

On the Existence of AI Equilibrium in Electricity Markets

Vladimir Dvorkin

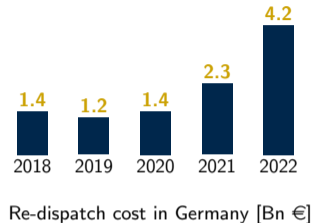
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
University of Michigan

5th Workshop on Foundation Models of the Electric Grid
Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
March, 2026



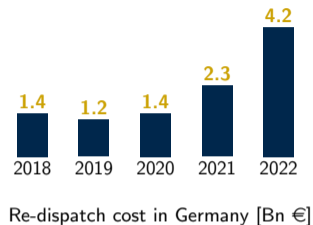
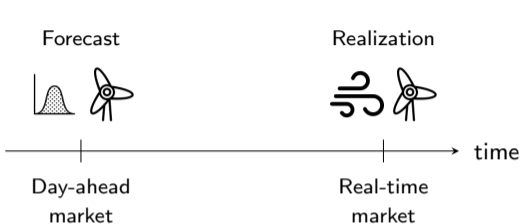
- ▶ Two-stage electricity markets to manage uncertainty of renewables:
 - ▶ Day-ahead market: minimize the cost of power supply w.r.t. forecast
 - ▶ Real-time market: least-cost re-dispatch to accommodate forecast errors

- ▶ As renewable penetration increases, the cost of real-time re-dispatch also increases



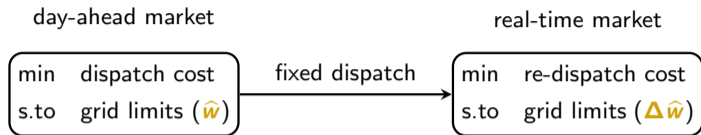
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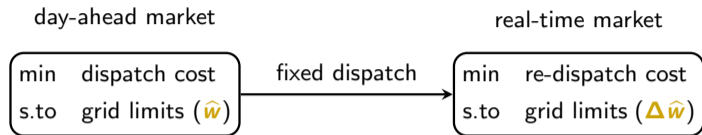
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How to make renewable power generation less expensive for the system?



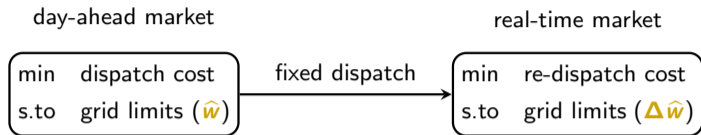


Improving cost efficiency across day-ahead and real-time markets:

► Stochastic electricity market design [PZP10, M⁺12, Dvo19]:

- + Co-optimization of dispatch and re-dispatch decisions
- + Least-cost solution in *expectation*
- Market properties only hold in *expectation*

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & \text{dispatch cost} + \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}_{\Delta \hat{w}}} [\text{re-dispatch cost}] \\ \text{s.to} & \text{grid limits } (\hat{w}, \Delta \hat{w}) \text{ for all } \Delta \hat{w} \sim \mathbb{P}_{\Delta \hat{w}} \end{array}$$



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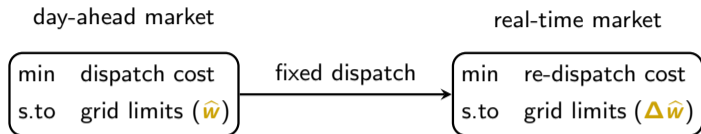
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▶ Approximating stochastic market efficiency within deterministic markets:

- ▶ Improved scheduling of renewables [M⁺14]
- ▶ Cost-aware reserve requirements [DDM18]
- ▶ Cost-aware transmission allocation [JKP17, DP19]



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Can AI bridge the gap between ideal stochastic and current deterministic market designs?

Typical grid optimization problem:

$$\min_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{u}} c(\mathbf{p}_\theta) + s(\mathbf{u}_\theta) \quad \text{generation and UC cost}$$

$$\text{s.to } f(\mathbf{p}_\theta, \mathbf{q}_\theta, \mathbf{w}_\theta) = \mathbf{0} \quad : \lambda_\theta \text{ power flow equations}$$

$$g(\mathbf{p}_\theta, \mathbf{q}_\theta, \mathbf{w}_\theta) \leq b(\mathbf{u}_\theta) \quad \text{gen, flow, voltage limits}$$

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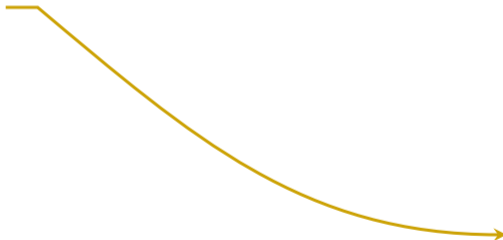
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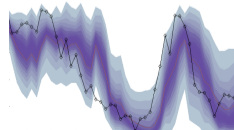
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Net load forecasting [PCK07, ZHS24]



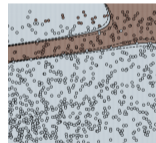
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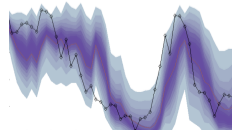
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SVM-based prediction of on/off gen. status [PK24]



Net load forecasting [PCK07, ZHS24]



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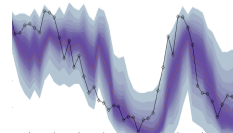
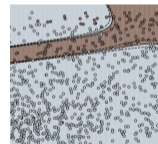
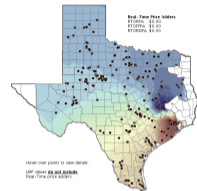
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Real-time electricity pricing via GNNs [LWZ21]

SVM-based prediction of on/off gen. status [PK24]

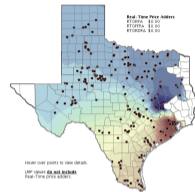
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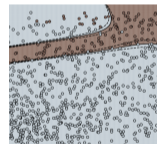
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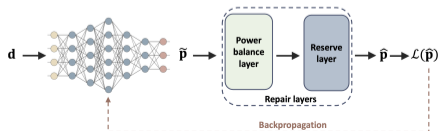
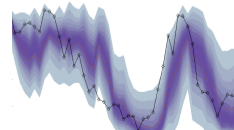


SVM-based prediction of on/off gen. status [PK24]



Optimal generation dispatch prediction using optimization proxies [CTVH23]

Net load forecasting [PCK07, ZHS24]



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Does a market equilibrium exist when decision-making is delegated to AI?

Introduction

Controlling the impact of ML errors on electricity pricing

Nash equilibrium of ML models in electricity markets

Insights for foundational models in power systems

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DC optimal power flow:

$$\min_{\underline{p} \leq p \leq \bar{p}} \mathbf{p}^\top \mathbf{C} \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{p}$$

$$\text{s.to } \mathbf{1}^\top (\mathbf{p} + \hat{\mathbf{w}} - \mathbf{d}) = \mathbf{0} : \lambda_b$$

$$|\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{p} + \hat{\mathbf{w}} - \mathbf{d})| \leq \bar{\mathbf{f}} : \lambda_{\bar{f}}, \lambda_{\underline{f}}$$

- ▶ Electricity market clearing based on DC-OPF
- ▶ Relies on the *forecast* $\hat{\mathbf{w}}$ of wind power generation
- ▶ Forecast errors \rightarrow pricing errors via market optimization
- ▶ May not be a dominant generation resource, yet still exposes the entire electricity trading to errors

Locational marginal prices:

$$\lambda(\hat{\mathbf{w}}) = \underbrace{\mathbf{1} \cdot \lambda_b(\hat{\mathbf{w}})}_{\text{uniform part}} - \underbrace{\mathbf{F}^\top (\lambda_{\bar{f}}(\hat{\mathbf{w}}) - \lambda_{\underline{f}}(\hat{\mathbf{w}}))}_{\text{congestion part}}$$

DC optimal power flow:

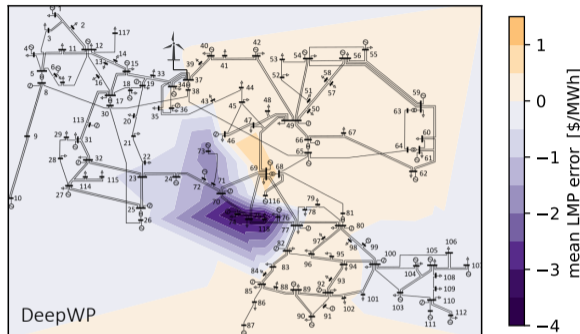
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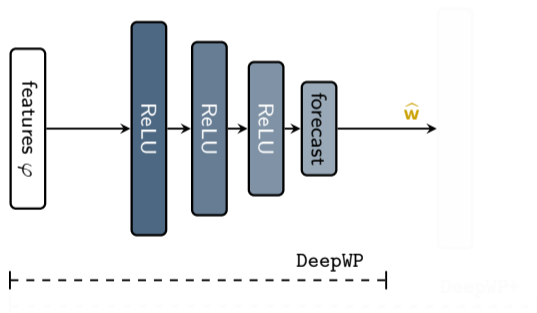


Thanks to Robert Mieth of Rutgers for the help with this visualization

Forecast errors from a single wind power plant propagate into locational marginal price (LMP) errors across the IEEE 118-Bus RTS. Electricity at certain buses is systematically over- or under-priced [DF23].

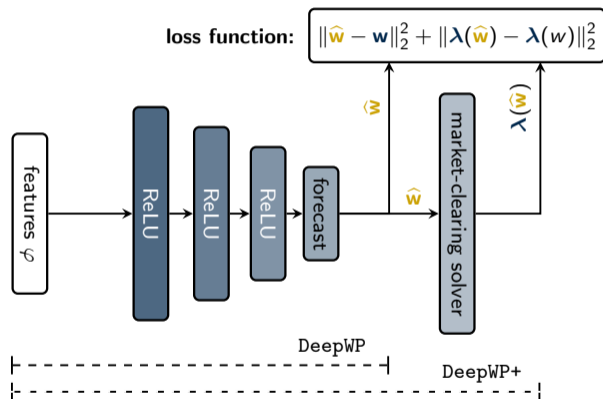
- ▶ Dataset $\{(\varphi_1, \mathbf{w}_1), \dots, (\varphi_m, \mathbf{w}_m)\}$ of wind power records, with features φ and measurements \mathbf{w}
- ▶ Two deep learning architectures **DeepWP** and **DeepWP+** for wind power forecasting:

loss function: $\|\hat{\mathbf{w}} - \mathbf{w}\|_2^2$



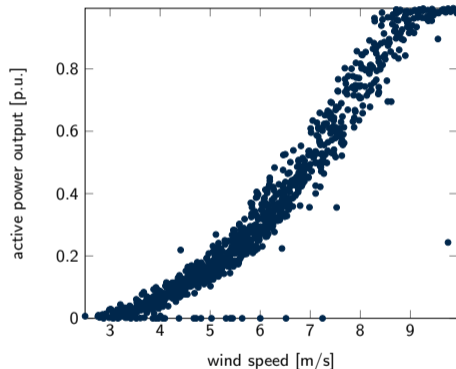
▶ **DeepWP+** incorporates market clearing as an optimization layer [10], which informs on pricing errors

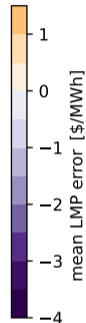
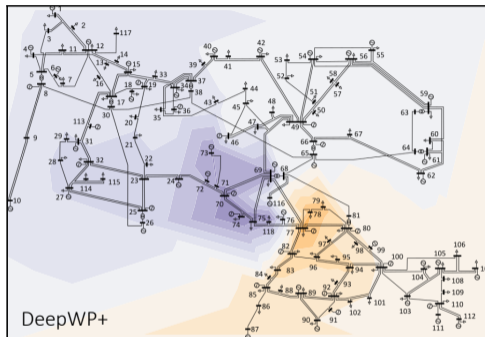
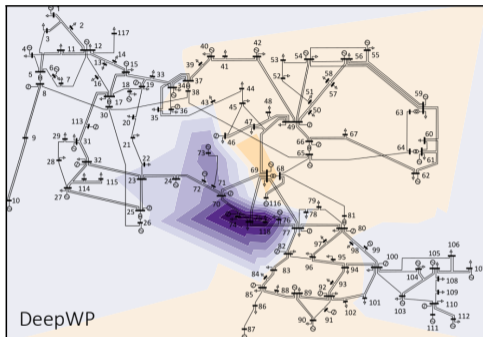
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- ▶ DeepWP+ incorporates market clearing as an optimization layer [DAK17], which informs on pricing errors

- ▶ 1,000 wind power records from a real wind power turbine:
 - ▶ Active power output
 - ▶ Wind speed and direction
 - ▶ Blade pitch angle
- ▶ DeepWP has 4 hidden layers with 30 neurons each. DeepWP+ additionally includes an opt. layer
- ▶ ADAM optimizer with varying learning rate





- DeepWP: Forecast error objective – LMP errors $[-4, 1]$ \$/MWh
- DeepWP+: LMP error objective – LMP errors $[-1, 1]$ \$/MWh

case	DeepWP			DeepWP+					
	RMSE(\hat{w})	RMSE($\hat{\lambda}$)	CVaR($\hat{\lambda}$)	RMSE(\hat{w})		RMSE($\hat{\lambda}$)		CVaR($\hat{\lambda}$)	
	MWh	\$/MWh	\$/MWh	MWh	gain	\$/MWh	gain	\$/MWh	gain
14_ieee	0.35	0.62	1.52	0.35	+0.6%	0.61	-0.6%	1.50	-0.8%
57_ieee	2.31	11.03	34.64	2.60	+11.2%	10.72	-2.9%	33.59	-3.1%
24_ieee	4.08	8.62	37.70	4.51	+9.6%	8.33	-3.5%	36.35	-3.7%
39_epri	5.94	11.15	31.21	6.43	+7.6%	10.19	-9.4%	28.02	-11.4%
73_ieee	4.02	5.12	16.21	5.51	+26.9%	4.24	-20.8%	13.41	-20.9%
118_ieee	2.29	3.59	11.32	2.60	+12.1%	2.88	-24.7%	9.06	-25.0%

- ▶ Price errors reduction comes at the expense of forecast error
- ▶ Price error reduction is more significant in larger networks

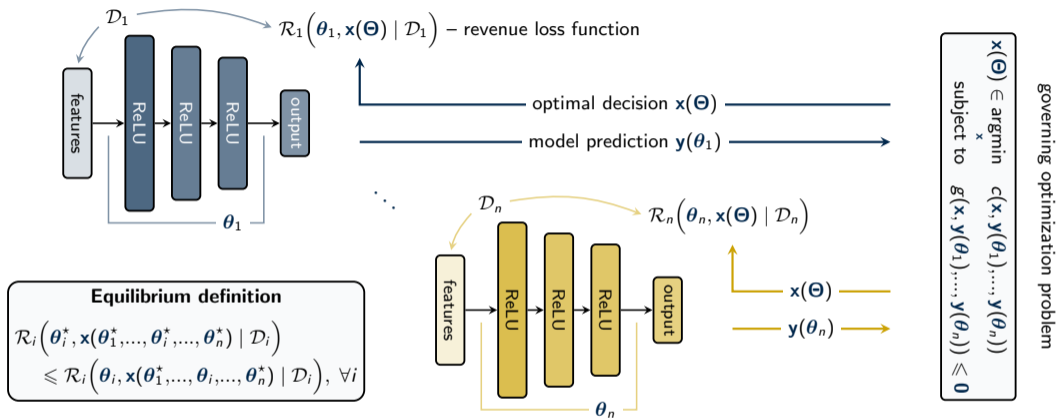
For more results, including **price fairness**: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2308.01436>

Introduction

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Insights for foundational models in power systems



- ▶ Many systems governed by optimization (pricing, scheduling, social planning, optimal control,...)
- ▶ Arbitrary AI models (regression, deep learning, reinforcement learning, trees)
- ▶ From Nash to Generalized Nash Equilibrium: more insights, algorithms, etc.
- ▶ Does the design of the governing optimization steer AI models to operational and economic equilibrium?

Baseline approach to wind power forecasting:

- ▶ Collect a training dataset $\mathcal{D} = \{(\varphi_1, \mathbf{w}_1), \dots, (\varphi_n, \mathbf{w}_n)\}$
- ▶ Machine learning model $\mathbb{W}_\theta : \mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{W}$ with parameter θ
- ▶ Learn optimal parameter θ^* by minimizing a prediction loss

$$\min_{\|\theta\|_1 \leq \tau} \mathcal{L}(\theta | \mathcal{D}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \|\mathbb{W}_\theta(\varphi_i) - \mathbf{w}_i\|_2^2$$

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Revenue-optimal forecasting [PCK07, CK19, WSC23]:

1. Day-ahead stage: LMP λ_1 pricing the forecast of wind power
2. Real-time stage: LMP λ_2 pricing any forecast deviation

$$\max_{\|\theta\|_1 \leq \tau} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta | \mathcal{D}, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\underbrace{\lambda_{1i} \mathbb{W}_\theta(\varphi_i)}_{\text{day-ahead revenue}} + \underbrace{\lambda_{2i} (\mathbf{w}_i - \mathbb{W}_\theta(\varphi_i))}_{\text{real-time revenue}} \right)$$

Optimization of wind power producers

$$\max_{\|\theta_j\| \leq \tau_j} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) - \gamma \cdot \mathcal{L}(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j)$$

for all producers $j \in 1, \dots, b$

feature selection

regularization
by prediction loss

expected revenue

Optimization of wind power producers

$$\max_{\|\theta_j\| \leq \tau_j} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) - \gamma \cdot \mathcal{L}(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j)$$

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revenue from generation and regulation

Optimization of controllable generators

$$\max_{\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{R}^G(\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i | \lambda_{1i}, \lambda_{2i}) - c(\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i)$$

for all training samples $i \in \mathcal{D}_{1:b}$

generation and regulation cost

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Others

Market-clearing conditions at the 1st and 2nd stages

$$\mathbf{0} \leq \lambda_{1i} \perp \mathbf{p}_i + \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbb{W}_{\theta_j}(\varphi_i) - \mathbf{d} \geq \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{0} \leq \lambda_{2i} \perp \mathbf{r}_i + \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbf{w}_{ji} - \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbb{W}_{\theta_j}(\varphi_i) \geq \mathbf{0}$$

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Optimization of wind power producers

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for all training samples $i \in \mathcal{D}_{1:b}$

Assumptions:

- ▶ Class of ML models \mathbb{W}_{θ} is **convex** in θ , e.g., kernel regression
- ▶ Training datasets are such that $n \gg \text{card}[\varphi]$ (unique regression solution)
- ▶ The intersection of private feasible regions is compact (at least one feasible dispatch $\forall i \in \mathcal{D}_{1:b}$)

Main result: regression equilibrium exists and is unique!

Optimization of wind power producers

$$\max_{\|\theta_j\| \leq \tau_j} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) - \gamma \cdot \mathcal{L}(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j)$$

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Others

Market-clearing conditions at the 1st and 2nd stages

$$\mathbf{0} \leq \lambda_{1i} \perp \mathbf{p}_i + \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbb{W}_{\theta_j}(\varphi_i) - \mathbf{d} \geq \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{0} \leq \lambda_{2i} \perp \mathbf{r}_i + \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbf{w}_{ji} - \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbb{W}_{\theta_j}(\varphi_i) \geq \mathbf{0}$$

for all training samples $i \in \mathcal{D}_{1:b}$

Equilibrium regression profile $\Theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_b^*)$, such that:

- ▶ Feasible operation of the power grid and markets
- ▶ Maximized wind power profits, with no incentives to deviate
- ▶ Minimized expected dispatch costs across the two markets

Optimization of wind power producers

$$\max_{\|\theta_j\| \leq \tau_j} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j, \lambda_1, \lambda_2) - \gamma \cdot \mathcal{L}(\theta_j | \mathcal{D}_j)$$

for all producers $j \in 1, \dots, b$

Optimization of controllable generators

$$\max_{\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{R}^G(\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i | \lambda_{1i}, \lambda_{2i}) - c(\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i)$$

for all training samples $i \in \mathcal{D}_{1:b}$

Others

Market-clearing conditions at the 1st and 2nd stages

$$\mathbf{0} \leq \lambda_{1i} \perp \mathbf{p}_i + \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbb{W}_{\theta_j}(\varphi_i) - \mathbf{d} \geq \mathbf{0}, \quad \mathbf{0} \leq \lambda_{2i} \perp \mathbf{r}_i + \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbf{w}_{ji} - \sum_{j=1}^b \mathbb{W}_{\theta_j}(\varphi_i) \geq \mathbf{0}$$

for all training samples $i \in \mathcal{D}_{1:b}$ Equilibrium regression profile $\Theta^* = (\theta_1^*, \dots, \theta_b^*)$, such that:

- ▶ Feasible operation of the power grid and markets
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- ▶ Minimized expected dispatch costs across the two markets

How to compute equilibrium regression Θ^* ?



- ▶ Equilibrium problem: stacks many private optimization problems
- ▶ Variational inequalities (VI): analyzes the interaction between private optimization problems
- ▶ In some special cases (like ours), VI connects equilibrium to a centralized optimization

For more details visit Appendix A in: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2405.17753>

- ▶ By the Symmetry Principle Theorem [FP03], there exists an equivalent opt solving the equilibrium
- ▶ ... which happens to minimize the expected generation and regulation costs
- ▶ ... thus enhancing the temporal coordination of day-ahead and real-time markets

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min_{\Theta, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}} \quad & \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n c(\mathbf{p}_i, \mathbf{r}_i) + \gamma \|\Theta \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i - \mathbf{w}_i\|_2^2 && \text{regularized expected cost} \\
 \text{s.to} \quad & \mathbf{1}^\top (\mathbf{p}_i + \Theta \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i - \mathbf{d}) = 0, && \text{day-ahead power balance} \\
 & \mathbf{1}^\top (\mathbf{r}_i - \Theta \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i + \mathbf{w}_i) = 0, && \text{real-time power balance} \\
 & |\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{p}_i + \Theta \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i - \mathbf{d})| \leq \bar{\mathbf{f}}, && \text{day-ahead power flow limit} \\
 & |\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{p}_i + \Theta \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i - \mathbf{d}) \\
 & \quad + \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}_i - \Theta \boldsymbol{\varphi}_i + \mathbf{w}_i)| \leq \bar{\mathbf{f}}, && \text{real-time power flow limit} \\
 & \underline{\mathbf{p}} \leq \mathbf{p}_i + \mathbf{r}_i \leq \bar{\mathbf{p}}, && \text{generation limit} \\
 & |\mathbf{r}_i| \leq \bar{\mathbf{r}}, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n, && \text{regulation limit} \\
 & |\Theta| \leq \tau && \text{equilibrium feature selection}
 \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ For more details visit Appendix A in: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2405.17753>

Step 1 Primal update of each wind power producer:

$$\theta^k \leftarrow \max_{\|\theta\| \leq \tau} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta | \mathcal{D}, \lambda_1^k, \lambda_2^k) - \gamma \cdot \mathcal{L}(\theta | \mathcal{D})$$

Step 2 Primal update of each conventional generator:

$$\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{r}^k \leftarrow \max_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{R}^G(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r} | \lambda_1^k, \lambda_2^k) - c(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r})$$

Step 3 Electricity price updates:

$$\lambda_1^{k+1} \leftarrow \left[\lambda_1^k - \varrho \left(\mathbf{p}^k + \mathbb{W}_{\theta^k}(\varphi) - \mathbf{d} \right) \right]_+$$

$$\lambda_2^{k+1} \leftarrow \left[\lambda_2^k - \varrho \left(\mathbf{r}^k + \mathbf{w} - \mathbb{W}_{\theta^k}(\varphi) \right) \right]_+$$

- ▶ Resembles Walrasian auction: Equilibrium is computed via price exchange
- ▶ Proprietary training datasets are localized and not exchanged

Step 1 Primal update of each wind power producer:

$$\theta^k \leftarrow \max_{\|\theta\| \leq \tau} \mathcal{R}^W(\theta | \mathcal{D}, \lambda_1^k, \lambda_2^k) - \gamma \cdot \mathcal{L}(\theta | \mathcal{D}) + \underbrace{\frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{p}^{k-1} + \mathbb{W}_{\theta}(\varphi) - \mathbf{d}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{r}^{k-1} + \mathbf{w} - \mathbb{W}_{\theta}(\varphi)\|_2^2}_{\text{ADMM feasibility terms}}$$

Step 2 Primal update of each conventional generator:

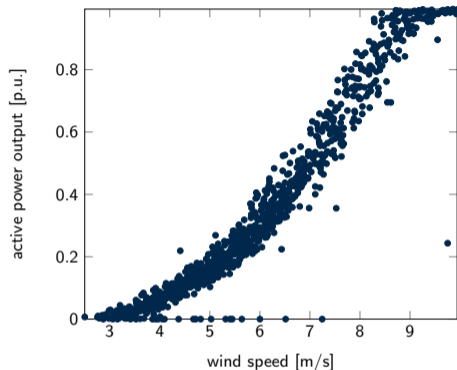
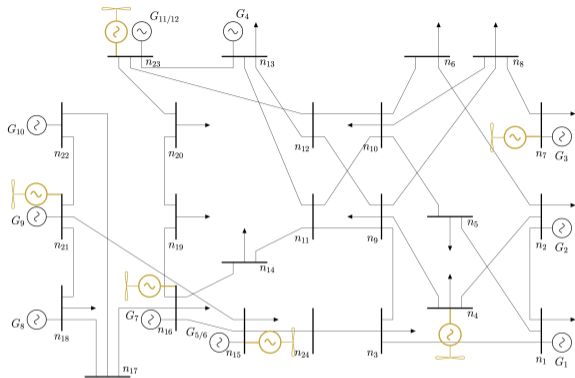
$$\mathbf{p}^k, \mathbf{r}^k \leftarrow \max_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r} \in \mathcal{G}} \mathcal{R}^G(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r} | \lambda_1^k, \lambda_2^k) - c(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{r}) + \underbrace{\frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{p} + \mathbb{W}_{\theta^{k-1}}(\varphi) - \mathbf{d}\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\mathbf{r} + \mathbf{w} - \mathbb{W}_{\theta^{k-1}}(\varphi)\|_2^2}_{\text{ADMM feasibility terms}}$$

Step 3 Electricity price updates:

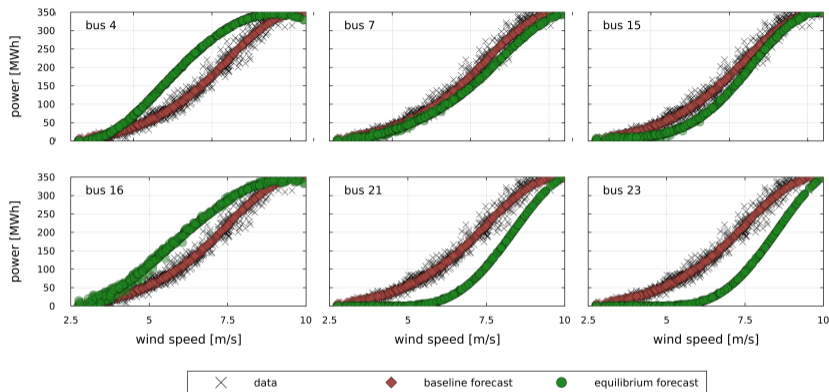
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- ▶ Resembles Walrasian auction: Equilibrium is computed via price exchange
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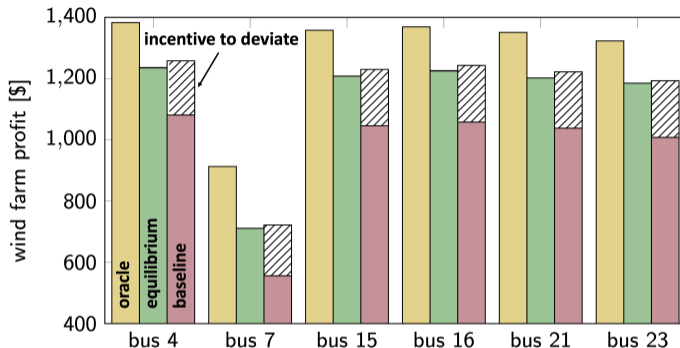


- ▶ 6 with farms with identical data and features
- ▶ Cover 38.4% of load at peak generation
- ▶ Kernel regression with 30 transformed features
- ▶ 5,000 training and 10,000 testing samples
- ▶ Although data is the same, how do equilibrium forecasts depend on the wind farm location in the grid?
- ▶ What are the equilibrium benefits in terms profits (any incentives to deviate?) and cost of electricity?



- ▶ **Baseline:** minimizes a prediction error
- ▶ **Equilibrium:** maximizes wind farm profits

Systematic over- or under-prediction depending on the wind farm's location in the grid



- ▶ Equilibrium regression yields larger profits for all wind farms
- ▶ There are large profit incentives to unilaterally deviate from the baseline regression
- ▶ And (almost) no incentives to deviate from the equilibrium regression

Regression	RMSE, MWh	Average dispatch cost, \$			Total dispatch cost error, \$	
		total	day-ahead	real-time	average	CVaR _{10%}
Oracle	—	37,246	37,246	—	—	—
Baseline	88	39,223	37,459	1,764	1,977	8,626
Equilibrium	395	38,326	38,154	172	1,080	3,555

- ▶ Baseline regression: minimal forecast error, yet results in large real-time cost
- ▶ Equilibrium regression: large forecast errors, withholds cheap generation from the day-ahead market; yet, results in very cheap real-time re-dispatch
- ▶ Saving of 2.4% on average, and 13.6% on average across 10% of the worst-case scenarios

Introduction

Controlling the impact of ML errors on electricity pricing

Nash equilibrium of ML models in electricity markets

Insights for foundational models in power systems

Supply equilibrium structure to foundation models:

- ▶ Current practice: foundational models endowed with power flow physics
- ▶ Proposal: integrate market design and equilibrium conditions for market-focused fine-tuning

What foundation models can do:

- ▶ Learn from historical market data: is AI adoption converging to equilibrium?
- ▶ Track equilibrium in real time: are deviations transient or structural?
- ▶ Diagnose non-convergence: which market design features or AI application scopes prevent equilibrium?
















ML impacts on pricing







Thank you for your attention!



Regression equilibrium

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