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28 recommended to use the adiabatic or isothermal compressed air storage. In all cases that  
 29 combine MESSs with solar or wind energy, the series connection is preferred in order to  
 30 provide stability and better control strategy.

31 **Keywords:** Energy storage, mechanical energy storage, renewable energy, solar energy,  
 32 wind energy.

<b>Nomenclature</b>	
ACAES	adiabatic compressed air energy storage
BWES	buoyancy work energy storage
CAES	compressed air energy storage
CI-CAES	closed isothermal compressed air energy storage
CVaR	conditional value at risk
DRP	demand response program
DSTATCOM	distribution static synchronous compensator
ESS	energy storage system
FESS	flywheel energy storage system
HT	hydraulic turbine
HVDC	high voltage direct current
I-CAES	Isothermal compressed air energy storage
IM	induction machine
IWPS	isolated wind power system
LCOE	levelized cost of energy
MESS	mechanical energy storage system
NPV	net present value
OI-CAES	Open isothermal compressed air energy storage
PHES	pumped hydro energy storage
PV	photo-voltaic
SG	synchronous generator
SM	synchronous machine
SNG	synthetic natural gas
SP	stochastic programming
SRM	switched reluctance machine
SST	solid state transformer
TC	thermochemical
UGCAES	underground compressed air energy storage
UWCAES	underwater compressed air energy storage
VC-ACAES	variable configuration adiabatic air energy storage

33

34 **1. Introduction**

35 In the last few decades, energy consumption, particularly electricity usage are found to be  
36 significantly increasing due to rising world population and living standards. The fastest  
37 jump of energy consumption growth in this decade was recorded in 2018 as 2.13% [1].  
38 Additional energy supplies must be provided in order to balance the increasing demand.  
39 The critical issue is which different sources and techniques can be adopted to cover this  
40 energy demand. Fossil fuels cannot be considered a solution for satisfying energy  
41 demands due to their critical negative effects on the environment and must be phased out  
42 [2]. Nuclear energy seems to be a solution because of its low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but it is too  
43 expensive and suffers from other drawbacks such as security risks. For this reason, there  
44 is need to rely on renewable sources and energy waste recovery systems to prevent the  
45 environmental damage from air pollution leading to global warming. Renewable energies  
46 offer the best approach for provision of energy due to their sustainable nature and broad  
47 utilizations because of their diverse presence such as wind, solar, geothermal, bioenergy  
48 and hydropower. On the other hand, renewable sources usually cannot stand alone in a  
49 power plant because of their intermittent nature and significant fluctuations especially  
50 when considering wind and solar energies [3]. This fact imposes on the researchers to  
51 find an alternative solution or to perform efficient combinations; where they find that  
52 energy storage systems (ESSs) can solve the stated problem when coupled with the  
53 renewable energy resources [4].

54

## 55 *Advantages of Energy Storage Systems*

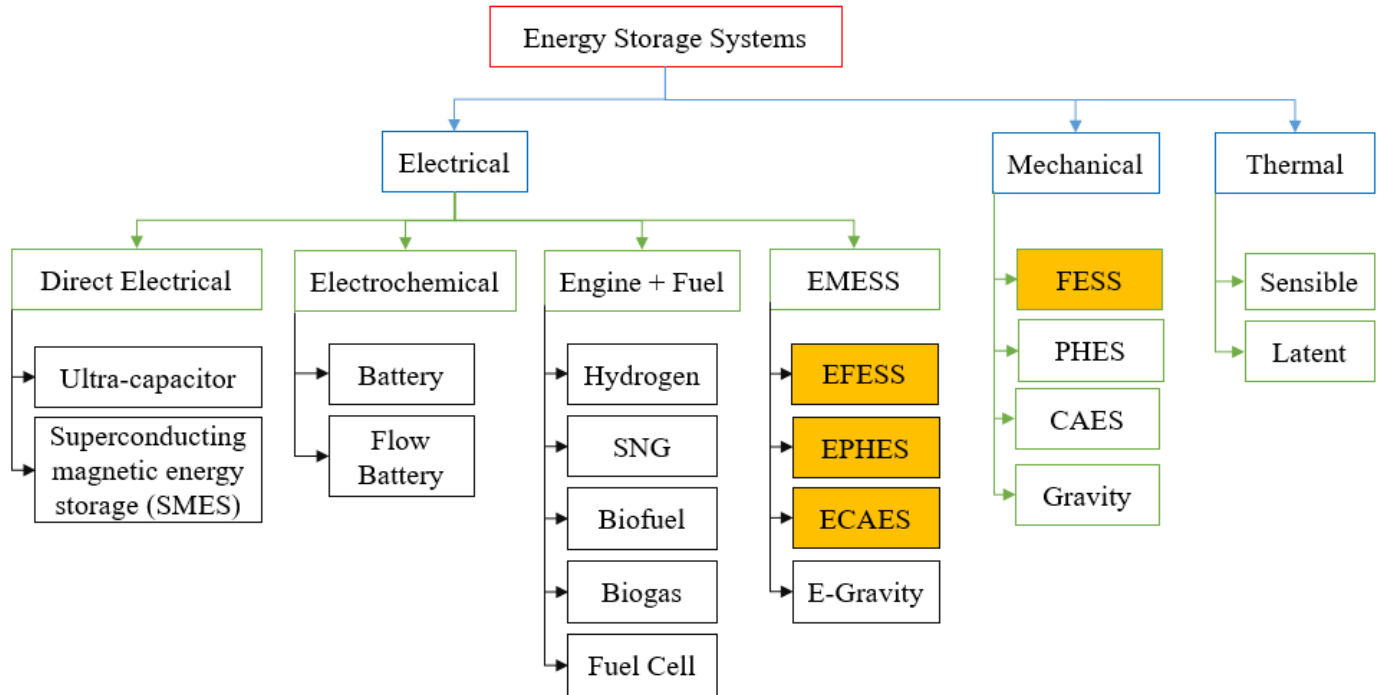
56 In addition to the ESSs main advantage which is to store the excess of energy, they offer  
57 many other benefits:

- 58 • Increasing renewable energy penetration and decreasing its curtailment because a  
59 power plant cannot depend only on a renewable energy source without an ESS. As a  
60 matter of fact, fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will decrease [5].
- 61 • Balancing between the energy supply and demand while smoothing renewable energy  
62 fluctuations due to its intermittent nature [6]. This will also mitigate the problems in  
63 electrical systems of power generation.
- 64 • Shaving the peak energy loads which will indeed decrease the risk of load shedding  
65 especially when large capacity of storage is considered.
- 66 • Improving the overall efficiency of a power plant and consequently reducing the  
67 operating cost at the long run [7].
- 68 • The flexibility of ESSs provides the convenience and suitability to cover remote areas  
69 which generally suffer from lack of electricity [8].

### 70 **1.1 Energy Storage Systems Classifications**

71 ESS provides flexibility to the system in order to cope with the fluctuations and  
72 intermittent nature of renewable sources, it can also accommodate the energy demand  
73 fluctuations. In other words, ESSs mitigate the imbalance between the supply and  
74 demand. Storage systems can improve grid stability and system's performance, increase  
75 penetration of renewable energy sources, and reduce fossil fuel energy resources  
76 utilizations and consequently their environmental impacts. Due to the multiple

77 utilizations of energy and different types of applications, ESSs have always been  
 78 undergoing development and different storage systems are established. ESSs are mainly  
 79 classified into three main categories as presented in Figure 1 [9-11]. Table 1 presents the  
 80 environmental impacts of some ESSs.



8\_

82 Figure 1: Energy storage systems Classifications; the orange marked types are the most  
 83 commonly used mechanical energy storage systems

84 Mechanical energy storage systems can be found either as pure mechanical (MESS) or  
 85 combined with electrical (EMESS). The main difference is in the utilization of stored  
 86 energy if it is directly used or transmitted via an electric motor-generator. Usually  
 87 EMESSs are used to supply the grid with electricity. On the other hand, MESSs are able  
 88 to provide mechanical work such as smoothing the rotation of a rotating mass which is  
 89 the case of flywheel. The orange marked types in Figure 1 are the most commonly used  
 90 mechanical energy storage systems.

91 Table 1: Environmental impacts of the commonly used energy storage systems

Energy Storage System	Environmental Impact
Synthetic natural gas (SNG)	Haze pollution and greenhouse gases [12]
Biofuel	Biodiversity, water quantity and quality problems [13]
Biogas	Hazardous alkanes such as methane [14]
Thermochemical (TC)	Depends on the reactants and products
Batteries	Consumption of resources and heavy metal pollution [15]; ex: lithium ion degrades and not recyclable
Super capacitors	Carbonization [16]
Thermal	Depends on the material (ex: organic vapour is carcinogenic) [17]
Mechanical energy storage	Relatively low

92

93 **1.2 Mechanical Energy Storage**

94 Mechanical energy storage systems (MESSs) are highly attractive because they offer  
 95 several advantages compared to other ESSs and especially in terms of environmental  
 96 impact, cost and sustainability. There are three main types of MESSs, as shown in Figure  
 97 1; flywheel energy storage system (FESS) [18], pumped hydro energy storage (PHES)  
 98 [19] and compressed air energy storage (CAES) [20]. MESSs can be found in some other  
 99 different forms such as liquid-piston, gravity and mechanical springs. The crucial issue in  
 100 choosing the appropriate system among these depending on the source of energy, load  
 101 nature and available space. It is also necessary to mention that there are some common  
 102 advantages between the different types of MESSs such as the relative fast response and  
 103 nil environmental effects. These types of ESSs produce less contaminants in both  
 104 operational and construction levels, which is indeed an important factor to improve air  
 105 quality in order to avoid human health diseases.

106 The aim of this paper is to review all applications involving MESSs combined with solar  
107 and wind energies in order to present the parameters that affect the performance of each  
108 system. The characteristics of all systems will be discussed in addition to their advantages  
109 and disadvantages. A detailed comparison will be presented depending on the different  
110 storage systems and configurations. This will be accompanied by presenting the recent  
111 investigations on the different mechanical energy storage systems in addition to the  
112 development of each domain.

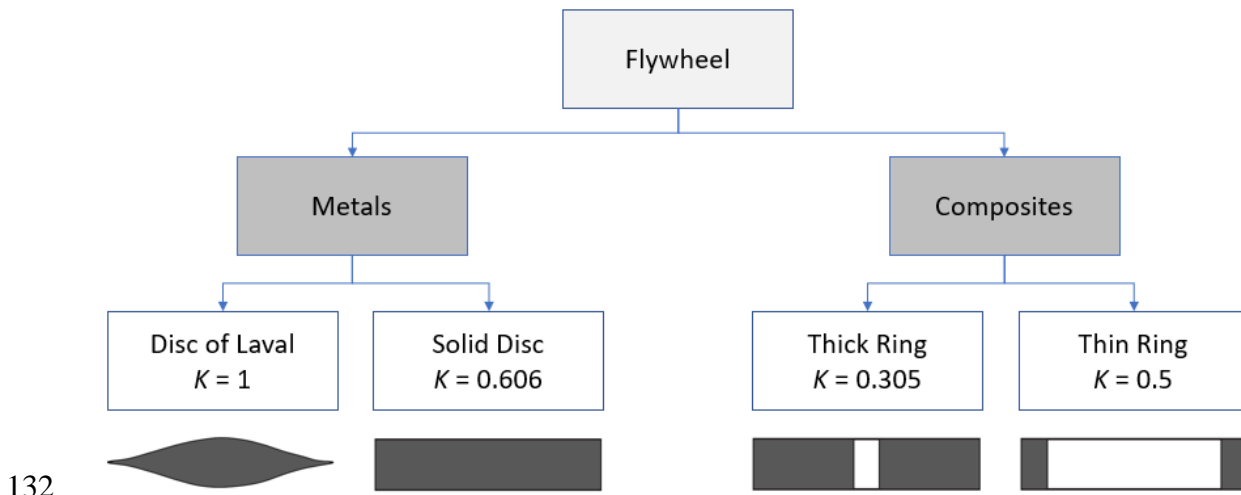
## 113 **2. Flywheel Energy Storage System**

114 Flywheel energy storage system (FESS) [21] is based on storing energy for the short-term  
115 by using a rotating mass in the form of kinetic energy [22] as shown in equation (1). In  
116 terms of fast response, flywheels are the most effective ESSs while taking the economical  
117 aspect into consideration [23]. There are different applications where FESS can be used:  
118 hybrid vehicle, railway, wind power system, marine and space [24]. One of most studied  
119 applications on FESS is the regeneration of braking power in locomotives, trains and cars  
120 [25]. These studies focused on storing the braking energy lost in order to give power  
121 again for acceleration. This aims to save energy [26], decrease the peak power [27],  
122 improve the efficiency, reduce emissions and fuel consumption [28]. Flywheels can be  
123 found in four different shapes; disc of Laval, solid disk, thick ring and thin ring (see  
124 Figure 2) [29]. Each flywheel is characterized by a shape factor ( $K$ ) representing the  
125 utilization of material. The specific energy stored per unit of mass is proportional to  $K$   
126 which is presented in equation (2). These equations show the effects of inertia, speed and  
127 shape on the energy stored by the flywheel.

128 
$$E = \frac{1}{2} I w^2 \quad (1)$$

129 
$$\frac{E}{m} = K \frac{\sigma_{max}}{\rho} \quad (2)$$

130 where  $E$  is the stored energy,  $I$  is the moment of inertia,  $w$  is the rotational speed,  $m$  is the  
 131 mass,  $\sigma_{max}$  is the maximum stress and  $\rho$  is the density of the flywheel.

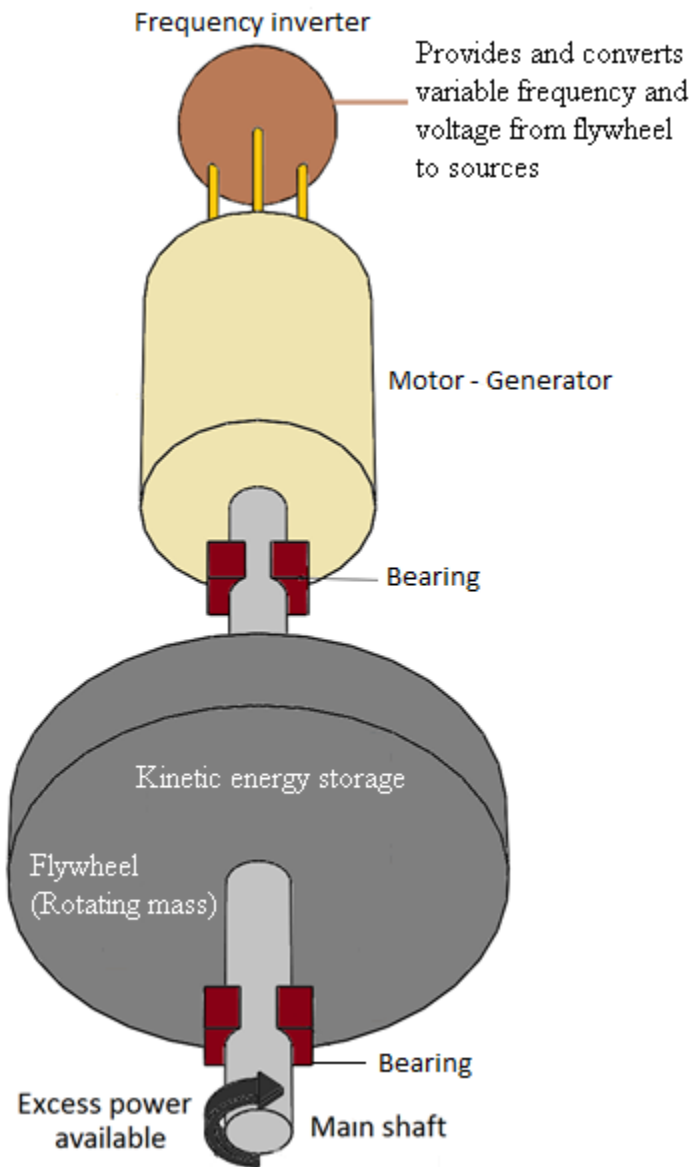


133 Figure 2: Different flywheel shapes,  $K$  is the shape factor

134

135 The main components of FESS are as shown in Figure 3; bearings, rotating mass, motor-  
 136 generator and a frequency inverter. The overall efficiency depends on the design of each  
 137 component, and one of the main objectives is the reduction of power transmission losses  
 138 which is affected by the type of bearing; it was found that magnetic bearings are the best  
 139 choice [30]. There are also three different types of electric machines that could be  
 140 coupled to the FESS; synchronous machine (SM), induction machine (IM) and switched  
 141 reluctance machine (SRM). SRM is the less commonly used type due to the high current  
 142 ripples and control complexity. Usually, SM and IM are used for high speed and high-

143 power applications respectively. In terms of performance, SM is better than IM because it  
144 has lower inrush at the start [31]. Beside the usage of flywheel for energy storage, it is  
145 used to increase the life time of batteries [32] when coupled with renewable sources due  
146 the intermittency nature.



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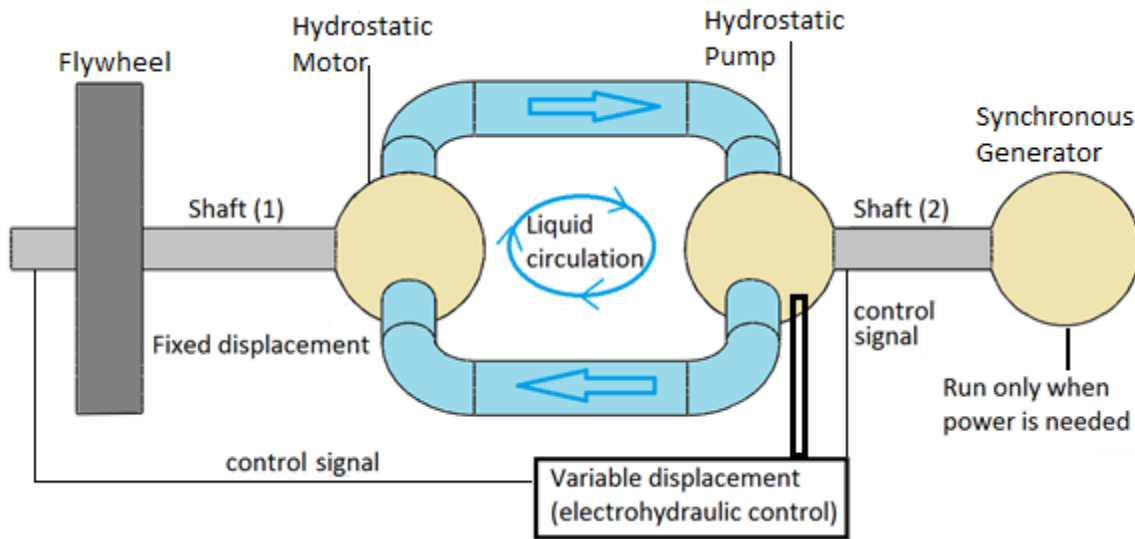
Figure 3: The main components of the FESS

149

## 150 **2.1 Wind Energy Coupled with Flywheel Storage**

151 Wind-FESS is a system that is taking lot of interest nowadays. Wind energy is one of the  
152 most favorable sources used for generating electricity, while there is always a common  
153 problem faced which is the mismatching between supply and demand. This is due to the  
154 variations in both wind and available load which can cause problems in the network. This  
155 requires a fast response energy storage which makes the use of FESS more favorable.  
156 This ESS can be used to smooth the wind power [33] and to supply energy to the users  
157 with different demands for achieving better power quality [34]. The coupling between  
158 wind and FESS is also known as isolated wind power system (IWPS) [29] which is  
159 usually formed from a wind turbine generator (WTG), consumer load, SM and a  
160 flywheel. FESS is almost used in medium to high power (kW to MW) applications for  
161 short-time periods (seconds/minutes). Gadelrab et al. [35] introduced FESS to enhance  
162 the wind farms-fed high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system via a two-  
163 stage solid state transformer (SST). Several control strategies [36] were investigated to  
164 reserve and smooth wind turbine power by using FESS, and the proposed methods were  
165 found to be applicable for all wind speeds. One of the most effective control strategies is  
166 the classical squirrel-cage induction machine using cascade rectifier filter inverter [37]  
167 which was modeled and simulated in order to overcome the stochastic nature of wind.  
168 Electric system problems are in fact one of the major problems in the Wind-FESS.  
169 Suvire and Mercado [38] found that mitigating these electric problems can be performed  
170 by using a Distribution Static Synchronous Compensator (DSTATCOM). This  
171 compensator maintains the active power approximately constant and equals to the  
172 average power that would be produced otherwise.

173 A comparative study was simulated in [39] between a variable and constant speed  
174 flywheels in order to study the effect of hydrostatic transmission (see Figure 4). The  
175 authors deduced that this kind of transmission between the flywheel and the synchronous  
176 generator (SG) can decrease the frequency deviation and energy losses. Mansour et al.  
177 [40] investigated the variable speed wind generator to find the optimal methods for  
178 regulation. Two controllers were examined; the proportional integral and the fuzzy  
179 controller. It is concluded that the permanent magnet synchronous generator can offer the  
180 suitable regulation path to smooth the power flowing to the grid.



181

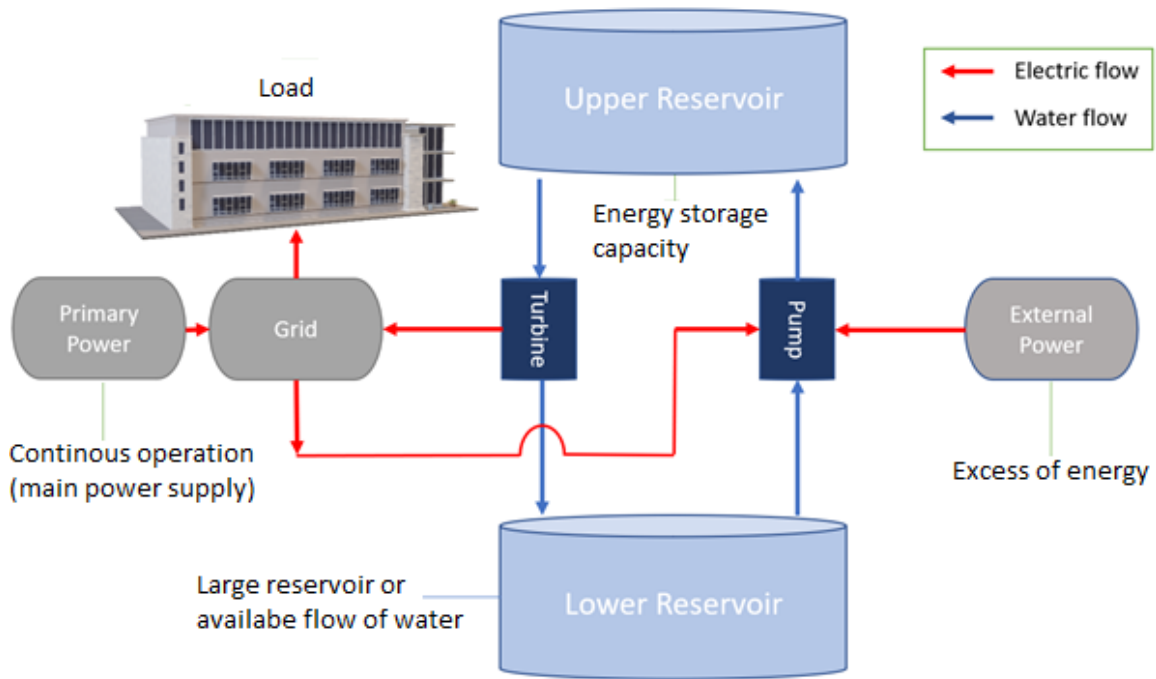
182 Figure 4: FESS with hydrostatic transmission

183

### 184 3. Pumped Hydro Energy Storage

185 Pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) is a MESS which is characterized by its long-life  
186 cycle, flexibility and low maintenance cost. It is formed of three major components;  
187 pumping system, hydro turbine (HT) and upper reservoir [41]. Figure 5 shows an  
188 example of the PHES. Water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper one when

189 there is an excess of energy, so it can be used again when needed. This system depends  
 190 on the potential gravitational energy such that the upper container is able to provide  
 191 positive pressure difference with respect to the lower one and consequently to produce  
 192 power by the help of the HT. Advanced PHES relies on replacing the turbomachines by a  
 193 reversible pump-turbine in order to enhance the performance of the storage system and  
 194 response time as well as increasing its flexibility [42].



195

Figure 5: The flow of energy in the PHES plant

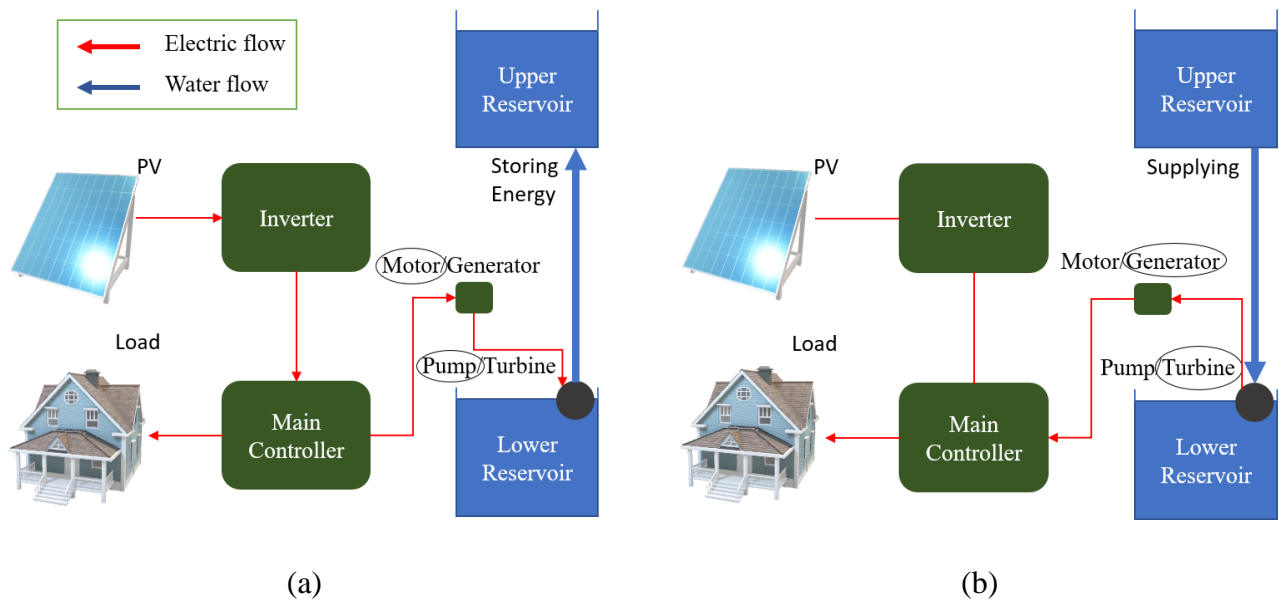
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197

### 198 3.1 Solar Energy Coupled with Pumped Hydro Storage

199 Solar-PHES is an efficient strategy for mitigating the photo-voltaic (PV) power  
 200 fluctuations. It is necessary to support this system with an accurate forecasting of Solar-  
 201 PHES power generation and demand response, followed by a smart grid energy  
 202 management [43] for achieving the optimal operation. In [44], Solar-PHES was used to

203 minimize grid power cost for irrigation in the presence of boreholes for water supply.  
 204 Figure 6 represents the working process of the system during 24 hours (day and night).  
 205 The day configuration shows how the solar energy is able to store water in the upper  
 206 reservoir by using the pump. At night, in the absence of sunlight, the water will flow back  
 207 to the lower reservoir passing through the motor-generator which is connected to the  
 208 control center responsible for supplying power.



209 Figure 6: Solar coupled with PHES (a) storing and (b) supplying power

210  
 211 Usually the optimization of Solar-PHES is used to decrease the overall operating cost of  
 212 PHES and that of the PV. This system has been adopted to operate in remote areas or  
 213 islands without any grid supply in order to decrease the levelized cost of energy (LCOE)  
 214 and increase power supply reliability [45]. As presented in Figure 6, the solar PV is able  
 215 to either generate electricity directly or pump the water to the upper reservoir. Bahadur et  
 216 al. [46] suggested that the solar power must only be used to pump water. By this way, the  
 217 system will be simpler and no need for control systems because it is automatically

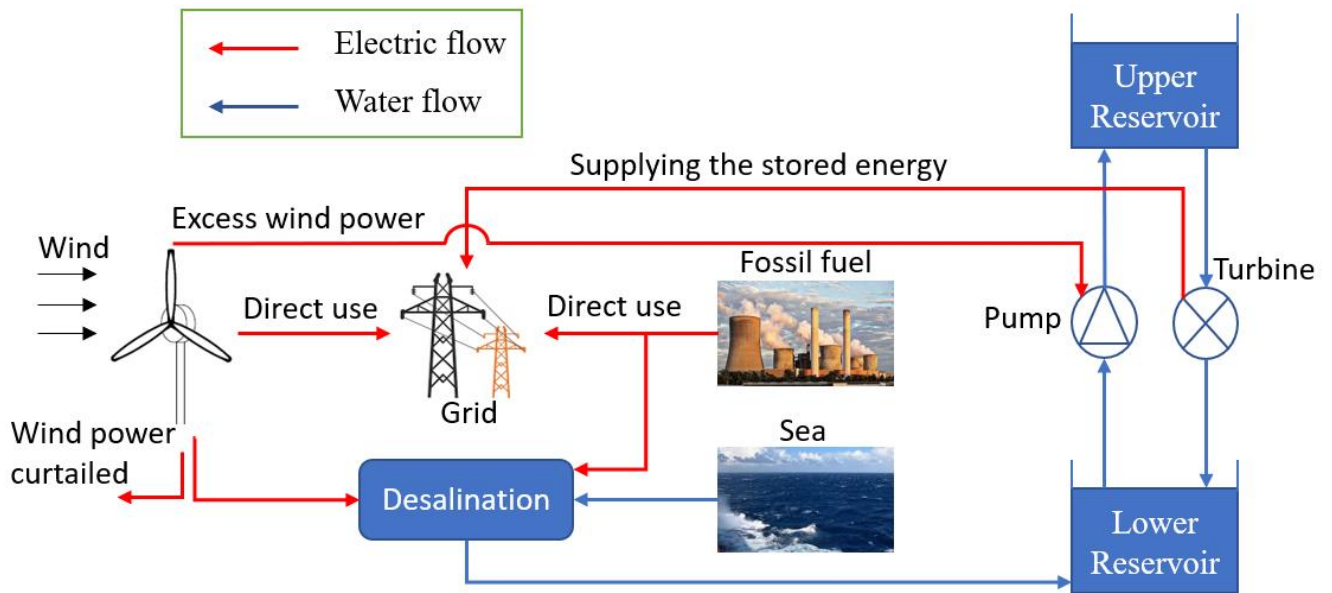
218 controlled. The PHES will remain receiving power from the wind turbine and supplying  
219 the grid via the hydraulic turbine. In [47], floating PV was integrated with PHES in order  
220 to avoid the need for reserving specific land sources and to provide the required amount  
221 of water.

### 222 **3.2 Wind Energy Coupled with Pumped Hydro Storage**

223 Wind-PHES is a combination usually used in islands where interconnection grids can be  
224 found in which wind energy represents the main energy source. It aims to increase  
225 renewable energy penetration [48] as well as to decrease the LCOE [49], total power  
226 shortage [50] and the amount of energy produced by conventional power plants [51]. In a  
227 Wind-PHES system, the wind turbine is directly connected to the pump which is  
228 responsible for driving the water for the upper tank. In order to estimate the economic  
229 and environmental impacts of the Wind-PHES, it is necessary to study the main  
230 uncertainties that are wind speed and electricity load. The mixed-integer nonlinear  
231 programming is a stochastic programming that allows to investigate the effect of these  
232 uncertainties appropriately [52].

233 PHES could be used to smooth the offshore wind power variations [53], balance between  
234 power supply and demand [54], decrease the imbalance cost [55] and wind power  
235 uncertainties. It also provokes a decrease in the start-up effect of peaking units [56] and  
236 the risk of load shedding [57]. The wind turbine could be connected mechanically to the  
237 pump via gearbox or electrically by transferring the wind power to electric energy. Both  
238 types have special characteristics, however, the electrical form is more commonly known  
239 and used. This is due to the high-power loss and fluctuations that may occur

240 mechanically. Kapsali et al. [58] found that the HT is better to operate 24 hrs, and the  
 241 upper reservoir volume should be designed in a way to provide the HT the whole  
 242 operational time (day-night). Al Zohbi et al. [59] investigated a new method to store the  
 243 surplus of wind energy in dams, and compared between two dams in Lebanon (Chabrouh  
 244 and Quaraoun) in order to choose the best one. In [60], an optimization study was carried  
 245 out aiming to use Wind-PHES for desalination and minimizing wind power curtailment  
 246 [61], and consequently to decrease the power cost, water production cost and CO<sub>2</sub>  
 247 emissions (see Figure 7). In a conventional Wind-PHES system, part of the excess power  
 248 released by the wind turbine is released and the rest is curtailed. Therefore, it will be very  
 249 helpful to use this curtailed power for desalination. This could fit the Wind-PHES  
 250 extremely knowing that water is a major component in the storage and desalination  
 251 systems. As a matter of fact, the need for fossil fuels will decrease in water production  
 252 systems.



253

254 Figure 7: The principle of desalination based on wind energy coupled with PHES

255

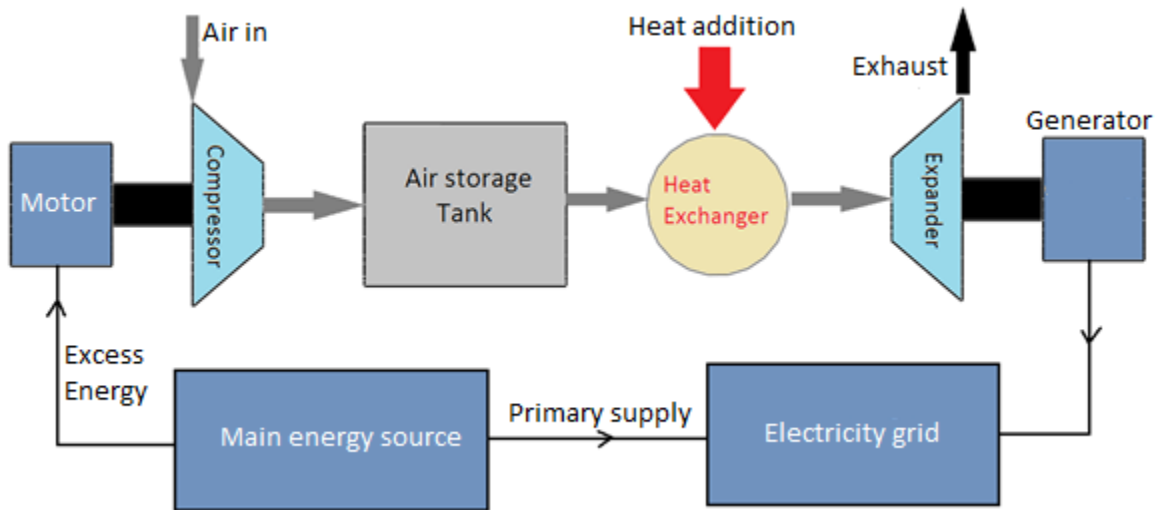
256 The optimization of the system is not only considered at the design level and  
257 components' sizing [62], but it also depends on optimal operations and scheduling [63]  
258 such as the initial stored water [64] in the upper reservoir which is better to be as high as  
259 possible. One of the drawbacks of Wind-PHES is its high capital cost [65], thus, Foley et  
260 al. [66] encouraged the use of this system while making it commercially viable by  
261 decreasing its capital cost and penalizing fossil fuel with high carbon taxes. Intelligent  
262 energy management can be performed in agricultural micro grids to benefit from the  
263 Wind-PHES and support irrigation systems [67]. Another way to make the system  
264 economically feasible is to increase the penetration of wind [68]. This will raise the profit  
265 of PHES and thus its payback period. With this in mind, it is necessary to always recheck  
266 if the system is working on its optimal operation, because each operation must be specific  
267 for a limited amount of power. Canales et al. [69] compared between Wind-PHES and the  
268 conventional reservoir. The authors deduced that Wind-PHES is much better even though  
269 it has a higher initial cost but it has lower operating cost, environmental impact and  
270 flooded area [70]. The capital cost of the system depends highly on the wind energy  
271 availability and plant construction area [71]. In [72], variable speed pumps were  
272 investigated to provide fast dynamic response that was also found to be a profitable  
273 solution [73]. Endegnanew et al. [74] discussed three different types of controllers that  
274 could be used in the Wind-PHES; storm, HVDC and load following controller. In [75], it  
275 was found that using double penstock instead of one will decrease the wind energy  
276 rejected annually from 18.96 % to 4.67 %. Bahadur et al. [76] proposed an optimal way  
277 to smooth the wind power by connecting the wind turbine in series with PHES. In other

278 words, the wind turbine is not connected to the generator directly. The water in the upper  
279 reservoir is always responsible for generating electricity.

#### 280 **4. Compressed Air Energy Storage**

281 Compressed air energy storage (CAES) is based on storing the excess of energy  
282 underground in the form of compressed air (see Figure 8). The compressed air will be  
283 subjected to heat addition before it enters the expander for generating electricity. Part of  
284 the compressed air will pass through a natural gas turbine that produce electricity and the  
285 rest will be used for heating the compressed air flow before expansion. CAES is an eco-  
286 friendly ESS which does not require high maintenance. There are different types of  
287 underground air storage; porous rock, mired hard rock storage facility and leached out  
288 salt dome. Underground air storage is only used for large scale applications, because it  
289 will not be effectively operating otherwise. Thus, for small scales, it is recommended to  
290 use aboveground storage formed of wire wound pressure vessels [77]. Amir et al. [78]  
291 aimed to increase the feasibility of RES and CAES. It was deduced that the proposed  
292 system has the ability to provide combined heat and power. This will indeed raise the  
293 benefit of this system and decrease its payback period to become less than 3 years. This  
294 could be achieved by replacing the combustion chamber with a thermal storage tank in  
295 order to take advantage of the stored heat. The latest generation of CAES is the  
296 isothermal version (I-CAES). It uses water to compress and expand the stored air via  
297 pump/turbine. This allows a reduction in the electric consumption of the compressor,  
298 elimination of the need for thermal input completely and an increase the overall  
299 efficiency of the storage system. It depends on two different mediums; air as a storage  
300 medium and water for controlling the pressure of the stored air. This system could be

301 found as open (OI-CAES) or closed system (CI-CAES). The closed type is the  
 302 conventional one such that it consists of only one storage tank combining air and water.  
 303 However, the OI-CAES uses two working cylinders connected to each other with a  
 304 reversible valve in order to increase the energy storage density which is expected to be  
 305 double than that of CI-CAES [79].



306

307

Figure 8: Schematic diagram of a conventional CAES

308

#### 309 4.1 Solar Energy Coupled with Compressed Air Storage

310 Same as the previous mentioned ESSs, Solar-CAES aims to decrease fuel consumption  
 311 and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In Brazil [80], the annual average exergy and energy efficiencies of  
 312 the plant was measured to be 17.9 % and 16.2 % respectively. According to [81], Solar-  
 313 CAES has been investigated as an effective system in a PV farm under transient  
 314 operational conditions, which consequently enhances the stability of the output power of  
 315 the PV-plant and increases the net revenue. In [82], CAES sizing was performed in a PV-  
 316 farm case study to provide electricity where the ESS is used to increase the efficiency of

317 the PV-plant. Cazzaniga et al. [83] established a new integration between CAES and  
318 floating PV-plant. The pontoons of the floating PV are used as reservoirs, and steel  
319 cylinders instead of polyethylene pipes. This system can be implemented in water basins  
320 in which the buoyancy of the modular raft structure must be pre-studied.

## 321 **4.2 Wind Energy Coupled with Compressed Air Storage**

322 In these days, Wind-CAES is frequently used for energy storage in offshore wind energy  
323 farms which is environmentally friendly [84]. Indeed, using such coupling, the power can  
324 be shifted to peak hours for increasing the gross revenue [85]. On the other hand,  
325 electrical stability of the system can be achieved by an optimal scheduling [86] and by  
326 taking into consideration the load distribution and peak times [87]. Jin et al. [88]  
327 investigated a small-scale Wind-CAES with a wind turbine rated power of 2 MW. The  
328 storage capacity used was 1.32 MWH. It was noticed that the proposed system is able to  
329 stabilize the output power while having a CAES rated power of 0.44 MW. In a case  
330 studied in Egypt [89], the net present value (NPV) was increased from \$207m to \$306m  
331 by using the CAES compared to the stand alone wind turbine after 25 years of operation.  
332 According to [90], Wind-CAES has CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 93% lower than the pulverized coal  
333 and 71% than the natural gas cycle. Abbaspour et al. [91] compared between Wind-  
334 CAES and the gas-fired generation plant, in which the results showed that the Wind-  
335 CAES could increase the profit by 43% and decrease the costs by 6.7%. Abdul Hai Alami  
336 [92] compared between CAES and Buoyancy work energy storage (BWES) in wind farm  
337 and find that the efficiency of CAES (84.8 %) is much higher than that of the BWES (36  
338 %). In [93], a thermo-economic study was performed in which the authors mentioned that  
339 CAES is a cost-effective solution for solving local wind power grid imbalances.

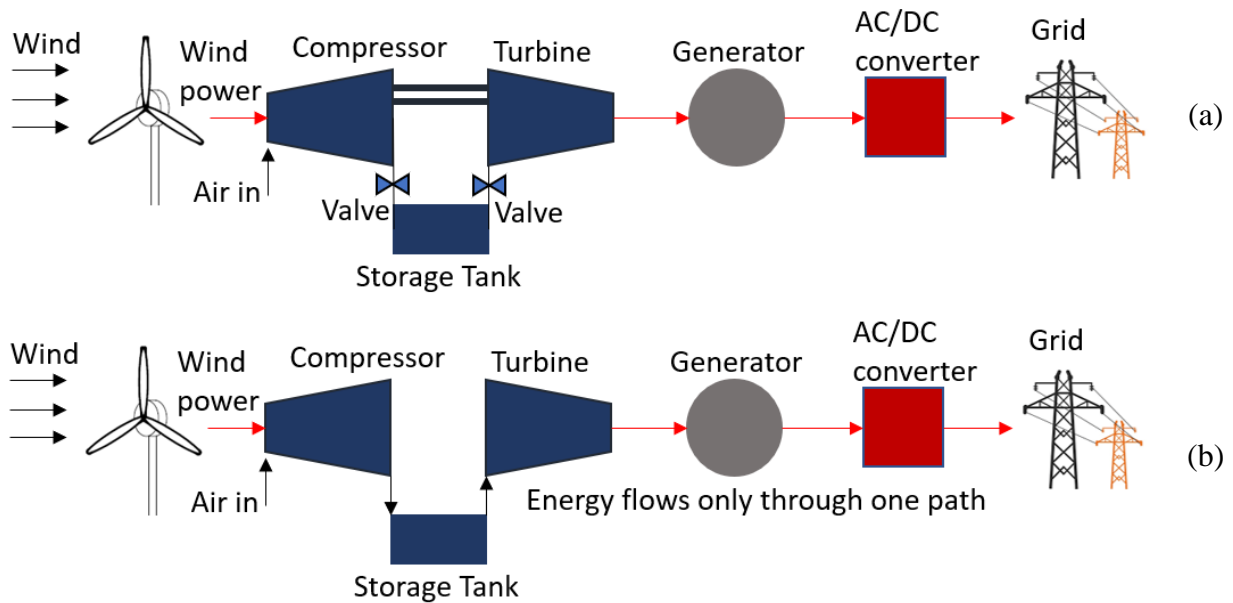
340 Table 2: Difference between Wind-CAES, Wind-NGCC and Conventional Coal Systems

Systems	Carbon Dioxide Emissions (g CO <sub>2</sub> /kWh)	Fuel Consumption (MJ/kWh)
Wind-CAES	61	1.03
Wind-NGCC	216	4.22
Conventional Coal	876	9.71

341

342 Usually optimization studies [94] are performed in Wind-CAES to support the main  
 343 objectives of the system such as decreasing the LCOE [95] while increasing the CAES  
 344 capacity and rated power requirements for the compressor. This can be achieved by an  
 345 optimal utilization of wind power and operation profitability [96] that vary according to  
 346 the schedule of wind generation [97]. The main components affected by the change of  
 347 wind speed are the wind turbine and compressor; in which the highest efficiency could be  
 348 achieved at stable and medium wind speeds [98]. In [99], it was concluded that a variable  
 349 shaft speed could serve in decreasing the LCOE when compared with that of the constant  
 350 speed. Saadat et al. [100] modelled a dual chamber liquid-compressed air storage vessel  
 351 (hydraulics and pneumatics) in order to downsize the electrical system, increase profit  
 352 and match between grid and load. Hasan et al. [101] concluded that a parallel CAES  
 353 system combined with wind turbine is better than the series connection which consumes  
 354 less amount of power during compression and also can deal more with wind fluctuations.  
 355 Figure 9 shows the difference between the series and parallel connections of the Wind-  
 356 CAES. Wang et al. [102] compared between the Underwater CAES (UWCAES) [103]  
 357 and Underground CAES (UGCAES). The authors found that UWCAES has a higher  
 358 efficiency in an offshore wind farm application. In [104], UWCAES was also studied, it

359 was reported that the total operating cost of the system is decreased by 3.36%.  
 360 Underwater storage is provided by the help of two vessels; one is seabed and connected  
 361 to the second which is responsible for floating the wind turbine. The system will stay  
 362 balanced and floating by the support of the lower pressure vessel. The compressed air is  
 363 also used to feed the grid when needed. In this floating offshore spar type wind turbine  
 364 [105], a hydraulic pump based on liquid-piston is used to compress the air while  
 365 providing low compression ratios to reduce losses and hence increasing the overall  
 366 efficiency.

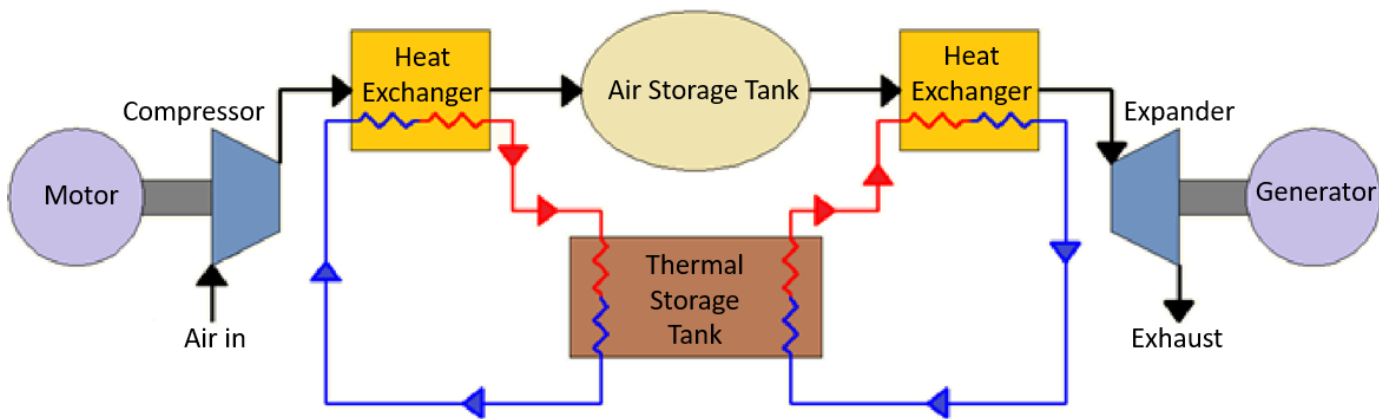


367 Figure 9: Wind coupled with CAES (a) Parallel and (b) Series connections

368

369 Adiabatic CAES (ACAES) [106-108] is a modern type of ESS which is introduced to  
 370 many wind power applications to eliminate heat addition in order to get rid of gas  
 371 turbines [109] (see Figure 10). It is a gas free system; the released thermal energy during  
 372 compression is stored to be then reused before expansion. Therefore, the ACAES is

373 mainly dependent on the thermal energy storage used [110]. Zhang et al. [111] proposed  
 374 a variable configuration of the ACAES (VC-ACAES) to reduce power fluctuations using  
 375 multi-stage compressor and multi-stage expander to operate under variable modes and to  
 376 increase the wind power connected to the grid from 26.29 % to 70.62 %. According to  
 377 the economic aspect, the centralized CAES in wind power applications is found to be a  
 378 better choice than the decentralized one [112]. Sun et al. [113] modelled mathematically  
 379 the scroll expander to be used as an air-machinery energy converter in order to transmit  
 380 additional driving power from the stored compressed-air to the turbine shaft for  
 381 smoothing the wind power. The co-location of wind and CAES is found to be attractive  
 382 to decrease the transmission costs and to increase the wind penetration.



383  
 384 Figure 10: ACAES schematic representation  
 385

386 In the presence of demand congestion, it is essential to adopt programs for management  
 387 issues and operational strategies [114] in order to deal with scheduling problems.  
 388 Currently, the most important programs used are the demand response program (DRP)  
 389 [115] and stochastic programming (SP) [116]. These are used as feedback methods to get  
 390 rid from intermittency, decrease the operational cost, reduce wind curtailment and

391 provide better frequency security [117]. One of the main studies that must be carried out  
392 using these programs is the conditional value at risk (CVaR) [118].

### 393 **5. Mechanical Energy Storage Coupled to Hybrid Systems**

394 Hybrid systems are used to increase the utilizations of renewable energy as well as to  
395 combine the advantages of the different types of MESSs. They also allow to decrease the  
396 negative effects of fuel power cycles and to combine between different sources of energy.  
397 Table 3 shows the different combinations of MESSs and energy sources. The  
398 combinations can be found in two different ways; either by energy sources or by ESSs.  
399 Typical hybridizations of energy sources can be the Solar-Wind, Solar-Diesel, Wind-  
400 Diesel, etc., while that of ESS can be such as FESS-CAES, CAES-Thermal ESS, etc. One  
401 of the main benefits of using hybrid systems is to adopt standalone renewable energy  
402 systems. This could be achieved by coupling an energy storage system to wind and solar  
403 energy. Therefore, in [119], the ACAES was chosen as a storage system in order to avoid  
404 any other thermal input. The results showed that the probability of losing the power  
405 supply is very low such that it will not exceed 1%. The capital cost is the main concern  
406 when talking about hybrid systems, however, if the operating cost is significantly  
407 reduced, then the capital cost issue could be skipped. These systems are mostly adopted  
408 in remote areas where the grid has not been extended. For instance, Solar-Wind-PHES  
409 [120] can decrease the levelized cost of electricity by 32.8% and 45% compared to Solar-  
410 PHES and Wind-PHES respectively [121].

411

412 Table 3: Hybrid systems based on mechanical energy storage

Hybrid System	References
Solar-Diesel-FESS	[122]
Solar-Diesel-PHES-Batteries	[123]
Solar-Gas Turbine-CAES	[124]
Solar-Organic Rankine Cycle-CAES	[125, 126]
Solar-Wind-CAES	[127, 128]
Solar-Wind-FESS	[129]
Solar-Wind-PHES	[130-135]
Wind-Diesel-CAES	[136]
Wind-Diesel-FESS	[137, 138]
Wind-Diesel-PHES	[139]
Wind-Electric Boiler-PHES	[140]
Wind-FESS-CAES	[141]
Wind-Gas Turbine-PHES	[142]
Wind-Geothermal-CAES	[143]
Wind-Organic Rankine Cycle-CAES	[144, 145]
Wind-Thermal Unit-PHES	[146]
Wind-CAES-Thermal ESS	[147]

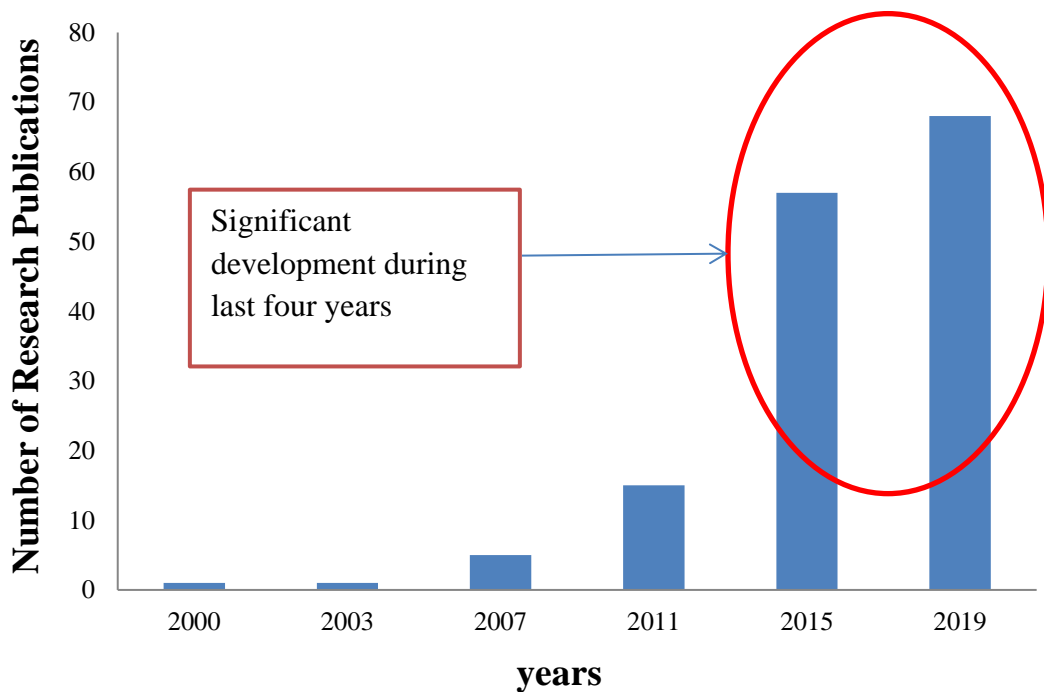
413

414 **6. Discussion**

415 The current increase in the usage of renewable energy imposes also to increase in MESSs

416 in order to obtain the needed performance. The evolution and development of MESSs

417 start to show up after 2010 as shown in Figure 11 based on the papers analyzed in this  
418 research. It is clearly observed that during the last four years, the number of articles of  
419 MESSs combined with solar and/or wind is in a dramatic growth which shows the  
420 importance of this topic nowadays. The results presented in the figures of this section are  
421 based on Elsevier journals as a sample study.



422

423 Figure 11: The research development of MESSs coupled with solar and wind applications

424

#### 425 *Comparison between mechanical energy storage systems*

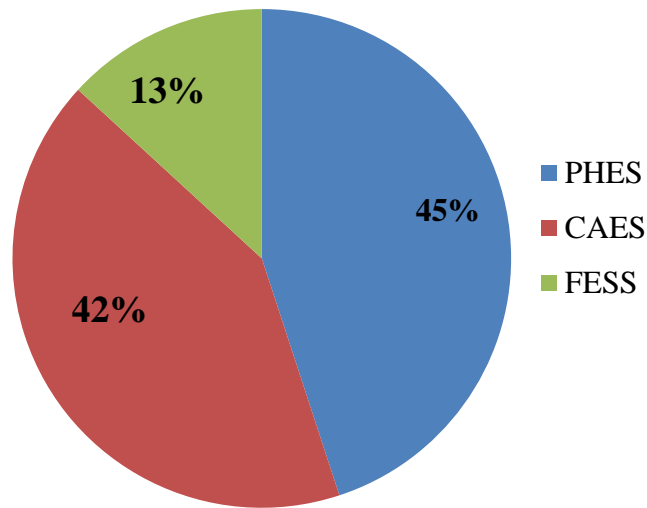
426 Indeed, the evolution of MESSs domain varies significantly with respect to its different

427 types according to global requirements which depend on the properties and advantages of

428 each type. Figure 12 presents the difference between the MESSs types combined with

429 solar and/or wind energy applications regarding the number of studies and research

430 publications. This difference is directly affected by the performance of each type, storage  
431 capacity, operating duration, initial and operating cost and environmental effects.



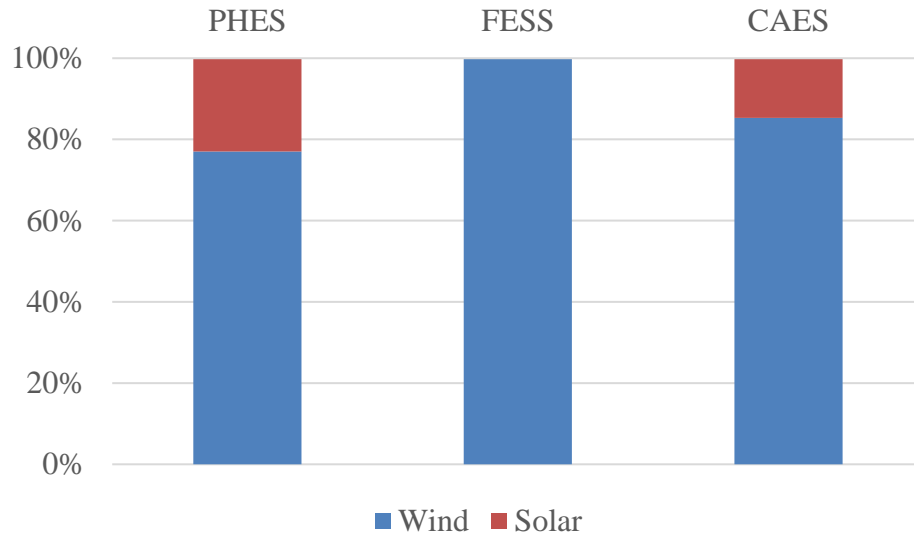
432

433 Figure 12: The difference between mechanical energy storage systems when coupled  
434 with wind and solar energies according to the number of studies and articles

435

436 The nature of the energy source is a major factor that affects the MESS type selection. As  
437 a matter of fact, the characteristics of wind energy is more appropriate than solar to be  
438 coupled with MESSs. This is due to the type of component responsible for energy  
439 conversion in each system. Therefore, the mechanical power generated by the wind  
440 turbine could be easily transmitted to any type of MESSs. Figure 13 shows the difference  
441 between wind and solar energies according to the type of mechanical storage systems. It  
442 is very noticeable that wind is considerably more investigated than solar energy when  
443 coupled with all mentioned storage systems. The percentages of Wind-PHES and Solar-

444 PHEs applications are 78% and 22% while that of Wind-CAES and Solar-PHEs are 85%  
445 and 15% respectively. FESS is only coupled with wind energy (100%) because this  
446 storage system could only be used to store mechanical power.

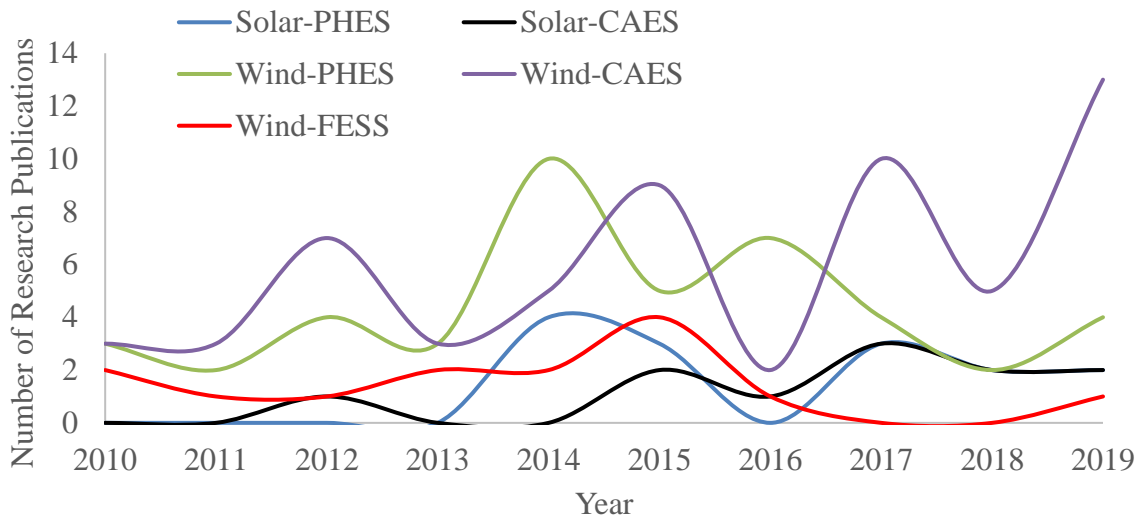


447

448 Figure 13: The percentage difference between solar and wind energies with respect to  
449 their combinations with mechanical energy storage systems

450

451 As shown in Figure 14, the applications involving wind/solar and MESS had passed  
452 through several jumps and drops. Recently, the highest investigated application is the  
453 Wind-CAES. It has been remarkably increasing; however, the other systems are either  
454 decreasing or remaining constant. Besides, the curves corresponding to solar energy are  
455 always below those of wind. This confirms that wind energy is more applicable with  
456 mechanical energy storage.



457

458 Figure 14: The number of researches that investigated the different applications  
 459 combining wind/solar energy with MESSs with respect to time

460

461 It is essential to study the difference between the various types of energy storage in order  
 462 to choose the appropriate system to feed the needs in the case or application under study.

463 There are also some special characteristics and differences between the different types of  
 464 MESSs such as the very rapid discharging of power in FESS, high efficiency of PHES  
 465 regardless of time and the stability of CAES. Table 4 shows a comparison between the  
 466 different types of MESSs involving the advantages and disadvantages of each one.

467 Table 4: Comparison between the types of MESSs

ESS	Advantages	Disadvantages
FESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No pollution</li> <li>• Long lifetime</li> <li>• Discharging huge amount of power in few minutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited charge/discharge</li> <li>• Cannot stand alone with a PV plant</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low cost/kW</li> </ul>	
<b>PHES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High efficiency</li> <li>• Stability</li> <li>• Low cost/kWh</li> <li>• Long discharge time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High capital cost</li> <li>• Low energy density</li> <li>• Occupying large areas</li> <li>• High capital cost</li> </ul>
<b>CAES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexibility</li> <li>• Long discharge time</li> <li>• Fast start-up</li> <li>• Low cost/kWh</li> <li>• Stability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low efficiency</li> <li>• Usually natural gas is used to reheat the air before expansion leading to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (if not using ACAES/I-CAES)</li> </ul>

468

469 ***Recommendations***

470 Due to the fundamental difference in terms of operational mode and characteristics,  
471 recommendations for using MESSs are very specific and adapted to the considered  
472 storage type. A pre-study should be performed relying on the geographic and economic  
473 conditions of the region in order to select the optimal type of MESSs. Since PHES  
474 requires a large amount of water, so it is not preferred to use this kind of energy storage  
475 in areas that have low available amount of water. This system could also take advantage  
476 of net power from rain in mountains. With this in mind, the temperature is also  
477 considered as a critical factor such that it must be moderate to avoid freezing and

478 evaporation at low and high temperatures respectively. Moreover, it is suggested to adopt  
479 such system in places characterized by huge differences in elevations because it allows to  
480 increase the effectiveness of PHES. To increase the profit of this system, a variable speed  
481 pump must be installed [72]. The series connection between the wind/solar power with  
482 PHES is able to provide more stability [46, 76]. This is a kind of automatic control to  
483 avoid complexity since the HT will remain operating which is the only component  
484 connected to the generator. FESS is the most economic ESS when fast responses are  
485 required within a short operational time [23]. Magnetic bearings are responsible for  
486 decreasing the transmission losses [30]. The less commonly used electric machine is the  
487 SRM because it has complex control problems. Usually, SM and IM are used for high  
488 speed and high-power applications respectively [31]. It is very necessary to use  
489 compensators such as DSTATCOM to stabilize the output power in FESS when coupled  
490 with renewable energy [38]. Furthermore, hydrostatic transmission and SG could serve in  
491 decreasing frequency deviations [39]. It is recommended to replace conventional CAES  
492 by modern types such as ACAES [109] and I-CAES [79] in order to avoid using another  
493 heat source which will consequently increase the plant efficiency and reduce the CO<sub>2</sub>  
494 emissions. VC-ACAES [111] has showed a great potential for decreasing the power  
495 fluctuations which relies on multi-stage compressor and multi-stage turbine. Floating  
496 wind/solar [83, 105] systems coupled with CAES are also highly attractive because they  
497 are depending on underwater storage which has presented a better performance compared  
498 to the underground one [102]. In all MESSs, it is very necessary to adopt well organized  
499 operational strategies and feedback programs such as DRP [115] and SP [116]. The  
500 governmental sector should support projects involving MESSs. This can be performed by

501 providing the information needed for the studies as well as the lands required for the  
502 plants' construction.

503 ***Research gaps and future directions***

- 504 • Development of software that allows to choose the optimal energy storage system  
505 based on the available conditions, power supply and load. This will indeed help the  
506 users to select the most suitable storage system that could fit their applications.
- 507 • Study advanced hybrid MESSs to improve the plant efficiency and get rid of the  
508 disadvantages of the different types of storage systems as much as possible. It will be  
509 easier to shave peak loads and increase the capacity of the whole plant. Hybrid  
510 MESSs is the optimal way to keep the system eco-friendly and meet the requirements  
511 needed in any type of application.
- 512 • Perform modeling and preliminary studies on hybrid systems combining MESSs with  
513 other ESSs. This will help in studying the potential of these hybrid systems in order to  
514 find further optimization options. Even though, combining MESSs alone is the  
515 favorable choice of energy storage, however, in some special cases, they are not  
516 capable of meeting all requirements. Thus, coupling different energy storage  
517 categories is necessary, while, the most important issue is their management such that  
518 the MESSs are the primary systems and others are the auxiliary ones to reduce the  
519 environmental impact as much as possible.

520

521

522

523

## 524 **7. Conclusion**

525 This review paper has investigated all research studies involving wind and/or solar  
526 applications coupled with MESSs. These types of RESs are the most ones that require  
527 energy storage such that they are characterized by significant intermittency. This domain  
528 has showed a dramatic development and evolution recently. The coupling could be found  
529 in two different ways; series and parallel. It was deduced that series connection is  
530 preferable such that it provides an automatic control in order to reduce the sudden drop or  
531 rise in solar or wind power. By this manner, power will be enforced to flow first through  
532 the MESS then to the load. This will ensure stability and safety of the devices that are  
533 connected to the system and simplify controlling issues. On the other hand, the parallel  
534 connection could save more amount of power such that the path of energy flow is shorter  
535 than that of series. The three main categories of mechanical energy storage systems are  
536 FESS, PHES and CAES. FESS is based on storing energy for short durations in the form  
537 of kinetic energy by using a rotating mass. Indeed, it has the fastest response where it  
538 can discharge huge amount of power in few minutes however its capacity is very limited.  
539 It is the most economic ESS in terms of fast response (lowest cost/kW). There are two  
540 electric machines that are commonly used in flywheels; SM for high speed and IM for  
541 high power applications. In order to stabilize the electric power, it is essential to use a  
542 compensator such as DSTATCOM. In the presence of significant fluctuations,  
543 hydrostatic transmission and SG would be the most favorable solutions. PHES depends  
544 on storing water in an elevated reservoir, it can then be used as a stored potential energy.  
545 PHESs are optimal for regions where large spaces are available as well as sufficient  
546 amount of water. It has the highest efficiency, but it requires larger areas for installation.

547 Variable speed pumps are better than that of constant speed in terms of profit. The HT  
548 will stay operating the whole time providing the grid with the needed power. CAES, in its  
549 turn, relies on using a compressor to store air at high pressure, it can be then expanded  
550 when it is required in order to supply energy. It is very flexible and has a fast start-up  
551 while it operates at lower efficiencies compared to other MESSs. Therefore, using  
552 ACAES instead of the conventional CAES allows to avoid the need of a supplementary  
553 heat source by the help of a thermal storage tank. It is also more favorable to use VC-  
554 ACAES to decrease power fluctuations and/or floating systems that are based on  
555 underwater storage to provide higher storage efficiencies compared to that of  
556 underground. The high-power consumption of the compressor could also be reduced by  
557 using the I-CAES because it is based on compressing air with a pump by the help of  
558 water as a working fluid. In addition, OI-CAES has a higher energy storage density  
559 compared to the closed type.

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