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A review of battery energy storage systems for ancillary services in distribution grids: Current status, challenges and future directions

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Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are essential for increasing distribution network performance. Appropriate location, size, and operation of BESS can improve overall network performance. The appropriately scaled and installed BESS helps meet peak energy demand, improve the advantages of integrating renewable and distributed energy sources, improve power quality control, and lower the cost of expanding or re-configuring the distribution networks. This paper investigates the feasibility of BESS for providing short-term and long-term ancillary services in power distribution grids by reviewing the developments and limitations in the last decade (2010–2022). The short-term ancillary services are reviewed for voltage support, frequency regulation, and black start. The long-term ancillary services are reviewed for peak shaving, congestion relief, and power smoothing. Reviewing short-term ancillary services provides renewable energy operators and researchers with a vast range of recent BESS-based methodologies for fast response services to distribution grids. Long-term ancillary services will provide the distributed network system operators and researchers with current BESS-based bulk-energy methods to improve network reliability and power quality and maximize revenue from renewable energy generation. The review presents a list of energy storage policies and BESS projects worldwide with a cost-benefit analysis. The challenges for deploying BESS in distribution grids recommended solutions for the implementation challenges, and future research directions are also presented.

KEYWORDS

ancillary services, battery energy storage system, distribution grids, long-term ancillary services, short-term ancillary services, renewable energy sources

1 Introduction

Large-scale power plants are traditionally used to provide ancillary services to maintain stable operation of the distribution networks [Islam et al. \(2017b\)](#); [Prakash et al. \(2020\)](#); [Islam et al. \(2017a\)](#). However, the recent increase in renewable energy sources (RESs) has affected the operational schemes of the power grids. The intermittent operation of RESs increases the uncertainties in existing grids and creates technical and operational challenges [Xu et al. \(2021\)](#). The high level of penetration, primarily in the transmission grids, can significantly alter the bulk power system due to intermittent generation and can affect the demand and generation balance, resulting in unusual frequency variations [Wang et al. \(2017\)](#). On the other hand, the active power injections from distributed RESs at the distribution grid can lead to technical issues such as voltage violations, power fluctuations, and network congestion [Nour et al. \(2019\)](#). The traditional power plants are gradually decommissioning due to the increasing penetration of centralized and distributed RESs, which reduces the overall capacity of conventional power plants for ancillary service provision [Kryonidis et al. \(2021\)](#); [Podder et al. \(2020\)](#).

Energy storage systems are capable of providing a variety of distributed auxiliary services and serving as a backup power supply. The integration of BESS in active distribution networks has been encouraged due to the rising penetration of RESs and decommissioning of traditional power plants [Kumar et al. \(2020a, 2020b\)](#). The BESS market, much of which is related to the grid and commercial resilience, is described as 1) ancillary services: short bursts of electricity are provided or absorbed to maintain supply and demand, ensure grid stability (voltage stability), frequency regulation and reserves; 2) peaking capacity: provision of sufficient capacity to satisfy the system's peak demand; 3) energy shifting: increasing system flexibility needs drive uptake. Energy storage is charged during low costs and released when demand exceeds supply. Batteries may be charged using excess renewable energy or assets that become dispatchable when combined with the battery. 4) Transmission and distribution-level: employing ESS as an alternative to traditional network reinforcement, such as to meet an incremental increase in network capacity instead of an expensive line upgrades.

BESS can accommodate different batteries, such as lithium-ion, lead-acid, and nickel-cadmium. The key benefits and drawbacks of common BESS currently employed in power systems applications are presented in [Table 1](#). Besides, each battery type has technical parameters that identify BESS

applications and impact battery energy storage efficiency. The main properties of a battery are its storage capacity, power attribute, round-trip efficiency, depth-of-discharge (DoD), and lifetime. The storage capability defines the quantity of electricity accessible in a BESS or the amount of electric charge stored in a battery, power attribute specifies how much power a battery can supply or how much power a BESS can deliver, round-trip efficiency describes the ratio of energy delivered by a battery (during discharge) to the energy given during a charge cycle, depth-of-discharge (DoD) indicates the percentage of energy discharged from a battery relative to its total capacity whereas lifetime, which is defined as the number of charge and discharge cycles of a battery or the amount of energy that a battery can supply during its lifetime (battery throughput) and safety, shows the battery's compliance with safety requirements. While certain BESS technologies may be reliable and mature [IRENA \(2015a\)](#), with further cost reductions anticipated [IRENA \(2015b\)](#), economic concerns are still preventing BESS from becoming a mainstream solution for ancillary services in power grids [Olatomiwa et al. \(2016\)](#). Inappropriate dispatch strategy for BESS can also lead to instability issues, speedy degradation, and uneconomic operation of power grids [Olatomiwa et al. \(2016\)](#). BESS planning and operation are the key to an effective and efficient solution for grid ancillary support [Jayasekara et al. \(2015\)](#); [Wang et al. \(2018\)](#); [Divshali and Söder \(2017\)](#); [Hashemi and Østergaard \(2016\)](#); [Wang L. et al. \(2015\)](#); [Zeraati et al. \(2016\)](#); [Marra et al. \(2014\)](#); [Tan et al. \(2020\)](#); [Hemmati et al. \(2017\)](#); [Hu et al. \(2014\)](#); [Nair et al. \(2020\)](#).

There are various review papers that have discussed BESS, as shown in [Table 2](#). For example, a review of the methods and applications for battery sizing was presented in [Yang et al. \(2018\)](#). The review provides a valuable contribution to the literature as it clusters battery sizing based on renewable energy sources, making it clear to identify critical metrics and select the most appropriate methods for battery sizing based on various renewable energy applications. However, the review does not cover the applications of BESS for ancillary services in the distribution grids. An overview of the energy storage systems (ESS) in terms of placement, sizing, operation and power quality was presented in [Das et al. \(2018\)](#). The study does not cluster different ancillary service applications of BESS, instead focuses on the ESS placement, sizing, operation and power quality areas. A study of BESS in the United Kingdom (United Kingdom) was presented in [Mexis and Todeschini \(2020\)](#), which describes the BESS-based projects in the United Kingdom and different BESS technologies. The ancillary services provided by BESS

TABLE 1 Main benefits and drawbacks of BESS technologies.

Type	Benefits	Drawbacks	References
Li-ion	High DoD High power High energy density Low discharge rate Stable discharge voltage High cell voltages High cycle efficiency Wide operating temperature Good performance Packing flexibility Recyclable lithium oxides Long life cycle	Environmental and safety issues Require protection technology High cost associated with it Temperature dependent Poor recovery and recycling Need advance energy management system	Ferreira et al. (2013); Sabihuddin et al. (2014); Boicea (2014); Mahlia et al. (2014); Roberts (2009)
Lead acid	Well developed technology Good storage capacity Low self-discharge rate Good packing - spill proof Fast response time Low investment cost compared to Li-ion	Environmental and safety issues Low DoD Low cycling capability Increased costs at low temperature Bulky Low specific energy and energy density	Ferreira et al. (2013); Boicea (2014); Tan et al. (2013); Amrouche et al. (2016)
Sodium Nickel Chloride	High energy density Long life cycle Long discharge time Fast response Low investment cost compared to Li-ion	High operation and maintenance cost High self-discharge Requires heat for molten state temperature	Boicea (2014); Mahlia et al. (2014); Amrouche et al. (2016); Telaretti and Dusonchet (2017)

TABLE 2 Discussion on recent review articles related to BESS.

References	Summary of the article
Yang et al. (2018)	A review of the methods and applications for battery sizing based on different RESs is presented. The review does not cover the applications of BESS for ancillary services in the distribution grids
Das et al. (2018)	A review of optimal placement, sizing and operation of ESS is provided. The review does not cluster different ancillary service applications of BESS, instead focuses on the ESS placement, sizing, operation and power quality areas
Mexis and Todeschini (2020)	A review of BESS in the United Kingdom (United Kingdom) is presented to describe the BESS-based projects in United Kingdom and different BESS technologies. However, the review does not provide an extensive review of common ancillary services provided by BESS, challenges for deploying BESS are not discussed
Stecca et al. (2020)	A review of BESS integration to describe the different BESS technologies, functionalities, sizing, location and control of grid-connected BESS in distribution systems is provided. The review does not provide challenges related to integrating BESS in distribution grids and very brief discussion on the ancillary services is provided
Rotella Junior et al. (2021)	Presents a review of the current status in the literature on the economic analysis of BESS. However, does not describe the BESS applications for ancillary support
Hannan et al. (2021)	A review of optimal BESS sizing, system constraints, optimization model and methodologies, and their benefits and drawbacks is provided. BESS provision for ancillary services were not discussed
de Siqueira and Peng (2021)	A review of control mechanisms for smoothing wind power output using battery energy storage systems is presented. The review was primarily focused on the power smoothing capabilities of BESS with wind application, and does not include other common ancillary services
Sufyan et al. (2019)	Provides a review of the latest technologies, sizing techniques and considerations, efficiency, cost and recycling perspectives of BESS. The application of BESS for ancillary services and the existing challenges were only described from the sizing point of view
Rana et al. (2022)	A review of hybrid-PV BESS is provided to describe the methods for lifetime improvement, cost reduction analysis, optimal sizing and control, power quality issues, and peak shaving. However, does not provide an extensive review of common ancillary services provided by BESS and relevant existing challenges for deploying BESS

were briefly explained. A more extensive description of the common ancillary services specific to the BESS in distribution grids was not provided. The review also does not cover current challenges related to BESS deployment. A comprehensive review of BESS integration in distribution grids was presented in [Stecca et al. \(2020\)](#), which describes the different aspects of integrating BESS in distribution grids. The study was divided into three sections to explain the different BESS technologies, functionalities, sizing, location, and control of grid-connected BESS in distribution systems. However, it does not provide challenges related to integrating BESS in distribution grids, and a very brief discussion on the ancillary services was provided.

A review of the state-of-the-art literature on the economic analysis of BESS was presented in [Rotella Junior et al. \(2021\)](#) but did not describe the BESS applications for ancillary support. Optimal BESS sizing, system constraints, optimization model and methodologies, and their benefits and drawbacks were presented in [Hannan et al. \(2021\)](#). BESS provision for ancillary services was not discussed. A review of control mechanisms for smoothing wind power output using battery energy storage systems was presented in [de Siqueira and Peng \(2021\)](#). The study was primarily focused on the power smoothing capabilities of BESS with wind application and did not include other common ancillary services. Another review of the latest technologies, sizing techniques and considerations, efficiency, cost, and recycling perspectives of BESS was presented in [Sufyan et al. \(2019\)](#). The application of BESS for ancillary services and the existing challenges were only described from the sizing point of view. A review of hybrid-PV BESS was

presented in [Rana et al. \(2022\)](#) to describe the methods for lifetime improvement, cost reduction analysis, optimal sizing and control, power quality issues, and peak shaving.

The investigation of the existing review papers shows that various concepts have been covered in the literature, mainly focusing on optimal siting, sizing, and scheduling algorithms, BESS projects, control algorithms for wind power smoothing, and different BESS technologies. None of the existing surveys have presented an extensive review of BESS-based algorithms for distribution grid ancillary support. This paper extensively reviews the latest research and developments on fixed and static BESS-based solutions for distribution network ancillary support to bridge these research gaps. Relevant journal papers have been selected to provide an up-to-date review in the last decade. The review is divided into short-term and long-term ancillary services. The short-term ancillary services for future distribution grids are reviewed for voltage control, frequency regulation, and black start. Long-term ancillary services are for congestion management, peak shaving, and power smoothing. The findings are summarized in a series of tables with detailed information about different grid ancillary services, optimization algorithms, existing methodologies for BESS planning (siting and sizing), and current control strategies for BESS dispatch and their limitations. This review provides a survey of energy storage policies worldwide. Cost-benefit analysis and a list of field demonstration projects related to BESS are presented. Challenges for deploying BESS are also identified, and future research directions are provided. It should be noted that the research issues associated with mobile battery energy storage systems, such as EVs, are different and have not been covered in this paper.

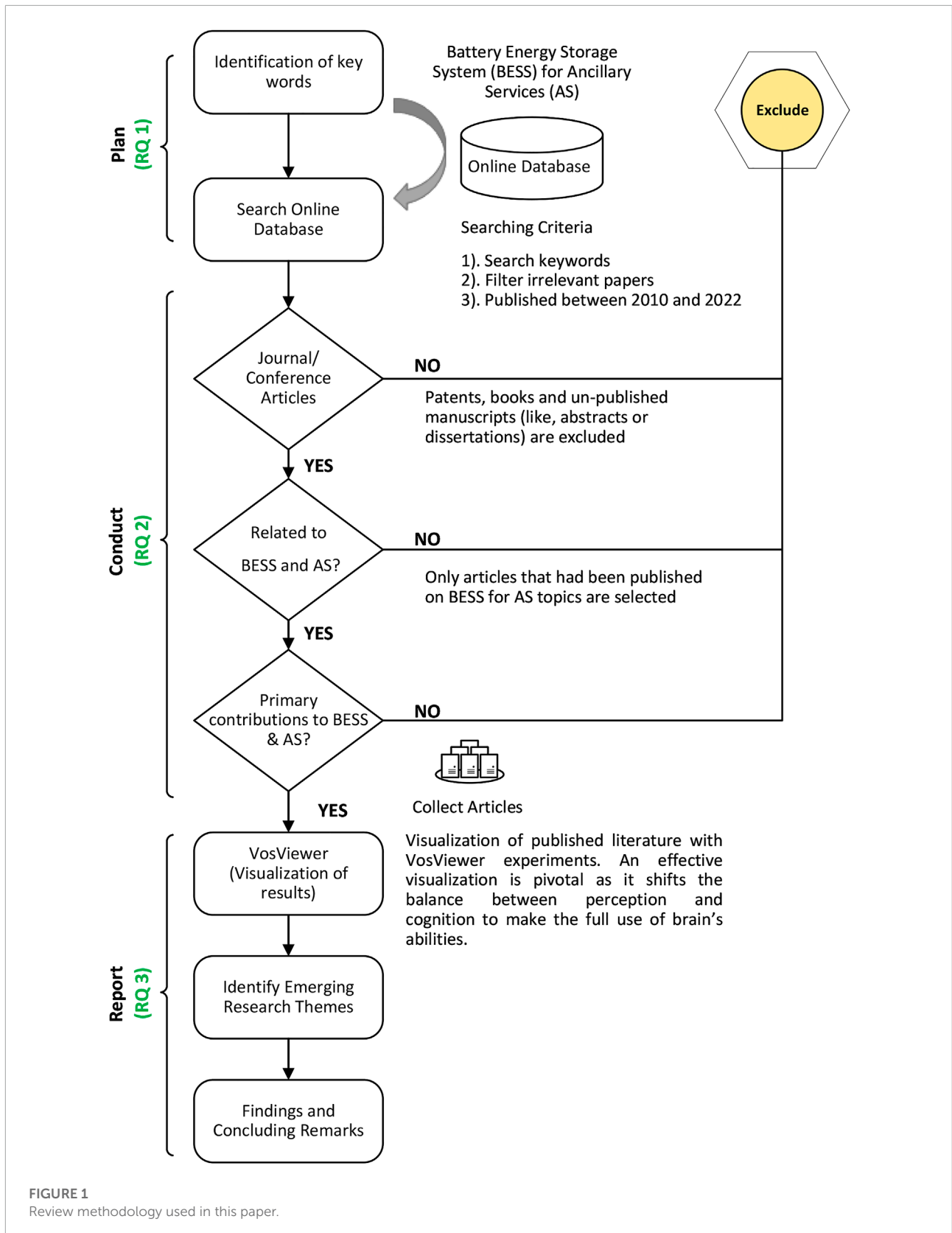
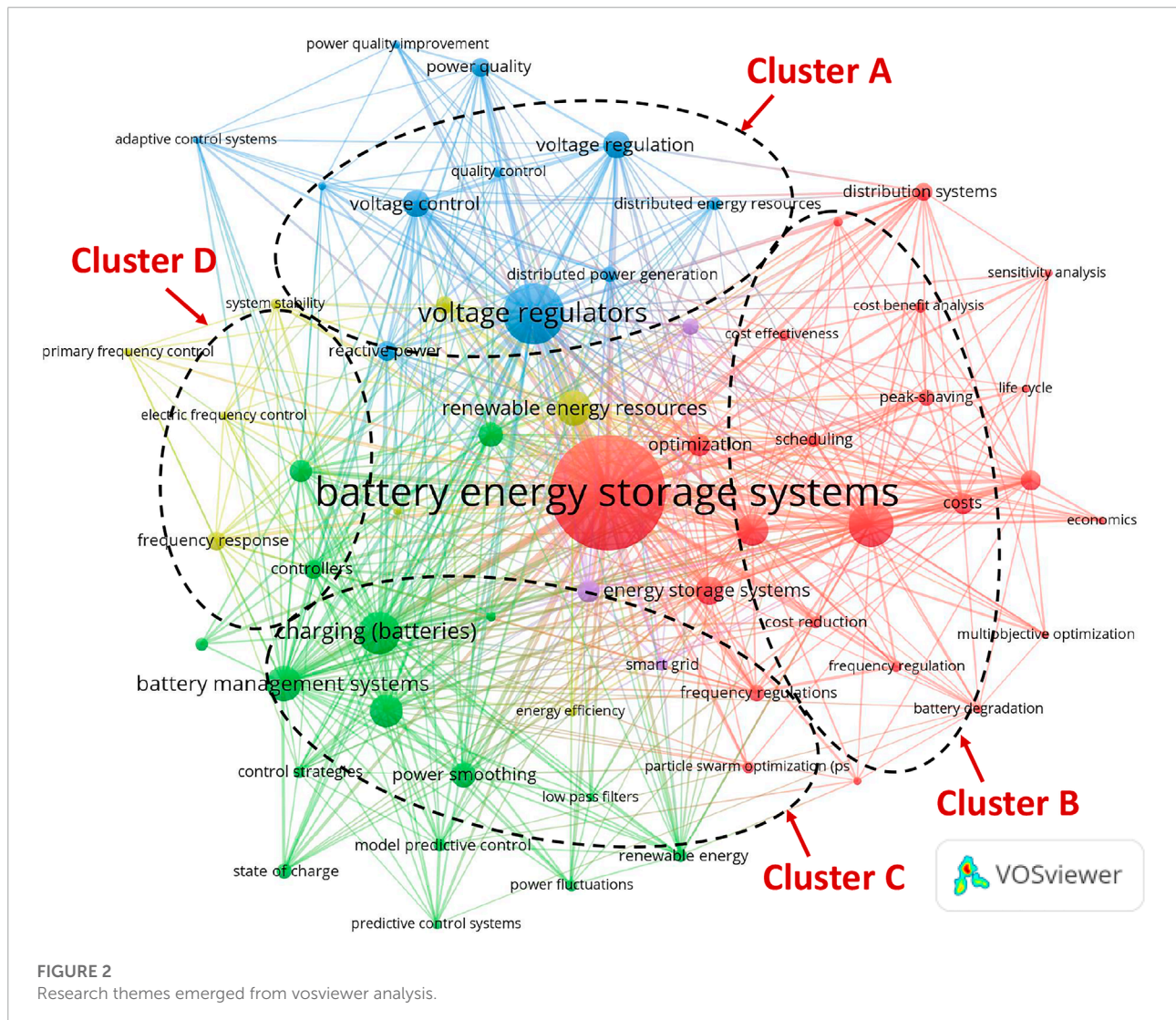


FIGURE 1
Review methodology used in this paper.

TABLE 3 Research questions.

RQ1	What strategies can identify and filter relevant research articles on BESS applications for grid ancillary support in power distribution grids?
RQ2	What type of visualization technique and analysis approach can be utilized to determine the evolving research areas and recent research contributions from dense scholarly data?
RQ3	What are the research gaps in recent research papers? How could potential research opportunities lead to a favorable implication for the research in BESS applications for grid ancillary support?



The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The review methodology is described in [Section 2](#). [Section 3](#) provides a review of ancillary services for distribution grids. The energy storage systems policies are described in [Section 4](#). A list of global BESS projects with cost-benefit analysis is provided in [Section 5](#). [Section 6](#) presents the challenges for deploying BESS, while [Section 7](#) concludes the findings and provides future research directions.

2 Review methodology

The proposed framework for this review is based on the preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (PRISMA) approach to identify and review the published literature over the last decade (2010–2022). The PRISMA approach, as shown in [Figure 1](#), uses a three-step process of planning, conducting, and reporting to provide a

checklist of items that are used to increase the transparency and clarity of reviews [Page and Moher \(2017\)](#). The review questions and the purpose of conducting the study are identified in the planning process. The conducting process helps implement strategies for finding relevant articles and extracting the results. The final reporting process assists in investigating the results from selected papers and delivering the concluding remarks such as current limitations, existing challenges, and potential future research directions. The following subsection describes the planning, conducting, and reporting stages.

2.1 Planning

In this phase, we identify the critical research areas and keywords for research. Then, the research questions, as shown in [Table 3](#), are formulated. The guideline from [Page and Moher \(2017\)](#) has been used to develop the research questions in this paper.

2.2 Conducting

In this process, we use search engines and digital libraries, such as Scopus, Google Scholar, and Web of Science (WOS), to collect relevant resources for the review. A simple search strategy is established using the Boolean operators, such as “AND” and “OR,” to join the keywords. For instance, our search process is established using “Battery” OR “BESS” AND “Ancillary Services” to indicate that any items falling under the terms “Battery” or “BESS” with “Ancillary Services” should be included in the conducting process. In the first round, 941 research papers are collected from the above-mentioned search engines for this research. These papers are collected based on the research topics, contents, and focuses. Then, in the next round, a filtering process is used to eliminate the irrelevant papers, mainly those that do not fit with the scope of this review or are too old. Only the articles published between the years 2010 and 2022 are selected for this review to provide the recent update on research and developments related to the BESS provision for distribution grid ancillary support. In the final filtration process, the majority of the conference papers are removed. Only top-ranked journal papers and a few relevant conference papers that are prepared with BESS for ancillary support in distribution grids are selected. After the final stage of filtration, 115 papers are selected for investigation. These papers are divided into two major sections; BESS provisions for short-term and long-term ancillary services.

2.3 Reporting using vosviewer experiments

For this review, the findings of collected articles are reported using VOSviewer experiments. Scholarly articles, such

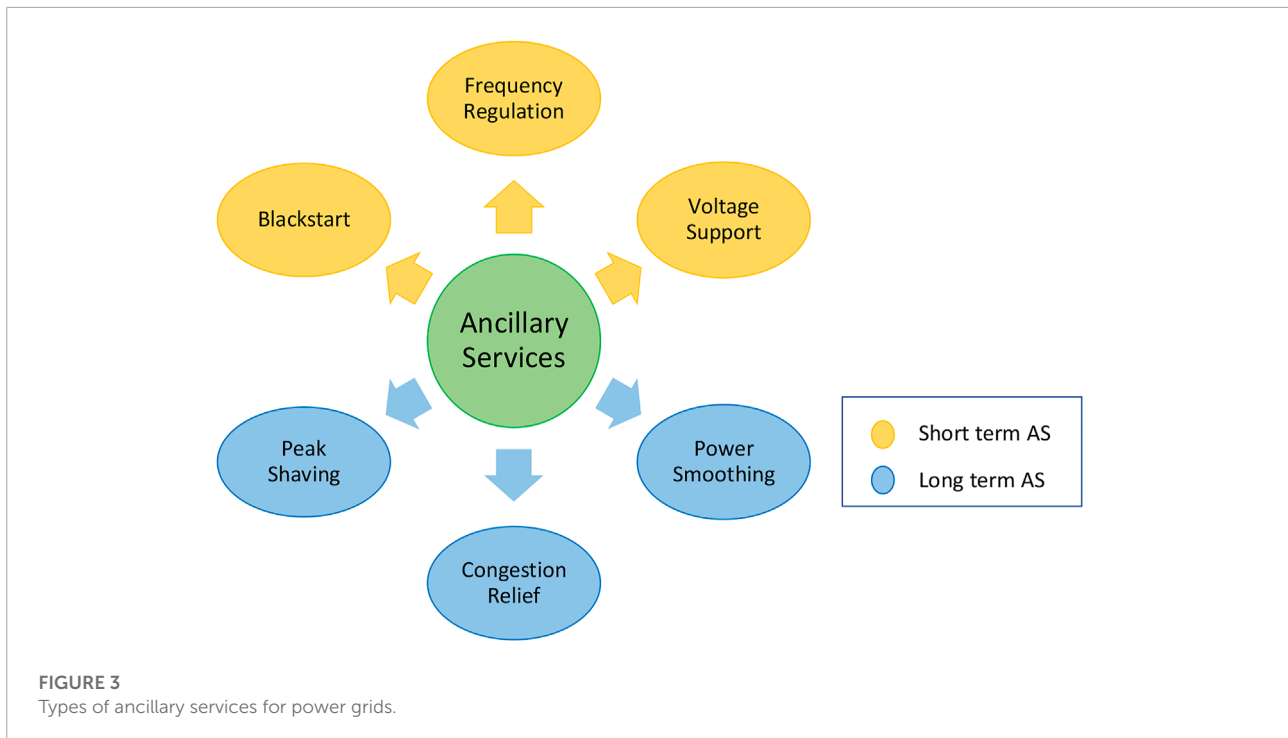
as scientific papers, books, or research reports, typically contain millions of raw data, and analyzing them can be time-consuming and challenging. Introducing clustering solutions is one method to solve this problem [Ali et al. \(2021\)](#). Clustering techniques find similar publications or journals by grouping each article and establishing a citation network. VOSviewer, a powerful visualization tool, is used in this work to provide clustering solutions to identify the most common subjects in the sparse literature. The collected articles from the conducting process are used to create a network visualization map, and the results are presented as visual clusters ([Figure 2](#)). The size of a cluster, as illustrated in [Figure 2](#), shows the number of articles that belong to that cluster. Cluster-relatedness is represented by colored lines between clusters, with line width denoting the number of citations between clusters. Our analysis has found that “battery energy storage systems” have gained significant attention in the last 12 years. The standard ancillary services provided by battery energy storage systems are categorized into four clusters, as shown in [Figure 2](#). The first cluster includes the research and innovations in voltage regulation support using BESS. The second cluster highlights the articles related to peak shaving and congestion management. The third cluster demonstrates the analysis for power smoothing and power quality improvement in distribution grids, whereas the fourth cluster shows the innovations for frequency support. In the terminology of link strength, the keyword “battery energy storage systems” is the largest, appearing 450 times.

3 Ancillary services in distribution grids

Different terminologies are used to classify the types of ancillary services for distribution grids [Malhotra et al. \(2016\)](#). In this paper, the ancillary services for distribution grids are selected and are presented for short-term and long-term applications, as shown in [Figure 3](#). A review of BESS-based methodologies for providing short-term ancillary services to the distribution grids is presented in the following subsection.

3.1 Short term ancillary services

The short-term ancillary services are known as fast response services that are primarily focused on compensating demand and generation unbalance [Mexis and Todeschini \(2020\)](#). BESS can be deployed to improve the grid’s performance by ensuring stable, robust, and reliable grid operation. In this paper, the common short term ancillary services are reviewed for voltage support [Hesse et al. \(2017\)](#), frequency regulation [Farhadi and Mohammed \(2015\)](#) and black-start [Akhil et al. \(2015\)](#).

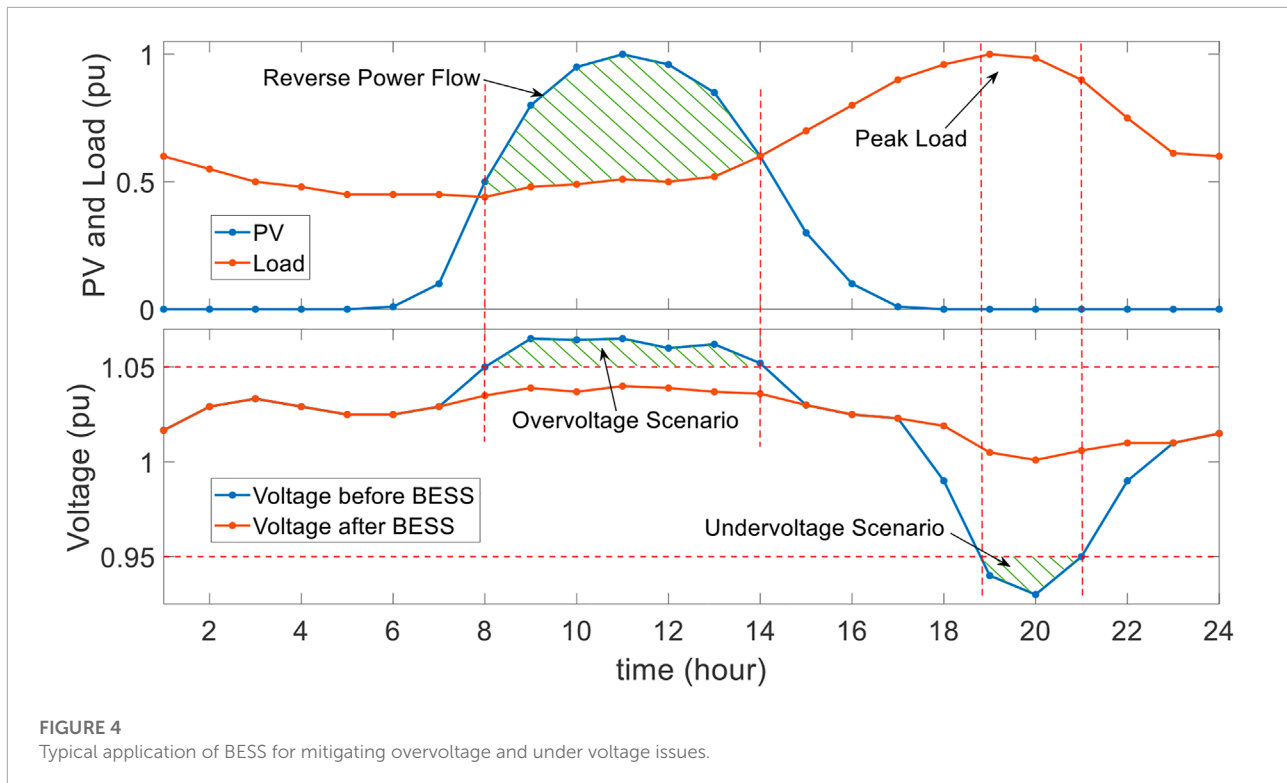


3.1.1 Voltage support

The traditional power distribution grids were designed considering unidirectional power flow, typically from high voltage or medium voltage transformers to the end-users connected via distribution lines [Prakash et al. \(2016, 2017a\)](#). The recent advents of distributed RESs have caused bidirectional power flow in distribution grids, leading to voltage issues in the network [Alyami et al. \(2014\)](#); [Prakash et al. \(2019\)](#); [Mamun et al. \(2022\)](#); [Chand et al. \(2019\)](#). The intermittent renewable energy connected to the power grids must meet the voltage requirements and standards to guarantee that the nominal grid voltages operate within limits [Prakash et al. \(2022a\)](#). Several solutions have been proposed to overcome voltage issues in distribution networks. Curtailing power to reduce the demand and generation unbalance is a traditional approach for mitigating overvoltage, but it limits the maximum utilization of RES [Alyami et al. \(2014\)](#); [Chand et al. \(2020a\)](#). Providing reactive power support from PV converters [Samadi et al. \(2014\)](#), installing sensors and voltage regulators [Chamana and Chowdhury \(2018\)](#), adjusting on-load tap changers [Todorovski \(2014\)](#) or even re-configuring the grid [Shayani and de Oliveira \(2010\)](#) are other traditional solutions in the existing literature. While the traditional approaches can effectively mitigate voltage problems, they lead to increased network losses, and excessive green energy curtailment [Chaudhary and Rizwan \(2018\)](#); [Chand et al. \(2020b\)](#); [Islam et al. \(2018\)](#).

The recent advancements of BESS and their flexible nature provide a promising and most effective solution for voltage support in active distribution grids [Chaudhary and Rizwan \(2018\)](#). BESS can act as a load and a generator, and can be switched on and off instantaneously. They can be used to consume excess renewable generation during peak generating hours and reduce the overvoltage issues in the network [Chaudhary and Rizwan \(2018\)](#). Similarly, they can act as a generator during peak load hours to reduce the under-voltage issues. A typical example of a BESS application for mitigating overvoltage and under-voltage issues is shown in [Figure 4](#). The generation from photovoltaic units exceeds the load demand between 08:00 to 14:00, creating excessive reverse power flow at the substation and resulting in overvoltage issues. Similarly, between 19:00 to 21:00, the peak load causes voltage issues. As shown in [Figure 4](#), BESS is charged and discharged accordingly to mitigate the overvoltage and under-voltage issues, respectively.

In this paper, the control schemes of BESS for voltage regulation are characterized as centralized, decentralized, and localized. A centralized control schemes adopts a single central control center that gathers the required measurements from the distribution grid (primarily through the smart meters or remote terminals). Then the central controller retrieves the information and responds to the voltage problems by communicating the set-points to the distributed energy resources and voltage control devices [Antoniadou-Plytaria et al. \(2017\)](#). The decentralized controllers gathers local measurements, process them, and



provides counteractions to appropriately control the voltage profiles. Decentralised controllers have more flexibility and reliability compared to the centralized controllers as they can be based on zone controllers rather than on single DER controller. This provides flexibility for multiple point of control to regulate voltage issues in distribution grids [Antoniadou-Plytaria et al. \(2017\)](#). Finally, the localized control are mainly the inverter based volt/var controller that creates a closed-loop dynamical system in which the measured voltage influences the reactive power injection to impact the voltage profiles [Farivar et al. \(2015\)](#). A literature survey for centralized, decentralized and localized control is presented as follows.

3.1.1.1 Centralized control

Considering the centralized control, a method for optimal planning and operation of community BESS to provide voltage support to the distribution network was proposed in [Jayasekara et al. \(2015\)](#). The planning and operation of BESS were done from the system operators' perspective, assuming that the community BESS is owned and operated by them. The aim of the research was to provide an overview of voltage support using bulk-energy from BESS. As a result, the study was mainly suitable for medium voltage or large-scale systems and did not consider multiple distributed BESS installations. In a practical scenario, multiple BESS could operate at the same time and optimal coordination might be required to maintain smooth and steady operation of the grid [Wang Y. et al. \(2015\)](#). A control strategy to

coordinate photo-voltaic (PV) generators and BESS for voltage regulation in medium voltage distribution grids was proposed in [Wang et al. \(2018\)](#). But, the methodology did not provide any economic analysis to demonstrate the benefits/savings for minimizing BESS charging/discharging and SVR tap operations.

Moreover, a novel optimization model for siting and sizing of central BESS in a low voltage distribution network was proposed in [Divshali and Söder \(2017\)](#). The objective function was formulated to achieve voltage regulation and increase the hosting capacity limit of the network. The research only considers steady-state conditions for designing the controller for hosting capacity improvements and does not consider any dynamic studies. Dynamic studies can provide better and more accurate analysis as it will allow to model the complex scenarios and various uncertainties such as transient conditions, real-time distribution grid behavior and batch and semi-batch processes [Divshali and Söder \(2018\)](#). A centralized methodology that mitigates the voltage violations in low voltage distribution grids by combining the support from BESS operation and reactive power of distributed RESs was proposed in [Hashemi and Østergaard \(2016\)](#). The method is highly dependent on the input parameters such as electricity price and grid data (including network topology, line characteristics, and locations of PV), which could be challenging to obtain in a real practical scenario [Ali et al. \(2020a,b\)](#). A method has used a centralized control scheme to coordinate multiple BESS for voltage regulation in a distribution network in [Wang L. et al. \(2015\)](#).

3.1.1.2 Decentralized control

The centralized control for voltage regulation requires uninterrupted communication between central and BESS controllers. The efficiency of the centralized controller is decreased if the communication is interrupted or lost. As a result, the support for regulating voltage problems is not guaranteed [Kryonidis et al. \(2021\)](#). The distributed control does not require global grid information; instead, a communication link between neighboring installations is required [Antoniadou-Plytaria et al. \(2017\)](#). Voltage rise or drop issues were solved using the distributed BESS in [Wang Y. et al. \(2015\)](#). A coordinated control scheme was proposed that comprises distributed and localized controllers. The distributed control has used a consensus algorithm to regulate the voltage issues while the localized control maintains the desired BESS state of charge (SoC). Similar research has used consensus-based control strategies to achieve voltage regulation by ensuring that appropriate BESS SoC is maintained in [Zeraati et al. \(2016\)](#). However, the methodology does not include battery degradation analysis and uses 100 percent charging and discharging efficiency of BESS in most of the investigation, which maybe impractical. According to the research in [Wankmüller et al. \(2017\)](#), battery degradation must be included in the optimization models as they are very crucial for providing realistic estimates of profitability.

Voltage regulation was achieved using distributed control strategy that combines the management of plug-in electric vehicle batteries and curtailment of PV generation in [Zeraati et al. \(2017\)](#). The consensus-based control algorithm ensures that curtailment of PV generation is only applied when the plug-in electric vehicles cannot regulate voltage issues. A distributed BESS management scheme using reinforcement learning to mitigate overvoltage issues in a PV-rich distribution grids was proposed in [Al-Saffar and Musilek \(2020\)](#). The results shows that the methodology mitigates voltage issues by controlling network-wide installed BESS and minimizes power losses due to power transfer in the network. However, other practical factors such as thermal constraints and unbalanced scenarios of distribution grids were not considered, which did not demonstrate the scalability of the methodology to larger practical distribution grids. Event triggered voltage control techniques to optimize BESS power for voltage regulation in power grids were proposed in [Kang et al. \(2022\)](#) and [Zhang et al. \(2022\)](#).

3.1.1.3 Localized control

It is evident from the existing literature that centralized and decentralized controls require reliable communication between storage controllers. Voltage regulation is not guaranteed in case of any communication issues in the distribution network. To eliminate the communication requirement and dependency, localized controls have been proposed in the literature. A simple yet most common local control of residential BESS has used excess PV power to charge the BESS and discharge when

PV generation is low or zero in [Barcellona et al. \(2019\)](#). The methodology proposed does not provide battery degradation analysis and considers full discharge of the battery, which is impractical and can affect the battery's health in real scenarios. Additionally, an optimization model without any battery degradation analysis could lead to an inaccurate estimation of the profitability [Wankmüller et al. \(2017\)](#). A similar control based on voltage sensitivity analysis to mitigate overvoltage issues in the distribution network was proposed in [Marra et al. \(2014\)](#). The signal for BESS charging is triggered by using a predefined PV power threshold. The methodology was further extended to address the under-voltage issues during peak demand in [Cortés et al. \(2018\)](#). Still, BESS support for weak grid dynamics, such as integrating electric vehicles and high penetration of renewable energy sources, were not considered.

Adaptive control to manage the operation of BESS for voltage regulation and congestion management of distribution grids was proposed in [Procopiou et al. \(2018\)](#). A model-driven control algorithm to incorporate BESS for voltage regulation in distribution grids was proposed in [Krata and Saha \(2018\)](#). A similar coordinated control strategy to coordinate BESS operation with the on load tap changers for voltage regulation in distribution feeders was proposed in [Tewari et al. \(2020\)](#). However, the proposed scheme was only tested on the IEEE test cases. The working principle of the methodology on a real distribution grids with various regulation devices were not demonstrated.

3.1.2 Frequency regulation

According to the IEEE/CIGRE Joint Task Force on Stability Terms, frequency stability is described as “the ability of a power system to maintain steady frequency following a severe system upset resulting in a significant imbalance between generation and load” [Kundur et al. \(2004\)](#). To ensure that the frequency variation is within the specified limits, it is essential to immediately balance any differences between demand and generation [Rajan et al. \(2021\)](#); [Chand et al. \(2020c\)](#). Failure to maintain the frequency within acceptable limits may lead to cascaded outages and blackouts [Rajan et al. \(2021\)](#). BESS has flexible and fast response characteristics that can balance demand and generation by either consuming or producing power based on the network requirements. The following discussion is divided into two parts. First, the research on providing frequency regulation support with BESS is discussed. Then, the innovations and control algorithms related to BESS for multiple purposes, including frequency control, are presented.

3.1.2.1 BESS for frequency regulation

A novel approach for optimal BESS sizing to stabilize the frequency during high PV generation hours was proposed in [Aghamohammadi and Abdolahinia \(2014\)](#). The researchers in [Wu et al. \(2015\)](#) have proposed an algorithm to coordinate PV and BESS for frequency regulation. Bus-signaling technique was

used to ensure that the BESS is never over or undercharged. Still, the methodology was based on a trade-off between the investment of communication links and the high quality of power supply, which may vary based on different applications. A direct ramp rate control technique to manage the BESS SoC and their support functionality for frequency regulation was used by the research in [Bullich-Massagué et al. \(2017\)](#). However, it does not consider optimal sizing of BESS for frequency regulation. Inappropriate or random BESS size could add to unnecessary costs and lead to technical problems such as creating frequency oscillations, increasing system losses or causing system collapse [Kerdphol et al. \(2016\)](#). Also, the ramp rate control was designed considering a substantial restriction with a time window of 2 s, which can lead to unnecessary power oscillations. A coordinated control strategy using torque limit control and BESS to enhance the temporary inertial response of the wind turbine generators and mitigate the secondary frequency drop issues, respectively was proposed in [Wu et al. \(2017\)](#). The methodology does not consider BESS's optimal size and location, which could help achieve a trade-off between optimal frequency regulation performance and economic perspectives of BESS. The controller aims to enhance the BESS lifespan by avoiding excessive use, so the BESS is smoothly disconnected once the predefined frequency limit is reached.

A controller for frequency regulation was designed by combining the adaptive droop control and SoC recovery control for BESS in [Tan et al. \(2020\)](#). The research aims to provide a controller that can improve the BESS's system frequency dynamics and performance. A control algorithm for BESS to participate in primary frequency regulation in power grids was developed in [Meng et al. \(2021\)](#). The methodology was tested on different load disturbances to demonstrate the benefits of virtual inertia control and droop control. A location-dependent control of BESS for fast frequency response services was proposed in [Zhao et al. \(2021\)](#). After comparison with other centralised approaches, it was found that the proposed methodology in [Zhao et al. \(2021\)](#) can provide faster-acting frequency support. However, several uncertainties such as communication delays were not considered in the study, which could be helpful to demonstrate the practical scenarios of power grids.

3.1.2.2 BESS for multiple applications, including frequency support

The application of BESS has been analyzed for multiple purposes instead of only frequency support. A novel control strategy to utilize the maximum reserve capacity of BESS for primary frequency control and self-consumption was presented in [Engels et al. \(2019\)](#). A linear recharging method for controlling the BESS SoC guarantees an adequate BESS energy reserve for self-consumption. A comparison of revenue generated for a single application (frequency regulation) and multiple applications (frequency regulation and

self-consumption) of BESS was made. It was found from the obtained results that the BESS for multiple applications increases the revenue by 25%. A similar study presented a framework for maximizing the profit of BESS in [Zhang et al. \(2016\)](#). However, it did not include high ramping effects of BESS in the economic assessment. The ramping effects of BESS have a direct impact on the degradation and, if not analyzed properly, can lead to increased investment costs [Rajan et al. \(2021\)](#).

An optimal BESS planning strategy for frequency control in a Mexican power grid was proposed in [Ramírez et al. \(2018\)](#). The objective function was modeled to site the BESS based on the distributed renewable energy penetration limit and generation contingency. Then, a droop controller was implemented to control the BESS for frequency regulation. Although the methodology provides positive results for regulating the system frequency, the analysis does not consider any limits for BESS SoC, which could result in speedy degradation of BESS. Also, the placement methodology allocates BESS on larger transient frequency deviation buses and is only limited to the primary frequency control application. A novel methodology was used to control a utility scale BESS for primary frequency and local voltage regulation services in [Zecchino et al. \(2021\)](#). A similar study proposed a re-configurable BESS emulation tool for frequency and voltage support in [Boles et al. \(2019\)](#). Unlike other existing emulators, the emulator proposed in [Boles et al. \(2019\)](#) incorporates BESS power electronics and control interface to automate frequency and voltage support services. A study examined and presented the application of BESS for multiple ancillary services, including voltage regulation, congestion relief, demand response, self consumption, energy arbitrage, and frequency regulation in [Maeyaert et al. \(2020\)](#). Some common ancillary services such as power smoothing, peak shaving and black-start were not covered. Optimal planning of BESS was done in [Wu et al. \(2021\)](#) to determine appropriate size of BESS for frequency regulation and energy arbitrage.

3.1.3 Black-start

The ability of the grid to restore its working state after being shut down due to faults is known as black-start [Datta et al. \(2021\)](#). In a power system grid, any black-start source should have the capacity to self-start, supply the required power to the non-black-start units, and immediately provide support to stabilize grid voltage, and frequency [Datta et al. \(2021\)](#). In the recent literature, BESS is an ideal and widely accepted solution for black-start in power grids due to its voltage source converter-based active and reactive power regulation capabilities.

A two-stage methodology to coordinate multiple BESS for black-start was proposed in [Li C. et al. \(2020\)](#). The first stage partitioned BESS into twenty-four operating modes considering the working partitions of BESS SoC. Adaptive control was then used to manage the BESS charging/discharging power and predefined SoC constraints in the second stage. A methodology

to restart the grid using wind power generators was presented in [Liu and Liu \(2019\)](#). To ensure reliable operation of the wind generators and minimize any distribution model mismatch during the black-start process, optimal siting and sizing of BESS was done. An optimization methodology for black-start using PV-BESS was proposed in [Li et al. \(2019\)](#). The optimization process was collectively solved in three layers; the data analysis layer was used to analyze/predict available PV power for black-start, and the coordination layer was used to determine the optimal control quantity of PV units and BESS power. In contrast, the scheduling control layer has determined the actual control process of PV and BESS controllers.

Moreover, the application of BESS for black-start was validated using a real case study of an Italian MV distribution grid in [Manganelli et al. \(2018\)](#). The effectiveness of BESS for black-start in distribution grids was demonstrated using different scenarios; BESS in coordination with distributed generators and BESS alone. However, the study does not consider detailed modeling and experimental activities for investigating transient, voltage, and frequency control. As a result, scalability of the methodology to a practical system cannot be guaranteed. The methodology can only be implemented in a practical system once the distribution system operator can fully control the DG [Izadkhast et al. \(2022\)](#). A similar investigation in [Strunck et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Strunck et al. \(2021\)](#) determined the black-start capability of an actual distribution grid in Germany that has a high share of BESS and combined heat and power (CHP) plants. Still, the dynamic effects and protection devices that have a significant role in system restoration were not considered. A practical wind farm with high-capacity BESS in Hailar was used for black-start in [Liu et al. \(2016\)](#). The effectiveness of the proposed black-start scheme was validated by simulating the actual East Hailar thermal power plant. A controller to evaluate the performance of BESS for providing voltage and frequency support during black-start was designed in [Izadkhast et al. \(2022\)](#). It was found that BESS has full capabilities for stabilizing the voltage profile and regulate the frequency during black-start.

A summary of the BESS-based methodologies for short-term ancillary services is presented in [Table 4](#). The literature is categorized based on the three short-term ancillary services; voltage control, frequency regulation, and black-start. Research contributions, methodologies, and the limitations of each research article are described.

3.2 Long term ancillary services

The long-term ancillary services are also known as “bulk energy,” which aims to store and use a large amount of energy to obtain an efficient and economical power system operation [Akhil et al. \(2015\)](#). BESS in transmission and distribution grids

are operated over a long period for ancillary support to improve the system's efficiency and reduce the costs of producing and delivering electricity [Mexis and Todeschini \(2020\)](#). Congestion relief, peak shaving, and power smoothing are reviewed for long-term ancillary services in this paper.

3.2.1 Congestion relief

Congestion management in distribution networks refers to reducing the overloading of distribution network equipment. Due to the recent increase in distributed energy resources, overloading in distribution networks has become a major technical issue which leads to stability and security issues, uneconomic operation of the grid, damaging of network equipment, or even collapsing the grid if not mitigated on time [Gupta et al. \(2017\)](#); [Prakash et al. \(2017b\)](#). The traditional solutions for mitigating the congestion of distribution grids include network configuration, utilization of compensating devices, managing on-load tap changers or re-scheduling the loads, and generating units [Pillay et al. \(2015\)](#). The recent literature indicates that BESS if appropriately managed, can be the most promising and efficient solution for managing congestion issues in the distribution grids [Kryonidis et al. \(2021\)](#). This section reviews the most recent BESS-based solutions for congestion management in power distribution grids.

A novel methodology for optimal planning and scheduling of BESS to avoid thermal overload in distribution grids was proposed in [Hemmati et al. \(2017\)](#). The objective function was used to minimize the total power flow in the network, hence reducing congestion, minimizing power losses, enhancing network stability, and improving network reliability. However, the methodology did not consider battery degradation analysis and did not demonstrate the scalability to a larger practical distribution grid. Similar research mitigates voltage and line loading issues in the distribution network in [Bahramipناه et al. \(2016\)](#). A decentralized control algorithm was proposed to manage the distributed BESS where the communication between different areas and regions of the network is achieved using the concept of multi-agents. Low voltage distribution grid congestion was reduced by deploying centralized community BESS in [van Westering and Hellendoorn \(2020\)](#). BESS control was formulated and solved by a linear optimization problem and a linear programming solver.

A coordinated scheme mitigates distribution line and transformer overloading by managing the charging strategy of multiple EVs in [Hu et al. \(2014\)](#), but does not analyze the economic feasibility of utilizing EV batteries for congestion management. Similar charging strategies for roof-top PV and BESS integrated EV charging stations were proposed to avoid transformer overloading issues in [de Mattos Affonso and Kezunovic \(2018\)](#) and [Datta et al. \(2020\)](#). A novel approach for BESS charging/discharging to mitigate uncertainties related to

TABLE 4 Summary of short term ancillary services.

References	Ancillary services	Contributions	Limitations
Jayasekara et al. (2015)	Voltage regulation, peak shaving	Receding horizon hierarchical control for optimal operation of BESS to enhance hosting capacity	Mainly suitable for medium voltage or large scale systems, does not consider multiple BESS installations and their provision for reactive power support
Wang et al. (2018)	Voltage regulation	Open process control was proposed for real time coordinated voltage control using BESS, SVRs and PV inverters	Does not provide any economic analysis to demonstrate the benefits/savings for minimizing BESS charging/discharging and SVR tap operations
Divshali and Söder (2017)	Voltage regulation	Quadratic power control was proposed for optimal sizing and placement of BESS to improve hosting capacity	Only considers steady-state conditions for designing the controller for hosting capacity improvements. Does not consider any dynamic studies
Hashemi and Østergaard (2016)	Voltage regulation	A control approach based on voltage sensitivity analysis was proposed to control BESS for mitigating overvoltage	The methodology is highly dependent on the input parameters such as electricity price and grid data (including network topology, line characteristics and locations of PV), which could be difficult to obtain in a real practical scenario
Wang et al. (2015a)	Voltage control	Coordinated control scheme is proposed to coordinate multiple BESS for voltage regulation	The methodology is only designed for mitigating overvoltage issues, however, could have been upgraded to include under-voltage and peak shaving scenarios
Wang et al. (2015b)	Voltage control	Coordinated control and the consensus algorithm was used to coordinate distributed BESS charging/discharging for voltage regulation	The scalability of the methodology to a practical and large-scale distribution grid was not demonstrated
Zeraati et al. (2016)	Voltage regulation	Droop control and the consensus algorithm is used to coordinate BESS charging/discharging for voltage regulation	Does not include battery degradation analysis, uses 100 percent charging and discharging efficiency of BESS in most of the analysis, which is impractical
Al-Saffar and Musilek (2020)	Voltage regulation	Reinforced learning is used to coordinate BESS charging/discharging for mitigating overvoltage issues	Does not consider practical factors such as thermal constraints and unbalanced scenarios of distribution grids, which fails to demonstrate the scalability to larger practical grids
Barcellona et al. (2019)	Voltage control	Proportional-integral (PI) based battery control strategy was developed for PV plants	Does not provide battery degradation analysis, considers full discharge of the battery, which is impractical and can affect the health of the battery in real scenarios
Marra et al. (2014)	Voltage control	A method based on voltage sensitivity analysis was used for decentralized storage control for voltage regulation	The scalability of the methodology to a large-scale practical scenario is not demonstrated. The methodology was only tested for a set of predefined case studies on a typical seven bus distribution network
Cortés et al. (2018)	Voltage regulation, loss minimization	A novel battery management algorithm was developed to manage BESS charging/discharging	BESS support for weak grid dynamics, such as integration of electric vehicles and high penetration of renewable energy sources was not considered
Procopiou et al. (2018)	Voltage regulation, thermal reduction	Adaptive decentralized control to manage residential BESS for reducing voltage and thermal issues	Does not include BESS degradation analysis, economic analysis is not provided to demonstrate the benefits of residential BESS for mitigating technical issues
Tewari et al. (2020)	Voltage regulation	A coordinated control strategy was proposed to coordinate BESS operation with the on load tap changers for voltage regulation in distribution feeders	The working principle of the methodology on a real distribution grids with various regulation devices were not demonstrated
Wu et al. (2015)	Frequency control	Bus signalling method (BSM) was used for coordinated performance of grid based on BESS SoC	The methodology is based on a trade-off between the investment of communication link and high quality of power supply, which may vary based on different applications
Bullich-Massagué et al. (2017)	Frequency control	Direct ramp rate control was used for dynamic SoC and BESS functionality control to regulate frequency	Does not consider optimal sizing of BESS for frequency regulation. Ramp rate control was designed considering a strong restriction with time window of 2 seconds, which can lead to unnecessary power oscillations

TABLE 4 (Continued) Summary of short term ancillary services.

References	Ancillary services	Contributions	Limitations
Wu et al. (2017)	Frequency regulation	Torque limit control for frequency regulation using BESS and wind turbine generators	Does not consider optimal size and location of BESS, which could have been useful in achieving a trade-off between optimal frequency regulation performance and economical perspectives of BESS
Tan et al. (2020)	Frequency regulation	Adaptive droop control was proposed to control BESS dispatch for frequency regulation	Does not consider economic analysis to demonstrate the benefits of frequency regulation capacity provided by BESS
Zhao et al. (2021)	Frequency regulation	A location-dependent control of BESS was proposed for fast frequency response services	Does not consider several uncertainties such as communication delays, which is necessary for demonstrating the practical scenarios
Engels et al. (2019)	Frequency regulation, peak shaving	Dynamic programming was presented to optimize and control BESS for frequency regulation and peak shaving	Degradation analysis for BESS is not provided which could have been useful in demonstrating the health of the battery after certain charging/discharging cycle
Ramirez et al. (2018)	Frequency control	Bat Optimization Algorithm to determine the optimal siting and sizing of BESS for frequency control	BESS degradation analysis is not provided and economic analysis of BESS is not done. The placement methodology allocates BESS on larger transient frequency deviation buses and is only limited for the primary frequency control application
Liu and Liu (2019)	Black-start	Copula modelling was proposed to determine optimal size of BESS for black-start	The scalability of the methodology to a larger practical power grid is not demonstrated
Li et al. (2019)	Black-start	Similarity ranking matrix and probability inclination were used for optimizing PV-BESS to restore the grid	The methodology does not consider the impacts of load fluctuation and intermittent PV generation on voltage and frequency in distribution grids
Manganelli et al. (2018)	Black-start	Supervisory control was proposed to investigate BESS capability for black-start in real grid	Does not consider detailed modeling and experimental activities for investigating transient, voltage and frequency control. The methodology can only be implemented in a practical system once the distribution system operator has full control of the DG.
Strunck et al. (2019)	Black-start	Static load flow simulation was adopted for black-start of a real distribution network using BESS and CHP	Dynamic effects and protection devices, that have a significant role in system restoration were not considered
Strunck et al. (2021)	Black-start	Iterative control was developed for optimal restoration of real distribution grid using BESS	The dynamic simulations for possible switching sequences were not optimized. In a practical environment, the switching sequences changes based on difference factors, mainly environmental and network operating conditions
Liu et al. (2016)	Black-start	A coordinated control scheme for black-start using wind farm and high capacity BESS was proposed	Does not consider optimal configurations of BESS and self starting capabilities of wind farms

RESs and relieve congestion in power grids was proposed in Prajapati and Mahajan (2021). Although the methodology provides impressive results, optimal planning of BESS is required to demonstrate a practical scenario. The methodology considers assumed BESS sizes, which could be oversized or undersized for the grid. Random or assumed BESS sizes can result in additional costs and lead to technical problems, which could affect the normal operation of the grid Kerdphol et al. (2016).

A model predictive control to determine the optimal dispatch of PV-BESS was presented in Nair et al. (2020). A multi-objective function was used to mitigate the congestion issues, delay the BESS degradation, and improve self-consumption. A methodology for optimal BESS siting, sizing, and dispatch to improve the stability and reliability of a medium voltage distribution grid by relieving congestion was presented in Mohamed et al. (2020).

3.2.2 Peak shaving

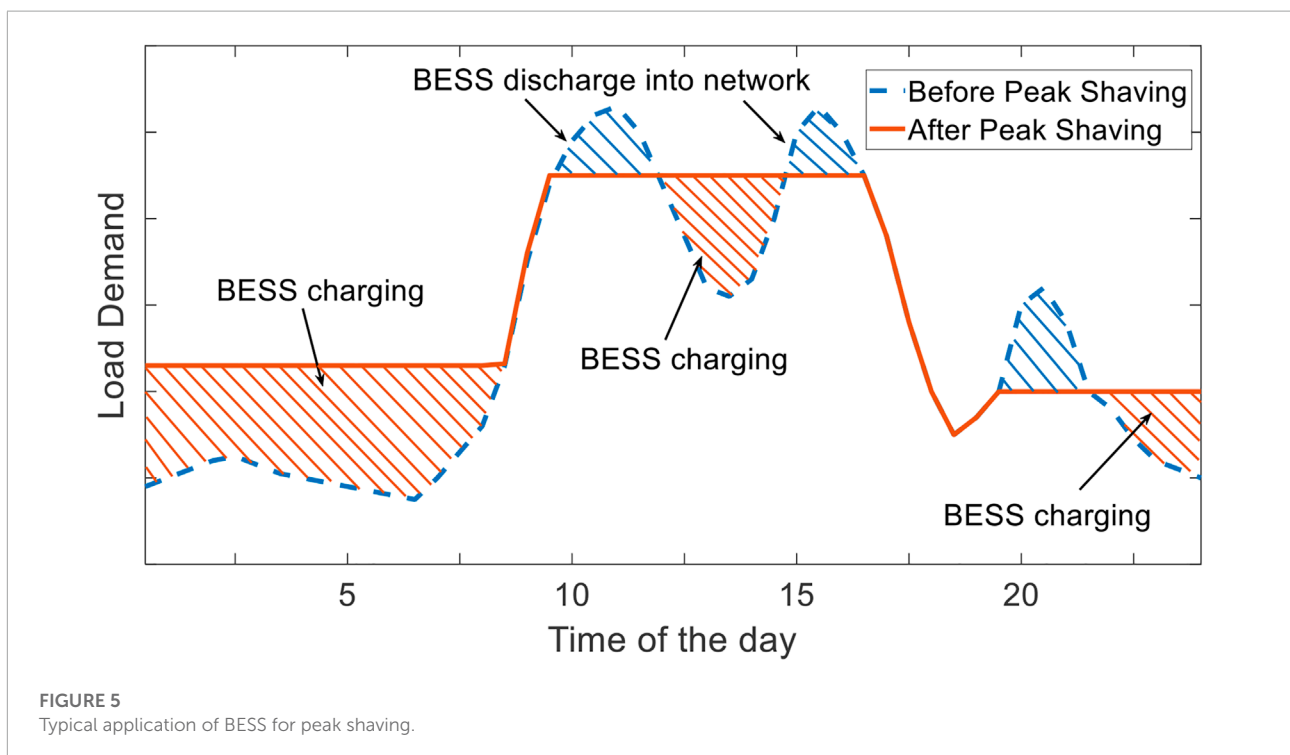
Peak load occurs only for a small portion of time during the day and does not often coincide with peak generation Uddin et al. (2018). A traditional approach is to install additional generating units for meeting the peak load, known as the capacity addition technique Uddin et al. (2018); Prakash et al. (2022b). This approach is not an economical solution as the distribution system operators need to install and manage additional generating units only for a few hours per day Mishra and Palanisamy (2018). It also leads to increased carbon emissions and speedy degradation of network equipment

Mishra et al. (2013). Peak shaving is a process of flattening the load curve by lowering the peak load and transferring to an off-peak period Nourai et al. (2008), which is a preferred solution to overcome the drawbacks of the capacity addition technique. Characteristics of BESS make it a promising solution for peak shaving in power grids where BESS can be charged during the off-peak period (low demand) and discharged during peak-period (high demand) Farsadi et al. (2016). A typical example of BESS application for peak shaving is shown in Figure 5. The BESS is charged during off-peak hours, between 01:00 to 08:00, 12:00 to 15:00, 22:00 to 24:00, and discharged during peak hours (10:00 to 12:00 and 15:00 to 17:00) to flatten the load curve.

In this paper, BESS-based solutions for peak shaving are classified into two categories; planning (siting and sizing) and operation (scheduling), respectively. Deployment of BESS is cost-sensitive, and installing oversized or undersized BESS can lead to several technical issues such as voltage violations, thermal overload, or increased losses in the network Uddin et al. (2018). As a result, planning becomes an essential part of the deployment process. The efficiency and lifetime of the BESS depends how they are dispatched Uddin et al. (2018). Optimum dispatch can help to increase the efficiency of BESS, maximize the revenue and delay the battery degradation. Recent research and innovations related to the aforementioned areas are described as follows.

3.2.2.1 Optimal planning of BESS for peak shaving

A novel BESS sizing strategy for peak shaving considering the historical load profiles of customers was proposed in



Chua et al. (2016). Adaptive control was used to maximize the peak demand reduction of a commercial building in Malaysia. However, the key input to the methodology is the historical load profiles of residential customers, which can be considered confidential information in a practical scenario Ali et al. (2022b,a, 2020c). Optimal BESS allocation in a typical radial distribution network was done by formulating a multi-objective function, aiming to minimize peak shaving, power losses, and investment costs in Lakshmi and Ganguly (2019). The multi-objective function was modeled using Pareto approximation and solved using the particle swarm optimization (PSO) algorithm. The scalability of the methodology to a practical distribution grid is not guaranteed as the study does not consider any uncertainties in load demands and renewable generations, coordination between inverters, PVs, and BESSs, and unbalanced characteristics of distribution grids. A similar research determined the optimal capacity of BESS to shave the peak load of a building at Naresuan University (NU), Phitsanulok, Thailand in Prasatsap et al. (2017). Still, it does not consider battery degradation analysis which is necessary to demonstrate the effects of battery charging and discharging on their health and loss of life. A novel methodology used the Malaysian tariff to determine optimal BESS capacity for maximizing electricity bill savings and peak shaving of commercial and industrial buildings in Subramani et al. (2018). A three-step coherent strategy to determine the optimal size, location, and operation of BESS for peak shaving using historical load data was proposed in Danish et al. (2020). However, the methodology requires customers' historical load data as input, which could be confidential and difficult to obtain in practical scenarios.

3.2.2.2 Optimum operation of BESS for peak shaving

Several methodologies to optimize the operation of BESS for peak shaving in distribution grids were presented in the literature. For example, a rule-based control strategy for peak shaving was proposed in Manojkumar et al. (2021). Dynamic load and feed-in-tariffs are used for day-ahead load and PV profile predictions, which are then used to optimize the charging/discharging of BESS to reduce peak load. A similar research has presented a combination of predictive control and load/generation forecasting for peak shaving at shopping malls in Barchi et al. (2019). It was found that the proposed methodology can effectively shave 55% of the load when the electricity price is maximum and thus provide maximum profit to the customers. Dynamic programming was used to control the BESS for peak shaving and primary frequency regulation in Engels et al. (2019).

A coordinated control strategy to optimize the number of vanadium redox batteries and their charging/discharging profiles for peak shaving was proposed in Li J. et al. (2020). However, the study did not consider the degradation analysis of the batteries which is required to demonstrate the effects of charging

and discharging on their health and loss of life. A controller was designed based on a predefined threshold load for BESS charging/discharging in Lucas and Chondrogiannis (2016). The command was set to charge the BESS when the load is below 10 kW and discharge when the load exceeds 400 kW. Although the control scheme proposed is simple and reasonably effective for peak shaving, the variations in load demands were not analyzed. Also, the methodology did not demonstrate how multiple distributed BESS could interact with the system operators while providing their services.

3.2.3 Power smoothing

In distribution grids, most of the distributed RESs comprise PVs and wind generators Kryptonidis et al. (2021). PV and wind have common intermittent characteristics, and their output power depends on the availability of the primary energy source, Sun and wind. This intermittency can affect the stability and reliability of power grids as the variations in Sun, and wind availability can lead to technical issues such as voltage fluctuations (flicker), which can affect the performance of voltage regulating devices Islam et al. (2016); Prakash et al. (2017b). The most common traditional approaches for mitigating power smoothing issues are to operate the distributed RESs below the maximum power point (MPP) limit or actively utilize load participation to minimize the output power fluctuation of the renewable generators Sukumar et al. (2018). While these approaches can be reasonably successful for power smoothing, they can increase the energy losses, reduce the efficiency of renewable generators and increase the operating costs. The fast response characteristics of BESS provide a potential power smoothing solution for modern power grids with high renewable energy penetration, where BESS can be deployed to operate as an energy buffer/filter Datta et al. (2021). The following discussion is divided into two parts to describe the recent control strategies for power smoothing using BESS by considering wind and solar generation applications.

3.2.3.1 BESS for wind power smoothing

An intelligent control strategy for wind output power smoothing was proposed in Lin et al. (2017a). The control strategy has used a recurrent fuzzy neural network to determine the wind power smoothing curve, which was then compared to the actual wind power. Any differences between the actual and the smoothed power were filtered through BESS charging/discharging. A finite-time convergence robust control algorithm of BESS was proposed to reduce wind power fluctuations in Deng et al. (2017). The conservative estimation of maximum uncertainty guaranteed stability but resulted in chattering effects. The chattering effects can damage the system in practical scenarios. Hence, a real-time estimation of uncertainties is required to enhance the dynamic capabilities of the controller. A control strategy for short-term wind output

TABLE 5 Summary of long term ancillary services.

References	Ancillary services	Contributions	Limitations
Hemmati et al. (2017)	Congestion relief	Monte Carlo simulation was used for optimal planning and scheduling of BESS to reduce network congestion	Does not consider battery degradation analysis and does not demonstrate the scalability of the methodology to a larger practical distribution grid
Bahramipannah et al. (2016)	Congestion relief, voltage regulation	Zonal control was proposed for mitigating voltage and congestion issues using BESS	Does not demonstrate the scalability of the methodology to a larger practical grid
Hu et al. (2014)	Congestion relief	Coordinated control was proposed for the coordination of EV battery charging to reduce thermal overloading in distribution transformers	Does not analyse the economic feasibility of utilizing EV batteries for congestion management
Datta et al. (2020)	Congestion relief	Smart coordinated control strategy was proposed to control BESS in PV integrated EV charging station for reducing transformer overload and PV power smoothing	Does not consider BESS degradation analysis which is necessary for minimizing the BESS loss-of-life
Prajapati and Mahajan (2021)	Congestion relief	Non-linear programming was proposed to determine optimal charging/discharging of BESS for relieving distribution grid congestion	Does not consider optimal planning (sizing) of BESS. The sizing of BESS is determined from available six different BESS capacities in steps of 25 MW
Nair et al. (2020)	Congestion relief	Model predictive control was proposed to determine optimal dispatch of BESS for congestion relief and self-consumption	Does not consider optimum input parameters (such as weight) for the multi-objective optimization problem, which could affect the accuracy of the results
Mohamed et al. (2020)	Congestion relief	Meta-heuristic optimization was proposed to determine optimal planning and scheduling of BESS for congestion management in MV distribution network	Does not demonstrate the scalability of the methodology to a large and complex system
Chua et al. (2016)	Peak shaving	Adaptive control was proposed for optimal BESS sizing using historical data	Key input for the methodology is the historical load profiles of residential customers, which can be considered as a confidential information in a practical scenario
Lakshmi and Ganguly (2019)	Peak shaving	Particle swarm optimization was used to solve a multi-objective planning problem for selecting optimal BESS locations	The methodology does not consider uncertainties in load demands and renewable generations, coordination between inverters, PVs and BESSs, and unbalanced characteristics of distribution grids
Prasatsap et al. (2017)	Peak shaving	Time-based control and differential power criteria were used to optimize the size of battery for peak shaving in commercial and industrial buildings	Does not consider battery degradation analysis to demonstrate the effects of battery charging and discharging on their health and loss-of-life
Danish et al. (2020)	Peak shaving	Coulomb counting method was proposed to determine optimal planning and control of BESS	The methodology requires customers historical load data as an input, which could be considered confidential and may be difficult to obtain in certain practical scenarios
Manojkumar et al. (2021)	Peak shaving	Rule based control and genetic algorithm were presented for day ahead load and generation prediction using dynamic load and feed-in tariffs	Scalability of the methodology to a larger and complex system was not demonstrated
Barchi et al. (2019)	Peak shaving	Predictive control was used to implement BESS charging and discharging strategies considering load and generation prediction	Does not verify whether the predictive energy control methodology can flatten the load profiles for grid ancillary support
Li et al. (2020b)	Peak shaving	Coordinated control was proposed to optimize the number of Vanadium redox batteries and their dispatch for peak shaving	Does not consider degradation analysis of the batteries to demonstrate the effects of charging and discharging on their health and loss-of-life
Lucas and Chondrogiannis (2016)	Peak shaving, frequency regulation	Classical decoupled d-q axis control was used for charging and discharging of BESS based on threshold load	Does not demonstrate how multiple distributed BESS could interact with the system operators while providing their services

TABLE 5 (Continued) Summary of long term ancillary services.

References	Ancillary services	Contributions	Limitations
Lin et al. (2017a)	Power smoothing	Recurrent fuzzy neural network (RFNN) was proposed for wind power smoothing using BESS	The methodology does not consider reactive power from wind and batteries. Only the active power from wind and BESS are considered
Deng et al. (2017)	Power smoothing	Finite time convergence was used to develop a robust control for BESS to obtain wind power smoothing	The conservative estimation of maximum uncertainty guarantees stability but causes chattering effects, which could damage system. A real time estimation of uncertainties are required to enhance the dynamic capabilities of the controller
Jannati and Foroutan (2020)	Power smoothing	Heuristic based control was developed for short-term wind power smoothing using BESS while delaying the degradation	Does not consider the state of health of the batteries and their effects on the power allocation strategies
Altin and Eymaya (2018)	Power smoothing, energy management	First order low pass filter was used to design a controller to mitigate wind power fluctuations and energy management	The controller is mostly suitable for large-scale battery systems
Syed and Khalid (2021)	Power smoothing	Neural network predictive control was used to mitigate PV power fluctuations	Precision of the neural network plant model is dependent on the quality of data
Lin et al. (2017b)	Power smoothing	Probabilistic fuzzy neural network was used to develop an intelligent control scheme for PV power smoothing using probabilistic fuzzy network and BESS	Does not consider health of the battery in the simulation. Excessive charging or discharging the battery's or even significant delays could have a negative impact on the battery's health
Atif and Khalid (2020)	Power smoothing	Savitzky-Golay filter was used for smoothing PV power with the help of BESS	The methodology leads to unnecessary battery consumption and increases the battery cost if a significant delay is introduced
Nazaripouya et al. (2017)	Power smoothing	Convex optimization was proposed to control BESS for PV power intermittency smoothing using optimized two staged filter	One of the key inputs for designing the filter is the cut-off frequency, which is selected based on historical power data. Selecting inappropriate cut-off frequency may affect the overall results

power smoothing using BESS was proposed in [Jannati and Foroutan \(2020\)](#). The methodology aimed to reduce power fluctuation, however, it did not consider the state of health of the batteries and their effects on the power allocation strategies. A combined algorithm for energy management and wind power smoothing using BESS was proposed in [Altin and Eyimaya \(2018\)](#).

3.2.3.2 BESS for solar power smoothing

A neural network predictive control algorithm to mitigate PV power fluctuations in distribution networks was proposed in [Syed and Khalid \(2021\)](#). The controller optimized the BESS SoC using the input parameters from the neural network model (predicted PV power). Still, the precision of the neural network plant model is dependent on the quality of data. A similar study obtains PV power smoothing using a probabilistic fuzzy neural network and BESS in [Lin et al. \(2017b\)](#), but does not consider the health of the battery in the simulation. Excessive charging or discharging of the batteries or even significant delays could have a negative impact on the battery's health. The methodology uses Savitzky-Golay filter for PV power smoothing with the help of BESS in [Atif and Khalid \(2020\)](#). The results show that the method leads to unnecessary battery consumption and increases the battery cost if a significant delay is introduced. A BESS control for PV power intermittency smoothing using an optimized two-stage filter was proposed in [Nazaripouya et al. \(2017\)](#). More BESS-based algorithms for power smoothing and improving power quality can be found in [Lallu et al. \(2017\)](#); [Islam et al. \(2020\)](#); [Guo et al. \(2020\)](#).

Table 5 presents a summary of the BESS-based methodologies for long-term ancillary services, which are classified as congestion management, peak shaving, and power smoothing. For each journal article, the method, significant contributions, and limitations are summarized and presented in **Table 5**.

4 Energy storage policies worldwide

Several countries and governments have introduced energy storage system policies to motivate higher adoption of clean energy generation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The policies from different countries differ as they are developed based on their requirements. For instance, Australia and the United States have introduced policies to improve the power systems' stability. Japan aims to provide backup power support during emergency shutdowns due to the damages from natural disasters, Germany adopted policies to promote higher renewable energy integration in the grid, while South Korea aims to reduce peak demand using higher adoption of BESS [Lee \(2015\)](#); [Sani et al. \(2020\)](#). Although all policies have a different perspective toward BESS, they are not limited to one

specific area and are flexibly operated to provide multiple grid ancillary support. The ESS policies of different countries are described as follows.

4.1 Australia

Under the ARENA Act 2011, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) was founded in 2012 to lower the cost and increase the use of renewable energy in Australia. ARENA, which now serves as Australia's primary ESS development support mechanism, has made significant investments in battery storage as they know that the ESS technology can help the agency achieve its goals and objectives [Australian renewable energy agency \(2022\)](#).

A low carbon investment plan policy strategy was developed by the South Australian (SA) government in 2015. The government has made substantial investments toward low-carbon energy and has already attained 52.1 per cent renewable energy penetration [Clean energy council \(2020\)](#). Through this project, ESS will primarily be used to prevent power quality and curtailment problems that could result from the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources [H. Britton \(2015\)](#). Moreover, the Adelaide City Council was the first Australian government to give direct financial incentives for battery storage coupled with solar PV installations in 2015 as part of the sustainable city incentive scheme. The scheme was introduced to target business owners, residential customers, community organizations, and educational institutions. Soon after the program started and its potential became apparent, the SA government matched Adelaide City Council's funds to construct a 600 kWh battery energy storage S.C. [Staff \(2016\)](#). The SA government introduced the home battery program in October 2018 to offer subsidies to residential customers installing batteries alongside their rooftop solar PV systems [Home battery scheme \(2020\)](#). To provide the necessary grid support services, the SA government erected the Hornsdale power reserve, the largest Li-ion battery in the world (100MW/129 MWh). The details of these projects can be found in **Section 5**.

The Sustainable Energy Policy Framework, introduced in 2011, supports the Australian Capital Territory's (ACT) ambitious goal of generating 100 per cent renewable energy by 2025. The government believes battery ESS is essential to attaining some of the policy's goals [ACT Government \(2011\)](#). One of the government's schemes, Next Generation Renewables, made it easier for 5,000 families and companies by installing 36 MW of battery storage between 2016 and 2020 [Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate \(2021a\)](#). Another program created to aid the development of the clean economy is the Renewable Energy Industry Development Strategy (REIDS), which aims to develop the ESS and

renewable industries in ACT [Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate \(2021b\)](#).

4.2 United States

To increase and develop new markets for ESS in the United States, both the federal and state governments have promoted policies that encourage investment, tax reduction, subsidy assistance, and extension of public supply [Lee \(2015\)](#). The primary contribution of the state governments is to encourage higher adoption of ESS and renewable energy by developing policies to provide subsidies for new ESS and renewable installations. In contrast, the federal government's aim is to promote business investments [Lee \(2015\)](#). A list of most common ESS policies and contributions of the US government are described below.

- Section 1301 of the legislation helped the American Energy Innovation Act to authorize a 5 year fund of
- \$1.4 billion for ESS research and development in 2020 [American Energy Innovation Act \(2020\)](#).
- Farm Bill (2019) provided financial support to the programmes run by the Department of Agriculture to promote ESS installations on farms and small businesses in rural communities [Energy Storage Association \(2020\)](#).
- The Advanced Research project's Agency provided funding for long-term energy innovation in 2018 to support the development of technologies that can utilize ESS to power the US grid for 100 h A [Zablocki \(2019\)](#).
- ESS tax incentive bill S.3159 was introduced in 2016 to provide tax credits for ESS that have a minimum capacity of 5 kWh [Congressional Research Service \(2016\)](#).
- Residential Energy Property Tax Credit provides incentives to the ESS owners with a minimum capacity of 3 kWh [Martin Heinrich \(2016\)](#).
- Storage 2013 Act was introduced to encourage high installations of ESS by providing tax incentives to the owners and businesses [United States Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources \(2013\)](#).
- Law HB2193 was imposed in 2015 to ensure that the utilities have a minimum five MWh operational ESS by 2020 P. [Maloney \(2017\)](#).
- California state government announced Bill AB2514 in 2010 to ensure that the state-owned utilities establish 1325 MW ESS by 2020 [Hart et al. \(2018\)](#).
- H.4857 and Clean Energy Standard were passed in 2018 to ensure that Massachusetts and New York install 1000 MWh and 1500 MWh of ESS by 2025, respectively A. [Zablocki \(2019\)](#).
- The New Jersey state passed A3723 in 2018 to ensure 2000 MW ESS installation by 2030 A. [Zablocki \(2019\)](#).

4.3 Europe

The European Union (EU) significantly promotes clean energy generation in Europe by supporting the development of renewable energy technologies. Several European countries are developing their ESS policies to avoid obstacles that interfere with the deployment of ESS [Sani et al. \(2020\)](#). These policies are introduced to encourage higher ESS installations by providing subsidies, incentives, and research grants and promote the ESS provisions for ancillary grid support in Europe.

The United Kingdom (United Kingdom) does not provide direct subsidies for the deployment of energy storage systems as they believe that the energy industry should not be dependent on the subsidies [Sani et al. \(2020\)](#). However, the government provides a lot of funding for research and development to promote innovation in the sector [Potau et al. \(2018\)](#). The KfW Bank in Germany collaborated with the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy to introduce a low-interest subsidy and load scheme for interested ESS and renewable energy buyers [International Energy Agency \(2016\)](#).

Other European countries also have regulations related to ESS. However, some barriers are limiting the speedy adoption of ESS. For example, the ESS facilities do not have business interests in the Netherlands as the government is solely promoting renewable energy generation to achieve the clean energy targets [Sani et al. \(2020\)](#). As a result, no adequate policies or regulations were introduced for ESS. Similarly, the progress on BESS deployment in Italy is plodding as there are no policies to support it [Sani et al. \(2020\)](#).

4.4 Asia

Several countries in Asia have been developing and improving the ESS policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase clean energy generation. To promote battery technology in Japan, a battery storage project was introduced by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in 2012. Supportive policies and market opportunities were provided by the [Ministry of Trade and Industry \(2012\)](#). In 2014, the government launched the fourth strategic energy plan that aimed to establish a resilient multi-layer energy supply to ensure power system stability [Ministry of Trade and Industry \(2014\)](#). Moreover, the Japanese government provides one-third of the total ESS installations costs from government subsidies and other relevant programs. They aim to ensure that the Japanese power grid is prepared to provide the fast response needed during natural disaster and loss of large generation [Lee \(2015\)](#). Similarly, the Chinese government has been supporting relevant ESS policies since 2005 to meet the clean energy targets. The policies have focused on a variety of areas that might advance and guarantee the quick development of ESS, including market development,

grid-connected operation management, development pattern environmental protection, and financial assistance [Yang and Zhao \(2018\)](#).

5 Cost-benefit analysis of field projects

Battery technology provides a promising solution for ancillary grid services and brings a diverse range of benefits to their owners and utilities [Kumar et al. \(2020a\)](#). However, to demonstrate the feasibility of the widespread adoption of BESS, it is essential to evaluate the cost and benefits of the commissioned BESS projects comprehensively and systematically. In this section, we present a cost-benefit analysis of BESS projects that have been commissioned globally. Only the projects that have publicly released the data are evaluated for this review. The benefits of adopting BESS for grid applications are summarized from the perspective of utility and independent power providers (IPPs). BESS, owned by the utility, usually generates revenue by participating in the wholesale ancillary markets for services such as frequency support and energy arbitrage. In contrast, the BESS owned by the IPPs are mostly used for resource adequacy support, and the revenue for those BESS is generated based on the contracts and agreements with the utilities [Lazard \(2018\)](#). Applications such as using BESS to replace or upgrade the existing infrastructure and utility-scale peak shaving also produce monetized benefits for the utility. Considering that the BESS cost and benefit analysis are particularly interesting for the investors, we divide the discussion into two subsections to evaluate the cost-benefit analysis from the investors' perspectives (IPPs and utilities).

5.1 IPP owned BESS

The IPP-owned BESS generates income for participating in wholesale ancillary markets and providing resource adequacy support to the system operators to improve the grid's reliability. The IPPs mostly dominate the market share of large-scale BESS. For example, the IPPs in the United States (US) at the end of 2019 owned more than 56 percent of the existing power capacity of large-scale BESS participating in grid ancillary services [US Energy Information Administration \(2021\)](#). A summary of IPP-owned BESS projects around the world with public information is provided in [Table 6](#). For example, a 20MW/80 MWh BESS was developed by AltaGas Pomona Energy in the US for smoothing demand spikes and maximizing renewable energy generation. The total cost for deploying the BESS was around \$40 to \$45 million, which includes

the cost of the battery pack, power electronic converters, energy management system, and engineering, procurement, and construction costs [AltaGas \(2017\)](#). Since the detailed benefit report for this project is not provided, revenue data from the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) is used to estimate the annual revenue and return of investment [Lazard \(2018\)](#). It is expected that the BESS will generate around \$2.8 to \$5.6 million in revenue and will take approximately 7–8 years to return its capital investment.

The Hornsdale power reserve project, owned and operated by Neoen, installed a 100MW/129 MWh lithium-ion battery to provide premium contingency frequency control ancillary service through its fast frequency response [McLaren et al. \(2017\)](#). In comparison to \$7 million revenue in 2019, the project resulted in a \$36 million increase in revenue in the first quarter of 2020. A small portion of this revenue was also provided by other minor BESS projects owned by Neoen. The total revenue of the Hornsdale battery has exceeded its investment cost of \$96 million in just over 2 years after it started operations in late 2017 [McLaren et al. \(2017\)](#); [Meng \(2021\)](#). The Marengo project cost \$20 million to invest in a 20MW/10 MWh battery unit for frequency regulation. It is estimated that the BESS will generate a revenue of approximately \$5.599 million and will recover the total investment cost within 4 years [DOE Office of Electricity \(2019c\)](#). In 2019, the Gannawarra project in Victoria, Australia, installed 25MW/50 MWh BESS to support maximum renewable energy integration and regulate the frequency in the Victorian power grids. The annual operational report indicates that the BESS has generated \$3.68 million in revenue in the first year itself and will take approximately 7 years to obtain a return of investment [Edify \(2021\)](#).

The Lake Bonney project invested in a 25MW/52 MWh BESS, which costs \$41.6 million. The primary objectives of the BESS are to provide fast response duties and wind power curtailment. In the first year, the total income from the BESS ancillary services exceeded \$10 million, which indicates that the BESS can recover its total investment cost in less than 5 years [Infigen \(2021\)](#). Several other field projects worldwide have invested in BESS for ancillary support. However, they have not disclosed the cost-benefit analysis. For instance, the Virtual Power Plant project, led by AGL Energy Limited, installed solar battery storage systems across 1,000 residential and business premises in Adelaide, South Australia. The role of these BESS is to provide RES power smoothing support and achieve peak load shaving to minimize the electricity bills of the customers [Energy \(2020\)](#). Details of similar projects such as AES Kilroot [Carmen \(2021a\)](#), Mt Newman [Carmen \(2021c\)](#), Butleigh Somerset [Energy Matters \(2018\)](#), Rabbit Hill [DOE Office of Electricity \(2019d\)](#) and Bulgana [Carmen \(2021b\)](#) can be found in [Table 6](#).

TABLE 6 Summary of BESS field projects for grid services.

Name (location)	References	Power/Energy	Owner	Application	Cost & benefit	Breakeven time
Stafford Hill (Rutland, Vermont)	US Department of Energy (2018a)	04MW/3.4 MWh	Utility	Peak shaving, ancillary support	Cost: \$5M; Benefit: \$0.35–0.7M per year	<10 yrs
Sterling (Sterling, Massachusetts)	US Department of Energy (2018b)	02MW/3.9 MWh	Utility	Peak shaving, energy arbitrage, reliability service	Cost: \$2.5M; Benefit: \$0.68M per year	<4 yrs
Pomona Energy Storage (Ladentown)	AltaGas (2017)	020MW/80 MWh	IPP	Energy and ancillary support	Cost: \$40–45M; Benefit: \$2.8–5.6M per year	<11 yrs
AES Kilroot (Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland)	Carmen (2021a)	010MW/5 MWh	IPP	Frequency response and operating reserve services	Not disclosed	N/A
Willenhall (West Midlands)	The University of Sheffield (2016)	02MW/1 MWh	Utility	Frequency regulation	Not disclosed	N/A
Hornsedale Power Reserve (South Australia)	McLaren et al. (2017)	0100MW/129 MWh	IPP	System security and ancillary market support	Cost: \$96M; Benefit: \$96M in 2020	<3 yrs
Snohomish PUD MESA 2 (Everett, Washington)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019e)	02.2MW/8 MWh	Utility	Peak shaving and energy arbitrage	Not disclosed	N/A
Escondido (Escondido, California)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019b)	030MW/120 MWh	Utility	Peak shaving and reliability service	Not disclosed	N/A
SCE LM600 Hybrid EGT - Grapeland (Rancho Cucamonga)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019f)	010MW/4.3 MWh	Utility	Spinning reserve, frequency regulation and load levelling	Not disclosed	N/A
Science and Technology Park (Tucson, Arizona)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019g)	010MW/5 MWh	Utility	Energy arbitrage, demand response and reliability services	Not disclosed	N/A
Mt Newman (Newman, Western Australia)	Carmen (2021c)	030MW/11.4 MWh	IPP	Voltage regulation, frequency control and peak shaving	Not disclosed	N/A
Butleigh Somerset (Butleigh, Somerset)	Energy Matters (2018)	01.5MW/0.64 MWh	IPP	Energy management to maximize revenue	Not disclosed	N/A
Marengo (Chicago, Illinois)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019c)	020MW/10 MWh	IPP	Frequency regulation	Cost: \$20M; Benefit: \$5.599M per year	<4 yrs
Ballarat VIC (Ballarat, Victoria)	ARENA (2019)	030MW/30 MWh	Utility	Frequency control, network stability and congestion management	Cost: \$25M; Benefit: \$6.65M in 2020	<4 yrs
Gannawarra VIC (Kerang, Victoria)	Edify (2021)	025MW/50 MWh	IPP	Renewable energy integration, frequency control	Cost: \$25M; Benefit: \$3.68M in 2020	<7 yrs
Lake Bonney (South Australia)	Infgen (2021)	025MW/52 MWh	IPP	Fast response duties and wind power curtailment	Cost: \$41.6M; Benefit: > \$10M in 2020	<5 yrs
Rabbit Hill (Georgetown, Texas)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019d)	010MW/5 MWh	IPP	Energy arbitrage	Not disclosed	N/A
Ideal Energy MUM project (Iowa)	Ideal Energy (2019)	00.35MW/1.05 MWh	Utility	Peak shaving, improve solar self-consumption	Not disclosed	N/A
MidAmerican Energy Storage Pilot Project (Knoxville, Iowa)	MidAmerican Energy Company (2019)	01MW/4 MWh	Utility	Peak shaving, improve renewable energy reliability	Not disclosed	N/A
Convergent SC E Project (Orange County, California)	DOE Office of Electricity (2019a)	035MW/140 MWh	Utility	Generation support	Not disclosed	N/A
Bulgana VIC (Bulgana Victoria)	Carmen (2021b)	020MW/34 MWh	IPP	Power smoothing, on-site power support and RES time-shift	Not disclosed	N/A
Virtual Power Plants (Adelaide, South Australia)	Energy (2020)	0150 × 0.75MW/1.05 MWh 350 × 1.75MW/2.45 MWh 500 × 2.5MW/3.5 MWh	IPP	RES Power smoothing, peak shaving	Cost: \$19.52M; Benefit: Not disclosed	N/A

5.2 Utility owned BESS

The utilities invest in BESS to ensure the secure and economic operation of the grid, mainly due to the high integration of RES. The utility-owned BESS also participates in wholesale ancillary market services to generate revenue for their owners [Liu et al. \(2020\)](#). During high RES penetration, the generation exceeds the load demand and causes significant drops in electricity prices, which provides energy arbitrage opportunities for BESS. For instance, the BESS can be charged (purchase energy) from the excess renewable energy generation (during low electricity price) and discharged (sell energy) during peak hours when the electricity price is high to maximize the revenue [Liu et al. \(2020\)](#). A summary of utility-owned BESS projects is given in [Table 6](#). For example, the Stafford Hill project invested in a 4MW/3.4 MWh BESS for peak shaving. The report from the US Department of Energy summarizes the cost-benefit of the project, which indicates that the total investment cost of the project was \$5 million, and the annual benefit from the BESS services is estimated to be around \$0.35 to \$0.7 million [US Department of Energy \(2018a\)](#). As a result, it is estimated that the BESS will cover its investment cost in less than 10 years.

The Sterling BESS was installed in 2016 to provide multiple services such as peak shaving, energy arbitrage, and reliability support [US Department of Energy \(2018b\)](#). The project costs \$2.5 million and generates annual revenue of \$0.68 million (approximately 27 percent of its capital investment cost). In 2019, a similar project (Ballarat) in Victoria, Australia, invested in a 30MW/30 MWh BESS to provide frequency control, network stability, and congestion management support [ARENA \(2019\)](#). From the operational report, it is found that the project's capital cost was \$25 million, and the revenue from BESS services in the first year (2020) was \$6.65 million. It is estimated that the BESS will reach its investment return in less than 4 years.

Other interesting BESS field projects that are owned by the utilities can be found in [Table 6](#). However, the cost-benefit data were not disclosed for those projects. For example, the Willenhall project invested in a 2MW/1 MWh BESS for frequency regulation The University of Sheffield (2016), Snohomish PUD MESA 2 invested in 2.2MW/8 MWh BESS for peak shaving and energy arbitrage DOE Office of Electricity (2019e), Escondido installed 30MW/120 MWh BESS for peak shaving and reliability services [DOE Office of Electricity \(2019b\)](#), SCE LM600 Hybrid EGT - Grapeland added a 10MW/4.3 MWh BESS for spinning reserve, frequency regulation and load leveling DOE Office of Electricity (2019f), the Science and Technology Park project invested in a 10MW/5 MWh BESS for energy arbitrage, demand response and reliability services [DOE Office of Electricity \(2019g\)](#), the Ideal Energy MUM Ideal Energy (2019) and the MidAmerican Energy Storage Pilot Projects [MidAmerican Energy Company \(2019\)](#) invested in 0.35MW/1.05 MWh and 1MW/4 MWh BESS,

respectively for improving renewable energy reliability and achieving peak shaving. The Convergent SCE Project installed a 35MW/140 MWh BESS for additional generation support in California [DOE Office of Electricity \(2019a\)](#).

6 Challenges for deploying BESS

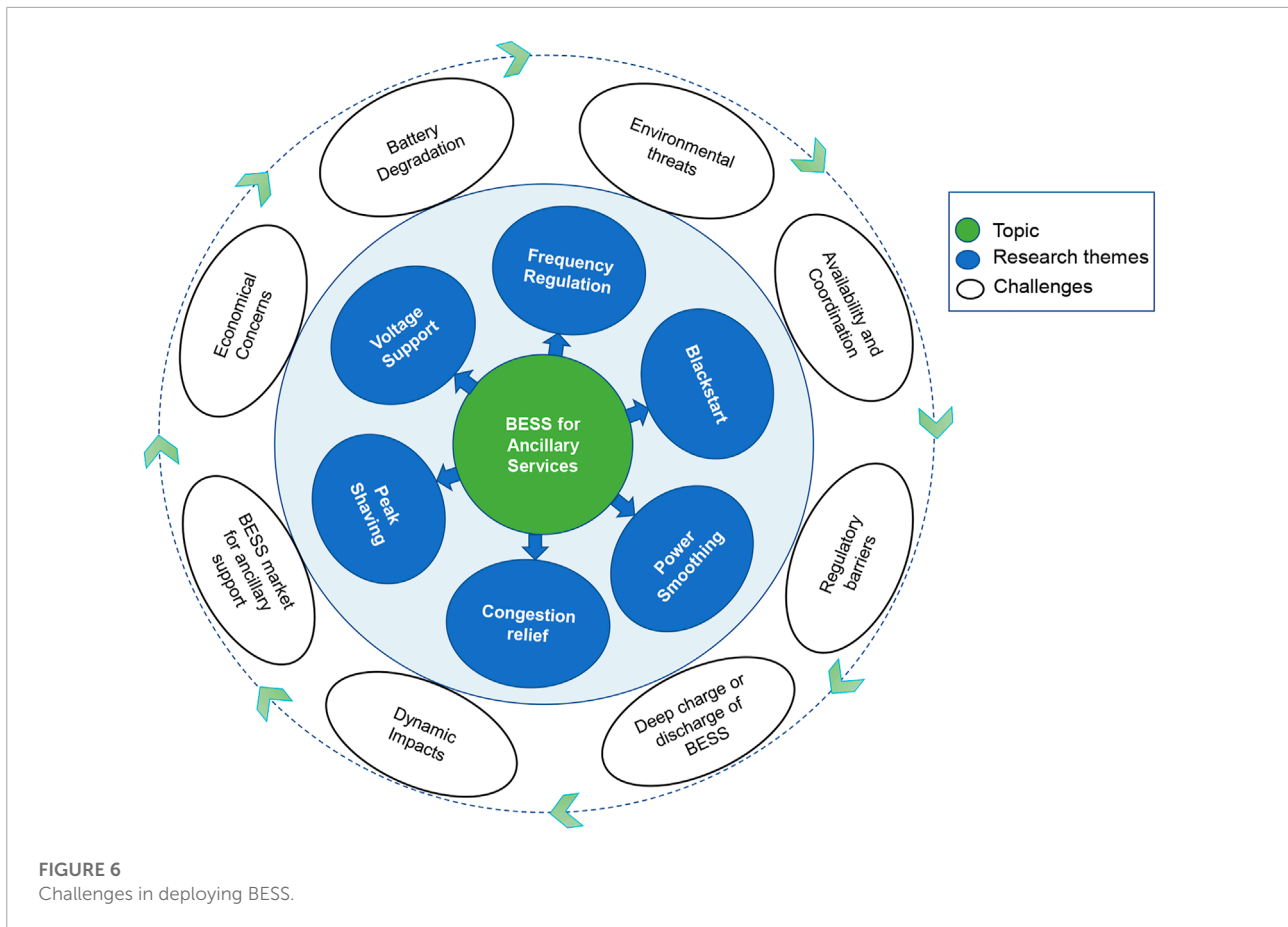
Deploying an efficient BESS is a challenging task as several factors, such as costs, reliability, environmental issues, and their degradation, need to be considered [Datta et al. \(2021\)](#). This section presents the compendium of the literature and highlights the existing challenges associated with deploying and managing BESS in distribution grids. The substantial challenges in deploying BESS are summarized in [Figure 6](#) and explained in the following paragraphs.

- *Challenge 1: Economic concern for BESS investment and operation*

The most critical factor for deploying BESS is the cost. Oversizing BESS may not only increase the total investment costs but also lead to technical challenges in the grid [Awad et al. \(2014\)](#). As discussed in the above literature, many researchers have focused on minimizing the costs while planning the BESS for self-consumption, and ancillary support [Engels et al. \(2019\)](#); [Zhang et al. \(2016\)](#); [Ramírez et al. \(2018\)](#), [Chua et al. \(2016\)](#); [Prasatsap et al. \(2017\)](#). BESS costs depend on multiple factors, which include the type of BESS (technology), applications, geographical locations, investment costs, and maintenance requirements [Awad et al. \(2014\)](#). Other factors such as BESS degradation, power losses, and SoC can also have a direct impact on the BESS costs [Mohamed et al. \(2020\)](#). *Solution:* Developing an efficient BESS that considers economic concerns is a challenge, as various factors must be considered. These factors can be optimized by considering them within the optimization models to obtain lower BESS investment and operation costs. It is also essential for the governments to develop policies to provide incentives for BESS installations and participation. As described in [Section 4](#), several countries are providing subsidies and incentives to encourage higher BESS installations while others are yet to introduce ESS policies.

- *Challenge 2: Battery degradation, loss-of-life*

Characteristics of an effective BESS are fast charging, slow discharging, and delayed degradation (increased lifetime) [Mosca et al. \(2019\)](#). An efficient design and control of BESS must consider the key factors that deteriorate the battery's health. According to [Sufyan et al. \(2019\)](#), the four critical factors that impact the deterioration of battery capacity are the depth of discharge (DoD), battery lifetime, temperature, and the



charging and discharging current, which are described as follows.

- **Battery DoD:** represents the percentage of battery discharged with respect to its rated capacity and allows for deep charge and discharge cycles, depending on the characteristic of the battery.
- **Battery lifetime:** represents the total number of cycles the battery can sustain and is measured as calendric and cyclic degradation. The calendric degradation, also known as constant degradation, is based on the chemical agents of BESS that are active due to the temperature and voltage. In contrast, cyclic degradation is dependent on the charging/discharging rate of BESS [Mosca et al. \(2019\)](#).
- **Temperature:** the battery degradation process is also dependent on the ambient temperature, which is known as the capacity fading phenomenon in the literature [Sufyan et al. \(2019\)](#).
- **Charging and discharging current:** current limits during the charging and discharging process plays an important role in delaying battery degradation. For instance, supplying a large current increases the internal resistance of the battery and

reduces the capacity, which can harm the battery lifespan [Sufyan et al. \(2019\)](#).

Solution: To increase the efficiency of the battery and delay the degradation process, it is essential to consider the manufacturer's recommended specifications, particularly optimum DoD in the design and operation stages [Mosca et al. \(2019\)](#); [Sufyan et al. \(2019\)](#). Additionally, the battery life is the most critical factor in the cost operation process as the battery's lifetime depends on the number of charging and discharging cycles [Mosca et al. \(2019\)](#). Hence, optimizing the charging and discharging process for delayed battery degradation is essential. Moreover, low temperature increases the internal resistance of the battery, whereas high temperature increases the battery's chemical reactions, both of which degrade the electrodes [Ju and Wang \(2016\)](#); [Smith et al. \(2012\)](#). Therefore, smart control algorithms are required to maintain the appropriate ambient temperature to improve the battery's health.

- **Challenge 3: Environmental threats imposed by BESS**

Although BESS is used to increase the RES penetration in power grids and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, BESS

itself may create some environmental threats [Pombo et al. \(2017\)](#) if not recycled properly. Battery recycling is a process of discarding degraded batteries. Since the batteries contain harmful toxic chemicals, dumping them as trash can result in severe environmental concerns [Brogan et al. \(2018\)](#).

Solution: The battery manufacturers should be aware of the health risks associated with the disposal of batteries and should provide appropriate recycling facilities [Brogan et al. \(2018\)](#). Recycling batteries is an ongoing process, and it is necessary to determine strategies for reusing/recycling the degraded BESS. It is essential for the governments to impose strict laws and enforcement related to battery recycling. The governments can also provide funding for research and development so that the researchers can work together to develop environmentally friendly storage technologies and appropriate recycling resources.

- *Challenge 4: Availability and coordination of BESS and other DERs*

The fast response and flexible characteristics of BESS provide a promising solution for increasing clean energy generation in power grids [Qiu et al. \(2018\)](#). However, BESS alone may not be able to solve all technical issues in a power grid [Qiu et al. \(2018\)](#). BESS should be coordinated with other available RES to provide an effective solution to the existing problems [Qiu et al. \(2018\)](#).

Solution: To achieve this, new technology advancements and control strategies are required. The optimization algorithms must consider the difficulties and restrictions of reducing greenhouse gas emissions while providing valuable support to the power grids. Due to system availability and high installation costs, BESS technology and application are only available in high-income countries. The possibility of introducing these technologies in low- and middle-income countries needs to be explored.

- *Challenge 5: Lack of regulatory barriers to clarify the role of BESS*

BESS has the technical capabilities for providing multiple grid ancillary services [Jayasekara et al. \(2015\)](#); [Wang et al. \(2018\)](#). However, the network providers and market operators may hesitate to deploy the BESS for those services if no regulations, legislation, or guidelines explicitly declare that BESS may do so [Bhatnagar et al. \(2013\)](#). Additionally, without assurances that BESS projects for ancillary services would be reimbursed, storage owners and system operators may be hesitant to undertake the necessary capital investments [Bhatnagar et al. \(2013\)](#).

Solution: The governments and energy departments need to establish regulations for BESS participation in energy, capacity, and ancillary service markets. The guidelines and rules must, among other things, ensure that BESS has open and equitable

access to the market, considering its operating and technical characteristics [Bowen et al. \(2019\)](#). As described in [Section 4](#), few governments have already established these requirements. However, there are several countries that still need to introduce the regulations and policies to promote high installation of BESS.

- *Challenge 6: Deep charge or discharge of BESS*

Inappropriate scheduling may result in deep charging or discharging of BESS, affecting the battery's performance, state of health, and state of safety [Han et al. \(2014\)](#). Frequently, the deep discharge of batteries causes mechanical strains in the plates, resulting in shedding, poor conductivity, and a shortened system lifespan. The most frequent mechanical stress causes in active battery materials are large volume and crystallographic structure changes during the BESS charging and discharging process. Excessive voltages can initiate undesirable electrode reactions towards the completion of BESS charge or discharge, which can cause corrosion or gas evolution. As a result, the battery's actual capacity may be lower than its rated capacity.

Solution: Depending on the measurable outputs such as temperature, voltage, and current, an effective battery management system can protect against deep charge or discharge and precisely calculate the functional status of the battery, including state of charge (SoC), state-of-health (SoH), state-of-function (SoF), and state-of-safety (SoS) [Han et al. \(2014\)](#). For instance, adaptive algorithms and data-driven estimating approaches were employed by the battery management systems, and they were compared to direct and indirect experimental assessments [Xiong et al. \(2018\)](#). The use of big data sets and machine learning as a method to improve these models was investigated by [Howey \(2019\)](#); [Severson et al. \(2019\)](#). It is also critical to reduce the computing burden of the models so that they can be employed in real-time applications [Zhang et al. \(2019\)](#).

- *Challenge 7: Dynamic impacts of BESS*

The dynamic effect of battery conversion efficiency on grid support is frequently overlooked in the literature. The dynamic model of BESS provides a simple representation of the battery cells and allows for analyzing the effects of battery degradation, dc-to-dc converters, voltage source converters, and the dynamics of the filter and transformer that connects the BESS to the grid [Calero et al. \(2020\)](#).

Solution: Including the dynamic characteristics in the design and planning phase will allow to evaluate the effects of dc-to-dc converter limits, and their dynamic responses on the ac side can be studied. Implementing the dc-to-dc converters will enable a more realistic representation of battery banks in the power grids, which can be helpful in analyzing the impacts of battery

degradation, aging, and SOC on the battery cells in existing BESS facilities Calero et al. (2020).

- *Challenge 8: BESS market for ancillary support*

A lack of market for the services that BESS are specially designed to provide can make it difficult for developers and system operators to incorporate them as prospective sources of revenue. For instance, generators are used for frequency regulation support to provide the inertial, and governor response in most of the United States independent system operator markets Bowen et al. (2019). BESS can offer the same services faster and with better accuracy. Still, the lack of market opportunities to seek compensation for those services has become a significant obstacle for BESS deployment Bhatnagar et al. (2013). Additionally, given the nature of economies of scale and scope in operating the ancillary service markets and the connections between markets, the ultimate allocation of tasks is a matter of debate.

Solution: A centrally coordinated market can provide better opportunities to the interested network service providers and lower the driving information technology costs Pollitt and Anaya (2020). Market participants who wish to engage in simultaneous shares in multiple marketplaces may also favor it. One approach for a storage facility is to enter a single, long-term contract with the system operator and follow the directions from the system operator on how to run the facility and for what service. It is difficult for the DER owners to optimize their bids across several marketplaces at various scales. The capacity to co-optimize between regulated network investments and DER ancillary service solutions is required. It will enable the distribution network operators to award a contract to the DER owners to provide ancillary support such as congestion management or voltage regulation rather than improving its network.

7 Conclusion and future research directions

In this paper, an up-to-date review of the role of static or fixed BESS for short-term and long-term ancillary services in the distribution grid was presented. The review process combines two innovative approaches, a PRISMA statement, and VOSviewer experiments, to identify and address the contemporary issues related to BESS provision for ancillary services and highlight the solutions for implementing intelligent and efficient algorithms. The most recent and relevant research papers are discovered using simple search strategies and filtering them based on inclusion and exclusion criteria. Then, the systematic PRISMA approach was used to provide a full review of the current approaches. This paper has utilized

the VOSviewer visualization technique to identify significant research clusters from the sparse literature. It has been identified that the common ancillary services provided by BESS can be categorized into short-term and long-term services. As a result, we collected and reviewed the most important contributions and limitations of common short-term ancillary services (voltage control, frequency regulation, and black-start) and the long-term ancillary services (congestion management, peak shaving, and power smoothing). A cost-benefit analysis using commissioned BESS field projects was evaluated and presented in this review. The existing barriers to BESS deployment for ancillary services were also presented. To bridge the existing research gaps, potential future research directions were identified and can be summarized as follows.

- With the increasing renewable energy penetration in the distribution grid, the traditional approaches for ancillary support have become detrimental to the network equipment Qiu et al. (2018). Additionally, the uncoordinated provision of distributed RESs may lead to technical issues such as overvoltage, overloading, and power quality issues Qiu et al. (2018). Further research is needed to develop new control strategies for coordinating BESS with distributed RESs for fast and effective ancillary support.
- Several strategies have been applied to tackle optimal BESS allocation, sizing, and scheduling problems. However, to ensure robustness and reliability of the distribution grids to voltage, frequency, and power quality problems, more research effort is required to optimize and validate the transient and dynamic issues rather than the steady-state characteristics. The environmental constraints and seasonal variations need to be considered as well.
- More detailed analysis of BESS is required to consider BESS's dynamic impact to accurately analyze the effects of battery degradation, dc-to-dc converters, voltage source inverters, and dynamic behavior of filters and transformers.
- To ensure efficient planning and operation of BESS, a comprehensive techno-economic analysis is required that should consider the capital costs, operational expenses, maintenance requirements, and key factors that affect the BESS aging.
- New control strategies should include the safety and protection of different types of BESS. A safety feature, such as early fault warning or fire protection schemes, can help avoid any occurrences of accidents and faults in the operational environment.
- Better battery management systems can enhance the performance of the battery and improve the state of health, and state-of-safety Han et al. (2014). Artificial intelligence, the internet of things, big data, and cyber protection could be utilized to provide safe, reliable, robust, and intelligent scheduling solutions for BESS-based grid ancillary support.

- Policies and regulations between energy and ancillary markets are required so that the BESS owners are aware of the rewards for participating in grid ancillary services. This may also increase the number of prosumers participating in grid ancillary support.
- Lack of market opportunities is the major obstacle that is delaying BESS deployment for grid ancillary support [Bowen et al. \(2019\)](#). There is an immediate need for the governments and energy departments to create valuable market opportunities so fast, and accurate BESS replaces the slow and less accurate traditional methods for ancillary support.
- To validate the developed algorithms on a physical network, experimental testing is required. While it may not be possible to test a developed strategy on an existing network, as it may compromise the operation of the grid, it is still possible through hardware-in-the-loop simulation. Therefore, digital models that replicate the existing power grids and real-world scenarios are required.
- Effective BESS recycling strategies are required to allow appropriate disposal of degraded BESS, as ineffective techniques can impose severe environmental threats [Pombo et al. \(2017\)](#).
- Since the world is experiencing a widespread adoption of EVs, it is necessary to analyse the impacts of mobile or dynamic EV batteries, and discover the solutions from hybrid energy storage systems for grid ancillary support.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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