
$Y_g$	Lag time constant of GTU governor

## I. INTRODUCTION

THE power system inertia is crucial for maintaining system frequency stability. Excessively low inertia results in inadequate system anti-disturbance capability, seriously threatening the secure and stable operation of power grids [1]. Specifically, insufficient inertia may cause two critical issues. First, the system disturbances can trigger excessive rate of change of frequency (RoCoF), which risks tripping distributed generation units and damaging synchronous machines [2]. Second, the critically low inertia accelerates the occurrence and amplifies the magnitude of the maximum frequency deviation (MFD), potentially leading to grid frequency collapse before frequency regulation mechanisms are activated [3]. Insufficient system inertia may directly trigger rapid deterioration of both RoCoF and MFD following grid disturbances, ultimately culminating in frequency collapse accidents such as the UK's "8.9" blackout [4] and South Australia's "9.28" blackout [5].

With the accelerated construction of modern power systems, the proportion of renewable energy sources such as wind power, photovoltaic (PV) generation, and energy storage is increasing. At the same time, traditional synchronous units are gradually replaced, resulting in a continuously decreasing trend of system synchronous inertia [6]. ENTSO-E and WECC have predicted that the grid inertia will be further reduced in the future and the power system will exhibit significant low-inertia characteristics [7], [8]. Consequently, the frequency stability situation of the power system is becoming increasingly severe, with the risk of frequency instability continuing to escalate. Therefore, the accurate assessment of inertia level and inertia demand in power systems

has become critical in grid operation and planning.

The minimum demand inertia (MDI) assessment constitutes an essential component of system operational analysis. It can provide the fundamental basis for sensing the inertia security boundary during the planning, allocation, and operational scheduling of grid inertia resources. This ensures that the system maintains adequate anti-disturbance capability to reduce the frequency instability risks following system disturbances, thus guaranteeing the system operational security.

The system MDI represents the minimum required inertia level that must be maintained during anticipated disturbances to ensure that all frequency dynamic indicators remain within the predefined frequency security constraints. Regarding the MDI assessment, some relevant studies have been carried out. References [9] and [10] propose an MDI assessment method considering RoCoF constraints, where the MDI is calculated from the disturbance power and RoCoF constraints. These RoCoF-based methods fail to account for MFD constraints, which may lead to a deviation of the assessment results from reality. Reference [11] considers the synchronous inertia constraint in economic dispatch, where the system MDI under the dual constraints of RoCoF and MFD is derived by iterative simulation. References [12] and [13] iteratively solve the system MDI under the frequency dynamic constraints based on the frequency response simulation model (FRSM). Reference [14] optimally solves the system MDI under the dual frequency constraints based on the improved grey wolf optimization (GWO) algorithm. Reference [15] further considers the impact of frequency spatial distribution on MDI assessment in the optimization model. Such methods based on the iterative simulation and optimization need to track the frequency security constraints by simulation or numerical integration to ensure high computational accuracy, and thus may reduce their computational efficiency. References [16] and [17] directly solve the power system MDI under the MFD constraints based on the reduced analytical frequency response model, which is efficient in computation, although the linearized approximation process may lead to reduction in its computational accuracy. Table I compares different studies on MDI assessment. Current research on MDI assessment primarily focuses on RoCoF and MFD as key constraints, employing the system FRSM or reduced analytical frequency response model to solve system MDI under dual constraints. These established methods provide substantial theoretical foundations for power system MDI assessment.

However, with the increasing computational efficiency requirements in system operation and management, coupled with the growing integration of load-side resources, the existing MDI assessment methods face problems in two aspects.

1) The diversity and scale of frequency regulation resources in modern power grids lead to high-order, strongly coupled, and nonlinear characteristics in system FRSM. Consequently, the FRSM-based MDI assessment methods suffer from complex model construction and computational inefficiency, failing to meet escalating computational efficiency requirements. Moreover, these complex system characteristics

hinder the accurate analytical expression of frequency responses, rendering existing analytical model-based MDI assessment methods unable to meet the computational accuracy requirements.

2) Most existing MDI assessment methods neglect the inertia capacity of load-side resources, resulting in deviations of the assessment results from actual values, thus posing potential security risks [18], [19]. The consideration of massive and distributed load-side resources with heterogeneous char-

acteristics would significantly increase model complexity in FRSM-based MDI assessment, further degrading computational efficiency. Existing analytical model-based MDI assessment methods would also experience additional accuracy deterioration. For large-scale power systems with numerous operational scenarios, these limitations render existing MDI assessment methods inadequate for meeting the fast and accurate computational requirements for grid operation management and real-time control.

TABLE I  
COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT STUDIES ON MDI ASSESSMENT

Reference	Solving method	Considered load-side resource	Efficiency and computational accuracy	Form of frequency security constraint
[9], [10]	Based on rotor motion equation	None	Efficient but neglecting MFD constraints	Analytical expression
[11], [13]	Based on iterative simulation	None	Inefficient but with relatively high accuracy	Tracking by simulation
[12]	Based on iterative simulation	Induction motor (IM)	Inefficient but with relatively high accuracy	Tracking by simulation
[14], [15]	Based on optimization	None	Inefficient but with relatively high accuracy	Numerical integration
[16]	Based on reduced analytical model	None	Efficient but with relatively low accuracy	Analytical expression
[17]	Based on reduced analytical model	Emergency interruptible load (EIL)	Efficient but with relatively low accuracy	Analytical expression
This paper	Based on FRSM	IM and EIL	Efficient while ensuring high accuracy	Analytical expression

To address these problems, this paper proposes a fast assessment method (FAM) for MDI considering the inertia support capacity from multiple types of regulation resources. The full-response analytical model (FRAM) of MFD is established based on the superposition theorem. Then, the fast solution of the system MDI is realized by the analytical expression of the mapping relationship between the MFD and system inertia. Compared with existing MDI assessment methods, the main contributions of this paper are as follows.

1) The proposed FAM can achieve millisecond-level computation speeds regardless of system scale. While maintaining the high solution accuracy, the proposed FAM significantly enhances the solving efficiency of MDI, thereby providing a faster and more accurate basis for sensing grid inertia security boundary in resource planning and allocation.

2) The proposed FAM effectively considers the impact of load-side resources, such as EIL and IM, on MDI assessment, yielding results that better match actual grid conditions than existing MDI assessment methods. Moreover, it avoids constructing complex simulation models by using straightforward solution steps that are easy to implement, making it more suitable for practical engineering applications.

3) An FRAM of the multi-resource system is developed, which accounts for secondary disturbances (caused by load-side power support). This model enables the fast calculation of MFD and the analytical expression of MFD constraints in MDI assessment.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. The FRAM of the multi-resource system is developed in Section II. The proposed FAM for MDI is presented in Section III. Case studies and simulation results are presented in Section IV. Conclusions are drawn in Section V.

## II. CONSTRUCTION OF FRAM OF MULTI-SOURCE SYSTEM

### A. Analysis of Frequency Dynamic Constraints

The MDI represents the minimum inertia required by the system to ensure that the RoCoF and MFD do not exceed their specified constraints, i.e.,  $RoF_{lim}$  and  $\Delta f_{lim}$ , respectively, under the anticipated disturbance  $\Delta P_d$ . Therefore, if the mapping relationship among MDI,  $RoF_{lim}$ , and  $\Delta f_{lim}$  can be found and an explicit analytical expression can be derived, the direct and fast assessment of MDI can be realized by solving the equations.

The frequency characteristics of the system can be expressed by the equivalent rotor motion equation [20] as:

$$2H_s \frac{df}{dt} + D_s \Delta f = \Delta P_d \quad (1)$$

If the system load damping is neglected, the RoCoF depends solely on the disturbance power and system inertia. In low-inertia systems, the system RoCoF reaches its maximum at the instant of disturbance. Therefore, under the RoCoF constraint, the system MDI can be solved analytically [13] as:

$$H_{min} = \Delta P_d / (2 \cdot RoF_{lim}) \quad (2)$$

Regarding the MFD constraint, the system MFD depends on the disturbance magnitude and system inertia, and is also closely related to the primary frequency regulation capability of system. To realize the fast assessment of system MDI under the MFD constraint, it is necessary to establish an analytical frequency response model to obtain the explicit analytical expression between the MFD and system inertia. This explicit relationship can be expressed using function  $f(\cdot)$  as:

$$\Delta f_{max} = f(\Delta P_d, H_s) \quad (3)$$

Based on this explicit analytical expression, the system MDI under the MFD constraint can be solved using the inverse function of  $f(\cdot)$ , i.e.,  $g(\cdot)$ .

$$H_{\min} = g(\Delta P_d, \Delta f_{\lim}) \quad (4)$$

Based on the analysis of frequency dynamic constraints, it is evident that the key to the fast assessment of system MDI lies in establishing an analytical frequency response model to achieve the analytical expression of MFD.

It should be noted that the MDI solved in this paper is oriented to the system as a whole. Therefore, the spatial distribution of frequency is neglected, and the frequency of the center of inertia (CoI) is utilized for modeling and calculation [21], [22].

### B. Construction of Aggregated Model

To address the high-order and nonlinear characteristics of the FRSM, the response models of each type of resource need to be aggregated to reduce the order of FRSM. At the same time, considering that each type of resource should maintain sufficient reserve capacity to participate in the frequency response [23], the power constraint module is ignored in this paper.

#### 1) Aggregation of Conventional Units

Conventional units primarily include thermal power units (TPUs), hydro power units (HPUs), and gas turbine units (GTUs), whose frequency response characteristics are shown in Fig. 1 [24], [25].

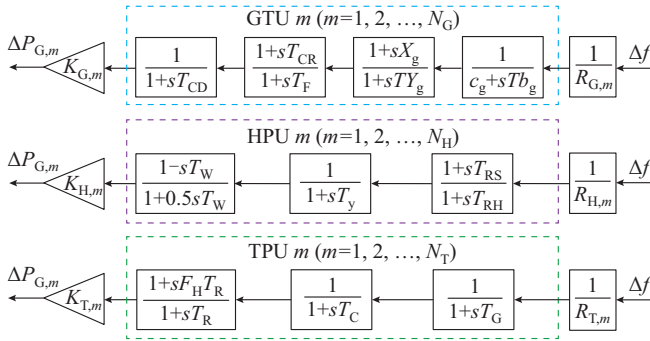


Fig. 1. Frequency response model of conventional units.

To reduce the order of FRSM, multiple units of the same type are aggregated into one equivalent unit. Taking HPU as an example, the governor parameter  $Y \in \{T_W, T_y, T_{RS}, T_{RH}\}$  can be aggregated based on the principle of branch standardized gain aggregation [26]:

$$Y = \sum_{m=1}^{N_H} Y_m K_{H,m} / \left( R_{H,m} \sum_{m=1}^{N_H} K_{H,m} / R_{H,m} \right) \quad (5)$$

Similarly, multiple TPUs and GTUs can be aggregated into equivalent single units. Based on the principle of branch standardized gain aggregation, let  $X \in \{T_G, T_C, F_H, T_R\}$  and  $Z \in \{c_g, b_g, X_g, Y_g, T_{CR}, T_F, T_{CD}\}$ , and then we have:

$$X = \sum_{m=1}^{N_T} X_m K_{T,m} / \left( R_{T,m} \sum_{m=1}^{N_T} K_{T,m} / R_{T,m} \right) \quad (6)$$

$$Z = \sum_{m=1}^{N_G} Z_m K_{G,m} / \left( R_{G,m} \sum_{m=1}^{N_G} K_{G,m} / R_{G,m} \right) \quad (7)$$

#### 2) Aggregation of Renewable Energy Units

In modern power systems, renewable energy units such as

wind turbine (WT) unit, PV unit, and energy storage unit can provide inertia and primary frequency regulation capability to the grid through inverter-based devices with control logic [27]. Although these inverter-based resources (IBRs) operate in different generation modes, the essence of their participation in the frequency response process remains the same. Depending on the grid-connection modes and control strategies, IBRs can be categorized into grid-following IBR (GFL-IBR) and grid-forming IBR (GFM-IBR) [28].

GFM-IBR can not only simulate the external characteristics of the synchronous machine through the virtual synchronous generator (VSG) control [29], but also actively establish frequency and have grid-forming ability, making it equivalent to a synchronous unit. GFL-IBR participates in frequency regulation through virtual inertia control and virtual droop control, with a certain time delay in its control response. The frequency response model of IBRs is illustrated in Fig. 2 [30], [31], where GFL-IBR lacks grid-forming capability, so its inertia cannot be directly equivalent to the overall system inertia; and GFM-IBR can be equivalent to a synchronous unit, and its inertia is directly incorporated into the system inertia.

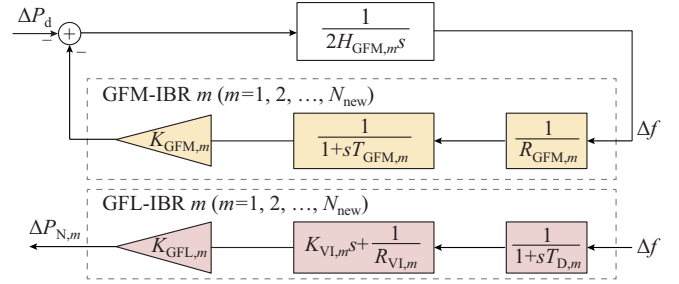


Fig. 2. Frequency response model of IBRs.

For renewable energy units, whether GFM-IBR or GFL-IBR, the branch standardized gain aggregation can be used to aggregate multiple units into equivalent single units. Let  $I \in \{T_{GFM}, K_{VI}, R_{VI}, T_D\}$ , then:

$$I = \sum_{m=1}^{N_{new}} I_m k_{new,m} / \sum_{m=1}^{N_{new}} k_{new,m} \quad (8)$$

where  $k_{new,m} = K_{GFM,m} / R_{GFM,m}$  or  $k_{new,m} = K_{GFL,m} / R_{VI,m}$ .

#### 3) Aggregation of Load-side Resources

Representative load-side resources with inertia and primary frequency regulation capability mainly include IM and flexible controllable loads. The rotor of IM is electromechanically coupled to the grid and can spontaneously respond to system disturbances by releasing the kinetic energy of the rotor, thus providing inertia support. The frequency response model of IM is shown in Fig. 3, and the related parameters can be referred to [18].

The frequency response transfer function of IM can be expressed as:

$$G_M(s) = \frac{\Delta P_e}{\Delta \omega} = \frac{I_1 s + I_2}{2H_{am} s + I_3} \quad (9)$$

Let  $M \in \{H_{am}, I_1, I_2, I_3\}$ , then:





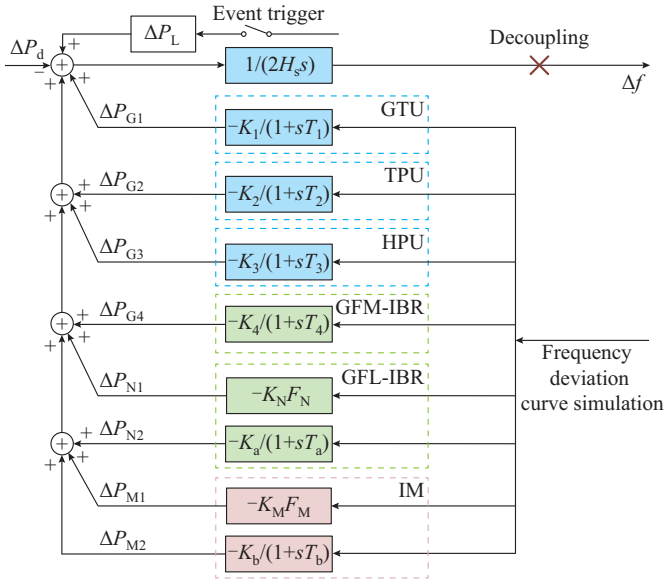


Fig. 5. Low-order open-loop AFRM.

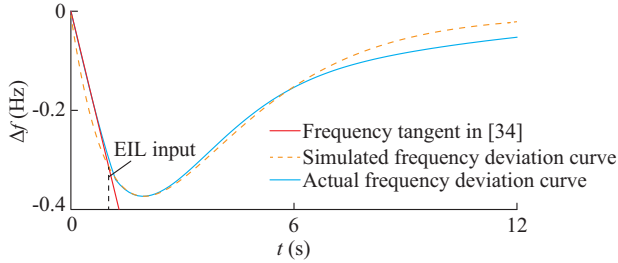


Fig. 6. Diagram of simulated frequency deviation curve.

Since the frequency deviation curve must pass through the frequency nadir ( $t_n, \Delta f_{\max}$ ) and RoCoF is zero at the moment of  $t_n$ , the parameters can be derived as  $a = \Delta P_d / (2H_s)$  and  $b = 1/t_n$ . Thus, the frequency-domain expression of the simulated frequency deviation curve can be obtained as:

$$\Delta f(s) = -\Delta P_d [2H_s (s + 1/t_n)^2] \quad (17)$$

By combining (17) with (13) and performing the Laplace transform, the time-domain expression for the active power of conventional unit  $i$  (including the GFM-IBR, which is treated as a synchronous unit) can be derived as:

$$\Delta P_{Gi}(t) = \frac{K_i \Delta P_d t_n^2}{2H_s} \left[ \frac{T_i (e^{-t/T_i} - e^{-t/t_n})}{(T_i - t_n)^2} - \frac{t e^{-t/t_n}}{t_n (T_i - t_n)} \right] \quad (18)$$

To facilitate the subsequent derivation, let:

$$\alpha_{Gi}(t) = \frac{T_i (e^{-t/T_i} - e^{-t/t_n})}{(T_i - t_n)^2} - \frac{t e^{-t/t_n}}{t_n (T_i - t_n)} \quad (19)$$

For GFL-IBR and IM, their time-domain expressions of the active power can also be derived by combining (14), (15), and (17) as:

$$\Delta P_N(t) = -\frac{K_N F_N \Delta P_d t}{2H_s} e^{-\frac{t}{t_n}} + \frac{K_a \Delta P_d t_n^2}{2H_s} \alpha_a(t) \quad (20a)$$

$$\Delta P_M(t) = -\frac{K_M F_M \Delta P_d t}{2H_s} e^{-\frac{t}{t_n}} + \frac{K_b \Delta P_d t_n^2}{2H_s} \alpha_b(t) \quad (20b)$$

Based on (18) and (20), the active power of each type of resource can be obtained. Combined with Fig. 5, the time-domain expression of the system frequency following a disturbance can be derived as:

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 \Delta P_{Gi}(t) + \Delta P_N(t) + \Delta P_M(t) + \Delta P_L - \Delta P_d = 2H_s \frac{df(t)}{dt} \quad (21)$$

#### D. FRAM

The load-side power support induces a secondary power shock to the system frequency, leading to an abrupt change in the frequency curve. By assuming that the system is initially operating in the rated state, traditional frequency response analytical models analyze only the zero-state response process. Consequently, they fail to accurately solve the frequency deviation when considering load-side power support. In this paper, from the perspective of circuit theory, the zero-input response at the moment of load-side power support is integrated into the frequency response model. By applying the superposition theorem, the FRAM for MFD is established.

##### 1) Zero-input Response

The zero-input response refers to the system response induced only by the preceding initial state without external excitation input. In the AFRM,  $\Delta P_G$  and  $\Delta f$  reflect the states of the governor and rotor following a system disturbance, respectively. The zero-input response is mainly divided into two components: the governor side and rotor side. On the governor side, the time-domain expression for the active power of the conventional unit can be obtained by performing the inverse Laplace transform on (13):

$$-K_i \Delta f(t) = \Delta P_{Gi}(t) + T_i \frac{d\Delta P_{Gi}(t)}{dt} \quad (22)$$

If the initial state of the prime mover for conventional unit, i.e.,  $P_{Gi}(0^-)$ , is considered, then by transforming (22) into the frequency domain, the frequency-domain expression for the active power of the conventional unit considering the initial state can be obtained as:

$$\Delta P_{Gi} = \frac{-K_i \Delta f + T_i P_{Gi}(0^-)}{1 + T_i s} \quad (23)$$

Similarly, the frequency-domain expressions for the active power of GFL-IBR and IM considering the initial states  $P_N(0^-)$  and  $P_M(0^-)$  can be derived as:

$$\Delta P_N = \frac{-K_a \Delta f + T_a P_N(0^-)}{1 + T_a s} - K_N F_N \Delta f + P_N(0^-) \quad (24a)$$

$$\Delta P_M = \frac{-K_b \Delta f + T_b P_M(0^-)}{1 + T_b s} - K_M F_M \Delta f + P_M(0^-) \quad (24b)$$

On the rotor side, if the initial state of the system rotor kinetic energy, i.e.,  $\Delta f(0^-)$ , is considered, then by performing the inverse Laplace transform to (21), the frequency-domain expression of the system frequency can be derived as:

$$\Delta f = \frac{\Delta P_g + 2H_s \Delta f(0^-)}{2H_s s} \quad (25)$$

From the physical perspective, the initial states  $P_{Gi}(0^-)$ ,  $P_N(0^-)$ , and  $P_M(0^-)$  indicate that the unit increases its active

power based on the frequency deviation and the initial power state. Meanwhile,  $\Delta f(0^-)$  indicates that the rotor regulates the real-time frequency according to the unit power and the initial frequency deviation.

## 2) Zero-state Response

The zero-state response refers to the response induced only by the external excitation  $\Delta P_o$  without considering the initial state. According to (21), the time-domain expression of the system frequency under zero-state response can be derived as:

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 \Delta P_{Gi}(t) + \Delta P_N(t) + \Delta P_M(t) - \Delta P_o = 2H_s \frac{df(t)}{dt} \quad (26)$$

According to the superposition theorem, the system frequency full-response model (FFRM) can be obtained by superposing the zero-input response and zero-state response. By substituting (23), (24), and (25) into (26) after performing the inverse Laplace transform, the time-domain expres-

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f(t) = & \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^4 K_i \beta_{Gi}(t) + K_a \beta_a(t) + K_b \beta_b(t) \right) \frac{\Delta P_{o1} t_n^2}{4H_s^2} + (K_N F_N + K_M F_M) \frac{\Delta P_{o1}}{4H_s^2} \int t e^{-\frac{t}{t_n}} dt - \frac{\Delta P_{o1}}{2H_s} t \right] (\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon(t - t_0)) + \\ & \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^4 K_i \beta_{Gi}(t - t_0) + K_a \beta_a(t - t_0) + K_b \beta_b(t - t_0) \right) \frac{\Delta P_{o2} t_n^2}{4H_s^2} + (K_N F_N + K_M F_M) \frac{\Delta P_{o2}}{4H_s^2} \int (t - t_0) e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{t_n}} dt \right] \varepsilon(t - t_0) + \\ & \left[ \sum_{i=1}^4 \int e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{T_i}} \frac{P_{Gi}(t_0^-)}{2H_s} dt + \int e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{T_a}} \frac{P_N(t_0^-)}{2H_s} dt + \int e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{T_b}} \frac{P_M(t_0^-)}{2H_s} dt + \frac{t-t_0}{2H_s} (P_N(t_0^-) + P_M(t_0^-) - \Delta P_{o2}) + \Delta f(t_0^-) \right] \varepsilon(t - t_0) \quad (28) \end{aligned}$$

The expression for the frequency deviation curve after an abrupt change can be extracted from (28), and its derivative can be obtained as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Delta f_2(t)}{dt} = & \frac{\Delta P_{o2} t_n^2}{4H_s^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^4 K_i \alpha_{Gi}(t) + K_a \alpha_a(t) + K_b \alpha_b(t) \right) + \\ & \frac{\Delta P_{o2} t e^{-\frac{t}{t_n}}}{4H_s^2} (K_N F_N + K_M F_M) - \frac{\Delta P_{o2}}{2H_s} + \sum_{i=1}^4 \frac{e^{-\frac{t}{T_i}}}{2H_s} P_{Gi}(0^-) + \\ & \frac{e^{-\frac{t}{T_a}} + 1}{2H_s} P_N(0^-) + \frac{e^{-\frac{t}{T_b}} + 1}{2H_s} P_M(0^-) + \Delta f(0^-) \delta(t) \quad (29) \end{aligned}$$

When the frequency response curve reaches its nadir, the RoCoF becomes zero; thus, (29) equals zero. Since (29) is timed from  $t_0$ , when (29) equals zero,  $t = t_n - t_0$ . At this time, the only unknown quantity  $t_n$  in (29) can be solved by making (29) equal to 0.

The MFD can be obtained by substituting  $t_n$  into (16):

$$\Delta f_{\max} = -\frac{\Delta P_d}{2H_s} t_n e^{-1} \quad (30)$$

The analytical expression for the MFD with respect to inertia can be derived by establishing the FRAM. Under the anticipated disturbance, the MFD can be solved analytically based on the system inertia by (29) and (30).

Similarly, the corresponding MDI can be analytically determined in reverse for a given MFD constraint.

## III. PROPOSED FAM FOR MDI

### A. Solution for MDI

The direct and fast calculation of MDI under MFD con-

sion of the system frequency can be derived as:

$$\begin{aligned} 2H_s \frac{df(t)}{dt} = & \sum_{i=1}^4 \Delta P_{Gi}(t) + \Delta P_N(t) + \Delta P_M(t) - \Delta P_o + \\ & \sum_{i=1}^4 e^{-\frac{t}{T_i}} \Delta P_{Gi}(0^-) + e^{-\frac{t}{T_a}} P_N(0^-) + e^{-\frac{t}{T_b}} P_M(0^-) + \\ & P_N(0^-) + P_M(0^-) + 2H_s \Delta f(0^-) \delta(t) \quad (27) \end{aligned}$$

### 3) Analytical Solution of MFD

To achieve the explicit analytical expression for the frequency deviation, the FFRM needs to be further analyzed. Assume that the EIL provides power support to the system at moment  $t_0$ . Before  $t_0$ , the external excitation  $\Delta P_{o1}$  is the system disturbance  $\Delta P_d$ , and the system initial state is zero; After  $t_0$ , the external excitation  $\Delta P_{o2}$  is the difference between  $\Delta P_d$  and  $\Delta P_L$ , and the system initial state consists of  $P_{Gi}(0^-)$ ,  $P_N(0^-)$ ,  $P_M(0^-)$ , and  $\Delta f(0^-)$ . Then, the time-domain full-response expression of frequency deviation, as shown in (28), can be obtained.

straint can be realized based on the explicit analytical expression for the frequency deviation. In this case, the quantities to be solved are  $t_n$  and  $H_{\min}$ . A set of low-order quadratic equations can be established to solve them:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta f_{\lim} = -\frac{\Delta P_d}{2H_{\min}} t_n e^{-1} \\ \left. \frac{d\Delta f_2(t)}{dt} \right|_{t=t_n, H=H_{\min}} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

Under the MFD constraint, the specific steps of the proposed FAM are as follows.

*Step 1:* use (6)-(8) and (10)-(12) to aggregate various types of resources in the system into a single machine to establish the AFRM. Obtain the fitting parameters of the conventional units using the least-squares method.

*Step 2:* calculate the output of each unit at moment  $t_0$  based on (17) and (20) to obtain the initial states  $P_{Gi}(t_0^-)$ ,  $P_N(t_0^-)$ , and  $P_M(t_0^-)$ . Calculate the system frequency deviation at moment  $t_0$  using (28) to obtain  $\Delta f(t_0^-)$ .

*Step 3:* substitute  $P_{Gi}(t_0^-)$ ,  $P_N(t_0^-)$ ,  $P_M(t_0^-)$ , and  $\Delta f(t_0^-)$  into (29) and (31). Input the given  $\Delta f_{\lim}$ ,  $\Delta P_d$ , and  $\Delta P_L$ , and then solve  $H_{\min}$  by using the vpasolve function in MATLAB.

Compared with the traditional MDI assessment method, the proposed FAM can quickly obtain the system MDI by solving a simple and low-order binary quadratic equation without establishing a complex simulation model. The calculation steps are straightforward to apply in practical engineering. Figure 7 illustrates the whole framework of the proposed FAM.

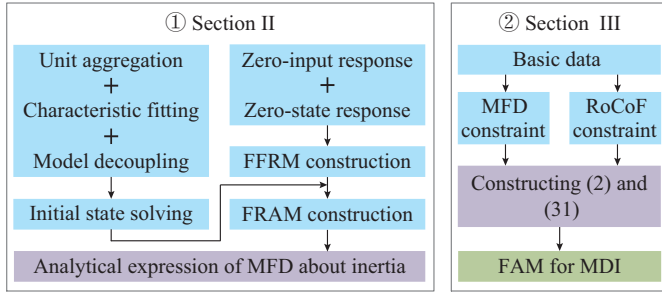


Fig. 7. Whole framework of proposed FAM.

### B. Methods Used for Comparison Analysis

To validate the computational efficiency and accuracy of the proposed FAM, it is compared with the cyclic call approximation method (CCAM) and optimization solution method (OSM), which are based on the FRSM.

1) CCAM: set the initial inertia  $H_0$  and iteration step  $dh$ . Iterate the system inertia starting from  $H_0$  and call AFRM  $F_{AFRM}(\cdot)$  to calculate  $\Delta f_{\max}$ . When the difference between  $\Delta f_{\max}$  and  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  is less than the stopping criterion  $\varepsilon$ , the corresponding inertia is the system MDI under the  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  constraints.

2) OSM: take  $H_{\min}$  as the decision variable,  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  as the constraints, and the minimum absolute difference between  $\Delta f_{\max}$  and  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  as the optimization objective, an optimization model is established to solve the MDI. Intelligent optimization algorithms, such as the genetic algorithm or particle swarm algorithm, can be used to solve the optimization model, which can be expressed as:

$$\begin{cases} \min f(H_m) = |F_{AFRM}(\Delta P_d, H_m) - \Delta f_{\lim}| \\ \text{s.t. } F_{AFRM}(\Delta P_d, H_m) \leq \Delta f_{\lim} \\ 0 < H_m \leq H_{\max} \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

Since AFRM needs to be called to solve the MFD, (32) is a nonlinear optimization model. In this paper, the MATLAB optimization toolbox fmincon is used for the solution.

## IV. CASE STUDIES

To validate the feasibility and validity of the proposed FAM for MDI and to analyze the impact of load-side power support on MDI, the modified IEEE RTS-79 test system and a provincial power grid in China are used for case studies. The model construction and solution are realized by MATLAB 2023b. The computer configuration includes an AMD Ryzen 5 5600GT CPU with Radeon Graphics and 32 GB of RAM.

### A. Introduction to Case System

In the modified IEEE RTS-79 test system, the installed capacity and proportion of each unit can be referred to [36]. The installed system capacity is 3825 MW and the load is 2850 MW (where IM is 60 MW). Among them, the energy storage unit is GFM-IBR, with  $H_{GFM} = 5$  s,  $R_{GFM} = 10$ , and  $T_{GFM} = 0.05$  s. The WT and PV participate in frequency response by virtual droop control, with  $R_{VI} = 10$  s and  $T_D = 0.1$  s. The parameter values of the conventional units can be re-

ferred to [25].

In the provincial power grid, the relevant parameters of each unit are shown in Table II. The installed system capacity is 72541.2 MW and the load is 37500 MW (where IM is 700 MW). The governor type of nuclear power unit (NPU) is the same as that of TPU in the system, so it is modeled as a TPU.

TABLE II  
RELEVANT PARAMETERS OF EACH UNIT

Unit	Capacity (MW)	Proportion (%)	Inertia time constant (s)
WT	14286.2	19.69	
PV	9576.6	13.20	
NPU	6675.2	9.20	13.30
HPU	3343.8	4.61	6.16
TPU	38559.4	53.16	6.35
Storage	100.0	0.14	5.00
Total	72541.2	100.00	4.89

### B. Modified IEEE RTS-79 Test System

#### 1) Computational Accuracy Analysis of FRAM

The accurate analytical expression of MFD is essential to ensure the accuracy of MDI assessment. To validate the computational accuracy of FRAM, its analysis results are compared with those of AFRM, the non-full response analytical model (non-FRAM), and the linear frequency deviation analytical model (LFAM). The non-FRAM refers to the analytical model that cannot consider the effects of secondary power disturbances.

Two disturbance scenarios are established. In Scenario 1, the disturbance is randomly sampled 100 times from 100 MW to 300 MW, while the load side provides 50 MW of power support with a time delay of 1 s. The MFD calculation results in Scenario 1 are compared in Fig. 8(a). In Scenario 2, the disturbance is set to be 300 MW, and the load-side power support is randomly sampled from 0 MW to 100 MW. The MFD calculation results in Scenario 2 are compared in Fig. 8(b).

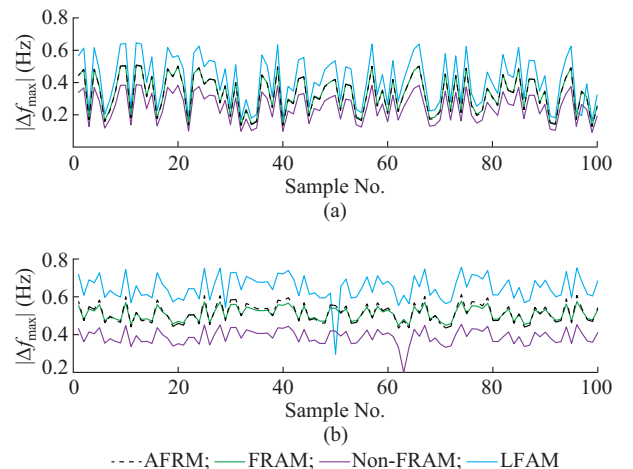


Fig. 8. Comparison of MFD calculation results. (a) Scenario 1. (b) Scenario 2.



As shown in Fig. 8, the results of FRAM are highly consistent with those of AFRM, while the non-FRAM and LFAM demonstrate significant computational deviations. To further validate the computational accuracy of FRAM, Fig. 9 gives the relative error (RE) of the three analytical models by taking the results of AFRM as the benchmark value. Figure 10 further compares the estimation performance of the three analytical models by mean absolute error (MAE), mean absolute percentage error (MAPE), and root mean square error (RMSE).

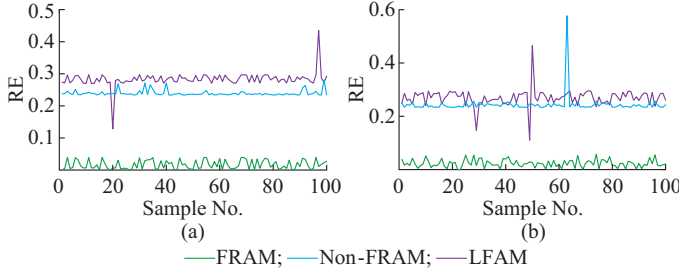


Fig. 9. RE of three analytical models. (a) Scenario 1. (b) Scenario 2.

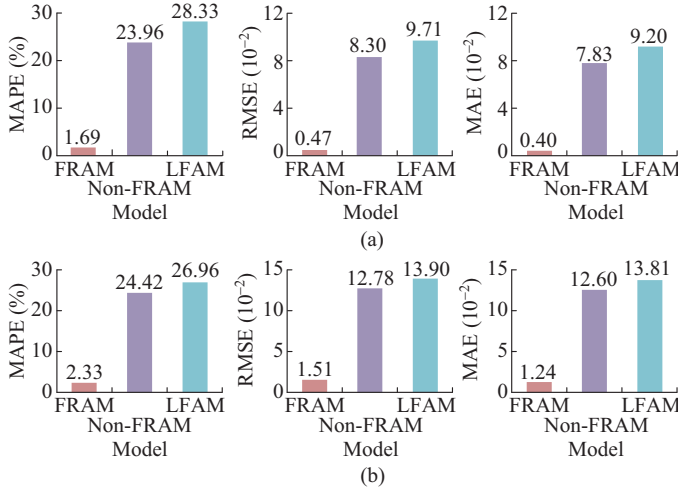


Fig. 10. MAPE, RMSE, and MAE of three analytical models. (a) Scenario 1. (b) Scenario 2.

The computational accuracy of FRAM is far higher than that of non-FRAM and LFAM, with its MAPE being 1.69% and 2.33% in Scenarios 1 and 2, respectively. This demonstrates its capability to accurately compute  $\Delta f_{\max}$ . Moreover, the performance metrics of FRAM surpass those of non-FRAM and LFAM in both scenarios, highlighting its superior computational performance. Non-FRAM fails to consider the secondary power disturbances from the load side, resulting in underestimated calculation results with an MAPE exceeding 20%. The frequency deviation curve simulated by LFAM deviates significantly from the actual curve under load-side power support, resulting in substantial computational errors. The FRAM can realize the accurate calculation of MFD while considering the load-side power support, thereby effectively guaranteeing the accuracy of MDI assessment.

## 2) Analysis of Calculation Accuracy

To evaluate the computational performance of the proposed FAM for MDI, it is compared with CCAM and OSM.

Two scenarios are established. Scenario 3: the disturbance is randomly sampled 100 times from 200 MW to 300 MW, and  $\Delta f_{\max} = 0.5$  Hz. The load side provides 50 MW of power support with a time delay of 1 s. The calculated MDIs in Scenario 3 are compared in Fig. 11(a). Scenario 4: the disturbance size is 300 MW, while the load-side power support is randomly sampled from 50 MW to 100 MW. The calculated MDIs in Scenario 4 are compared in Fig. 11(b). The iteration step of CCAM is 0.0001 s, and the stopping criterion is 0.0001 Hz.

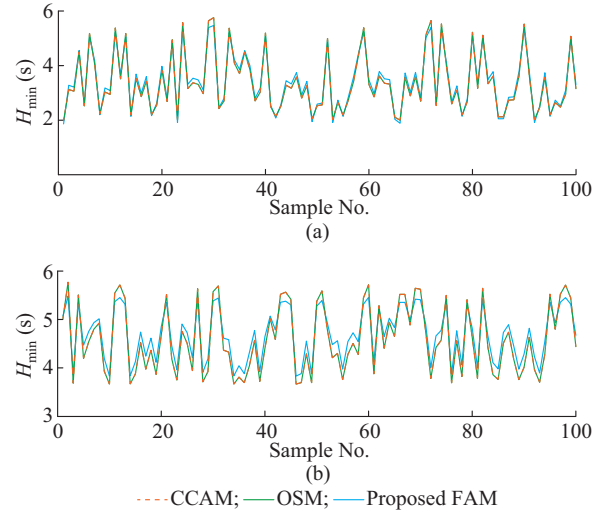


Fig. 11. Comparison of calculated MDIs. (a) Scenario 3. (b) Scenario 4.

From Fig. 11, the computational results of the proposed FAM are basically consistent with those of CCAM and OSM. And the computational results of CCAM and OSM exhibit high agreement, with average absolute errors of 0.27 ms and 0.248 ms in Scenarios 3 and 4, respectively. Since CCAM continuously approximates the system MDI by cyclically calling the simulation model, its results are theoretically closest to the real value. Due to the limited precision of its iteration step and stopping criterion, there remains a minor error relative to OSM. The optimization model of OSM is convex, ensuring that its computational result represents the global optimum. Figure 12 gives the REs of proposed FAM by taking the computational results of OSM as the benchmark.

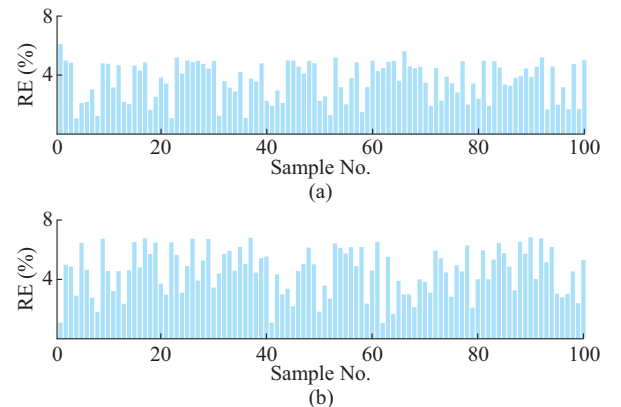


Fig. 12. REs of proposed FAM. (a) Scenario 3. (b) Scenario 4.

From Fig. 12, the REs of the proposed FAM are distributed around 4%, with MAPE being 3.63% and 4.55% in Scenarios 3 and 4, respectively, falling within the acceptable error range. The proposed FAM needs to construct a set of equations by FRAM. Since the FRAM has about a 2% MAPE, some errors are introduced when mapping to the MDI solution. In addition, since  $\Delta P_d$  is nonlinearly related to  $H_{\min}$  under the  $\Delta f_{\max}$  constraint, the calculation error of FRAM may be scaled when mapping to the MDI solution. Therefore, in Fig. 12, the RE fluctuation of the proposed FAM is slightly larger than that of OSM.

### 3) Analysis of Calculation Efficiency

Under the same operating condition, the proposed FAM takes about 70 ms for computation, while the OSM takes about 5.5 s. The CCAM takes up to tens or even hundreds of seconds to compute, and further increases with the smaller the iteration step sizes. Corresponding to Fig. 11, the total computation time is 5.24 s and 6.30 s for 100 iterations of the proposed FAM in Scenarios 3 and 4, respectively, while OSM takes 499.82 s and 622.54 s, and CCAM takes 2303.08 s and 2415.12 s ( $dh=0.01$  s,  $\varepsilon=0.01$  Hz). Although the computational accuracy of the proposed FAM is slightly reduced, its computational efficiency is significantly higher than that of CCAM and OSM. The proposed FAM takes as little as milliseconds for a single calculation, meeting the demand for fast assessment of power grids in massive operation scenarios while maintaining computational accuracy.

### 4) Analysis of Inertia Security Boundary

The inertia security boundary in this paper is defined as the boundary consisting of the MDIs required to ensure that the system frequency indicators do not exceed  $Rof_{\lim}$  and  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  after disturbance, under different frequency security constraints. Based on the proposed FAM, the 3D map of the inertia security boundary can be quickly obtained. The system inertia security boundary under  $Rof_{\lim}$  and  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  constraints is given in Fig. 13, where a power support of 50 MW with a 1 s delay is set on the load side.

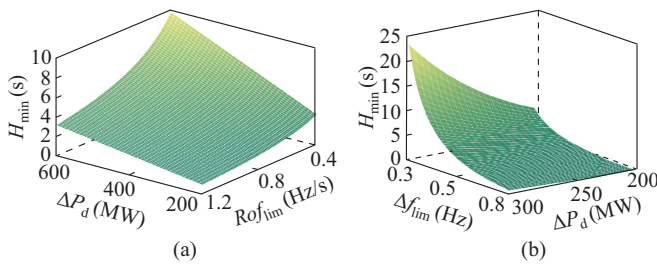


Fig. 13. Inertia security boundary under  $Rof_{\lim}$  and  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  constraints. (a) Under  $Rof_{\lim}$  constraint. (b) Under  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  constraint.

From Fig. 13, the larger the disturbance and the tighter the frequency security constraints, the larger the system MDI. By solving the inertia security boundary, the system inertia security situation in different scenarios can be sensed, thus providing a more comprehensive decision-making basis for the operators.

Under the  $\Delta f_{\lim}$  constraint, the load-side power support can intercept the frequency nadir, thereby reducing the system

demand for inertia. The system inertia security boundaries with load-side power support under different power support sizes  $\Delta P_L$  and different response delays  $t_0$  are given in Fig. 14.

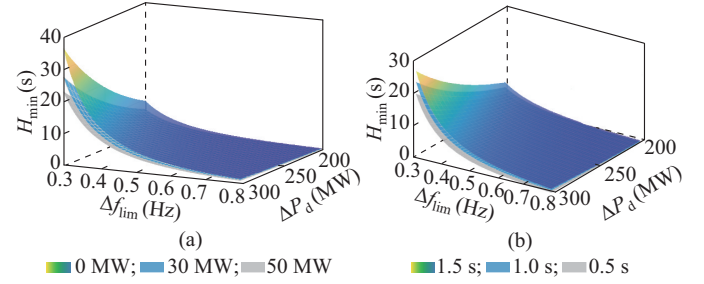


Fig. 14. Inertia security boundary with load-side power support. (a) Under different  $\Delta P_L$  ( $t_0 = 1$  s). (b) Under different  $t_0$  ( $\Delta P_L = 50$  MW).

The comparative analysis in Fig. 14 shows that as  $\Delta P_L$  increases and  $t_0$  decreases, the system inertia security boundary shifts downward accordingly, reducing the risk of system inertia overrun. Neglecting the load-side power support, the inertia security boundary will be higher than the actual result. This discrepancy will provide incorrect inertia overrun information to grid operators, posing security risks for inertia resource planning and allocation.

### 5) Analysis of Renewable Energy Penetration

To analyze the impact of renewable energy penetration on the evaluation accuracy of the proposed FAM, the MAPEs of its sampling calculation results at different renewable energy penetration levels are presented in Fig. 15. In this case, the load side provides 50 MW of power support with a time delay of 1 s,  $\Delta f_{\lim}=0.3$  Hz, and the disturbance is sampled 100 times within the range of 100 MW to 400 MW. Since the GFL-IBR lacks grid-forming ability, the GFM-IBR is used to increase the renewable energy penetration.

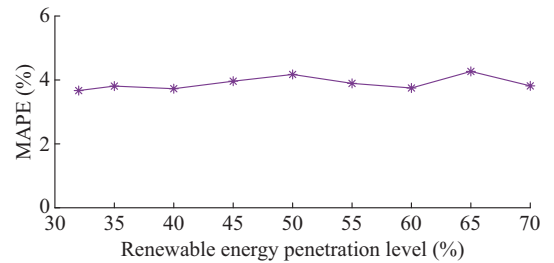


Fig. 15. MAPE at different renewable energy penetration levels.

In Fig. 15, the MAPEs for the sampling calculation results of the proposed FAM are approximately 4% across different renewable energy penetration levels. As the proportion of renewable energy increases, the evaluation accuracy of the proposed FAM remains largely unaffected. Therefore, the proposed FAM can maintain a relatively high computational accuracy for future power systems dominated by grid-forming resources with high renewable energy penetration.

## C. A Real Provincial Power Grid in China

### 1) Analysis of Computational Accuracy

Two scenarios are established. Scenario 5: the load side

provides 100 MW of power support with a time delay of 1 s. The disturbance is sampled 100 times between 2% and 10% of the system capacity. The RE of MFD in Scenario 5 is shown in Fig. 16(a). Scenario 6: the disturbance size is 10% of the system capacity, while the load-side power support is sampled 100 times from 0 MW to 300 MW with a time delay of 1 s. The RE of MFD in Scenario 6 is shown in Fig. 16(b).

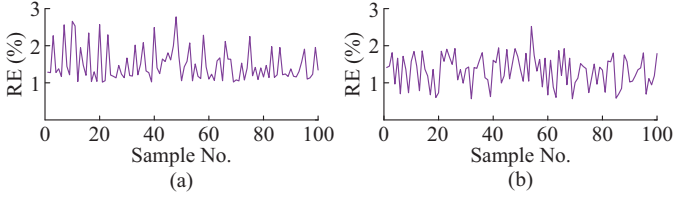


Fig. 16. RE of MFD. (a) Scenario 5. (b) Scenario 6.

Figure 16 shows that the FRAM still demonstrates high computational accuracy in the real provincial power grid. Its MAPEs are 1.49% and 1.32% in Scenarios 5 and 6, respectively. This indicates its capability for fast and accurate calculation for MFD.

To further validate the assessment accuracy and efficiency for MDI, Fig. 17(a) illustrates the RE of MDI corresponding to 100 random samples of the disturbance between 5% and 6% of the system capacity, with 300 MW of power support on the load side (Scenario 7). Figure 17(b) presents the RE of MDI when the disturbance is 6% of the system capacity and the load-side power support is randomly sampled 100 times between 400 MW and 500 MW (Scenario 8). The load-side response delay is set to be 1 s in both scenarios, and  $\Delta f_{lim} = 0.4$  Hz.

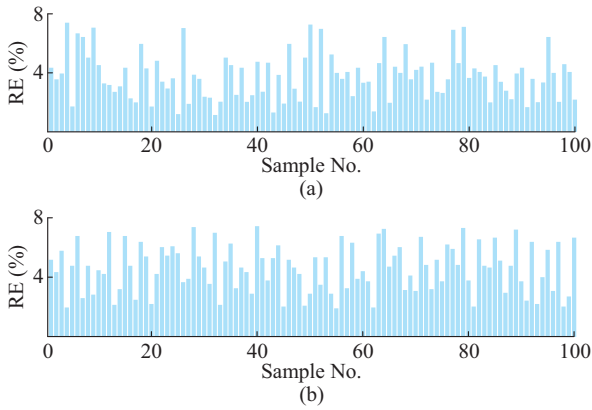


Fig. 17. RE of MDI. (a) Scenario 7. (b) Scenario 8.

Figure 17 shows that the REs of MDI are distributed around 4%, and its MAPEs in Scenarios 7 and 8 are 3.76% and 4.61%, respectively. The proposed FAM for MDI maintains high computational accuracy in the provincial large-scale grid and remains unaffected by the system scale.

### 2) Analysis of Computational Efficiency

Corresponding to the two scenarios in Fig. 17, the total computation time of the proposed FAM is only 4.30 s and 8.01 s, while the OSM costs up to 603.88 s and 730.06 s,

and the CCAM costs up to 2436.95 s and 2594.39 s ( $dh = 0.01$  s,  $\varepsilon = 0.01$  Hz). The efficiency of the proposed FAM is significantly higher than that of OSM and CCAM. Additionally, its average computation time remains around 70 ms, independent of the system scale, demonstrating its high computational efficiency even in large power grids.

The validation and analysis of calculation accuracy and efficiency show that the proposed FAM for MDI significantly improves the MDI assessment efficiency while maintaining high computational accuracy. Moreover, both computational efficiency and assessment accuracy remain unaffected by the system scale. As the system scale and operational scenarios increase, the advantage of the proposed FAM in computational efficiency will be more prominent. Additionally, the modeling and solution of the proposed FAM are straightforward to implement, making it more applicable than traditional MDI assessment methods.

### 3) Analysis of Inertia Security Boundary

In real power grids, decision-makers need to focus on the system inertia security boundary under  $Rof_{lim}$  and  $\Delta f_{lim}$  constraints to obtain more comprehensive inertia overrun information. When the system inertia falls below the inertia security boundary, it indicates that the inertia cannot meet the system demand, and the system is in an inertia overrun state. Figure 18 gives the system inertia security boundary under the two constraints, where the load side provides 300 MW of power support with a response delay of 1 s.

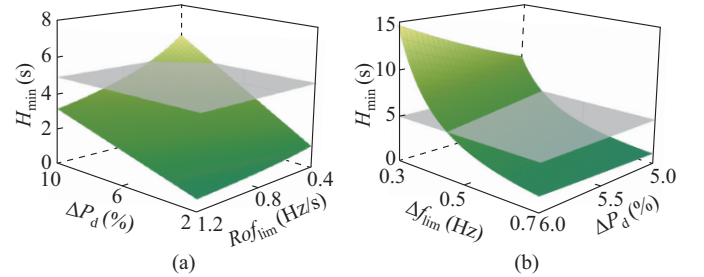


Fig. 18. Inertia security boundary under  $Rof_{lim}$  and  $\Delta f_{lim}$  constraints. (a) Under  $Rof_{lim}$  constraint. (b) Under  $\Delta f_{lim}$  constraint.

To further analyze the effects of load-side power support size and response delay on MDI, the system inertia security boundary is given in Fig. 19 under different power support sizes  $\Delta P_L$  and response delays  $t_0$ .

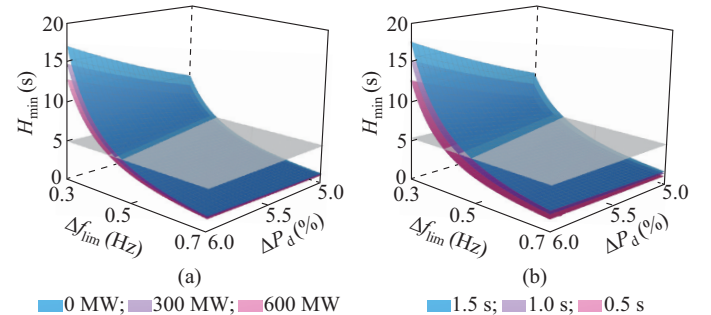


Fig. 19. Inertia security boundary under different power support sizes and response delays with load-side power support. (a) Under different  $\Delta P_L$  ( $t_0 = 1$  s). (b) Under different  $t_0$  ( $\Delta P_L = 300$  MW).



From Figs. 18 and 19, as the disturbance increases and the frequency security constraints tighten, the system MDI rises and exceeds its inertia level. Using the proposed FAM, the system inertia overrun information in different operation scenarios can be quickly obtained, thus providing a fast and comprehensive basis for sensing inertia security situation, resource planning, and allocation. In addition, the inertia support effect provided by the load-side resources in large power grids cannot be neglected. With the increase of load-side power support and response speed, the system inertia security boundary shifts downward, reducing the risk of inertia overrun.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This paper proposes an FAM for MDI in power systems to address the problems of complex modeling and low computational efficiency in existing MDI assessment methods. Theoretical analysis and case studies demonstrate that:

1) The proposed FAM for MDI can significantly improve the computational efficiency while maintaining high computational accuracy. It achieves millisecond-level computation, enabling fast assessment of MDI. Moreover, its computational accuracy and efficiency remain unaffected by system scale, making its advantage more prominent for large-scale power grids and massive operation scenarios.

2) If the inertia support capability of load-side resources in the system is neglected, the MDI assessment results will be larger than the actual results, leading to incorrect decision-making for inertia security situation sensing, resource planning, and allocation. The proposed FAM for MDI can consider the inertia support capacity of load-side resources, yielding results that better match actual grid conditions.

3) As the disturbance increases and the frequency security constraints tighten, the MDI in power systems also rises. The system inertia overrun information in different operation scenarios can be quickly obtained through the proposed FAM. Furthermore, as the load-side power support and response speed increase, the system inertia security boundary expands, and the risk of inertia overrun is correspondingly reduced.

In the future, we will further investigate the proposed FAM of MDI in power system considering the spatio-temporal distribution of inertia.

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