

# Differentially Private Optimal Power Flow for Distribution Grids

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<sup>‡</sup>Georgia Institute of Technology

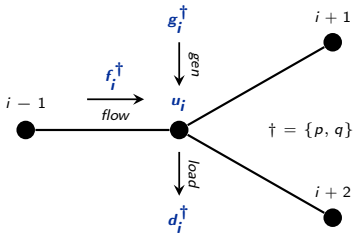
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- ▶ Growing distribution grid digitalization
  - ▶ From analog to digital grid operations
  - ▶ New customer engagement and interaction
  - ▶ Data is at the core of new business models
  
- ▶ How to utilize data without exposing its sensitive attributed?
  - ▶ Increasing responsibility for a grid data utilization
  - ▶ Ethics of data curation and utilization
  
- ▶ Real-time surveillance through power grid measurements
  
- ▶ Privacy regulation (GDPR, NYPA, CCPA) is not always a solution

# Privacy breaches in distribution OPF

- ▶ Distribution grid topology:



- ▶ Distribution AC optimal power flow:

- ▶ Minimize total dispatch cost

- ▶ Subject to OPF equations:

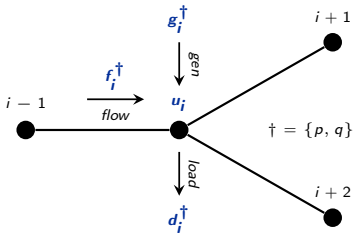
$$f_i^\dagger = d_i^\dagger - g_i^\dagger + \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{D}_i} f_\ell^\dagger, \quad \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L}$$

$$u_i = u_0 - 2 \sum_{\ell \in \mathcal{R}_i} (f_\ell^p r_\ell + f_\ell^q x_\ell), \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{N}$$

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- ▶ ... and flow, generation, and voltage limits

- ▶ Loads leak through OPF measurements
- ▶ Customer at a terminal feeder node:

- ▶ Switching of electrical appliances
- ▶ Specific production patterns
- ▶ Technological breaches

# OPF mechanism and differential privacy

- ▶ OPF problem as a mechanism

$$\mathcal{M} : \mathbb{R}^n \mapsto \mathbb{R}^m$$

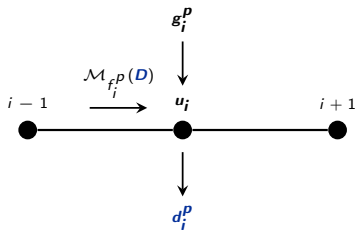
that maps load datasets to OPF solutions

- ▶ OPF solutions expose changes in loads. Two adjacent datasets  $D, D' \in \mathbb{R}^n$  :

$$D = \{d_1^p, \dots, d_i^p, \dots, d_n^p\}$$

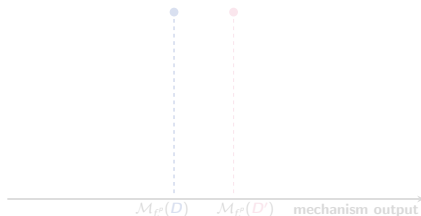
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- ▶ Active power flow as a function of the load



$$\mathcal{M}_{f_i^p}(D) \neq \mathcal{M}_{f_i^p}(D')$$

- ▶ Mechanism  $\mathcal{M}_{f_i^p}$  is made diff. private by adding a random noise  $\xi$  to its output



- ▶ Formally, the privacy property is described as

$$P_{\xi}[\mathcal{M}_{f_i^p}(D) + \xi \in \tilde{F}_i^p] <$$

$$P_{\xi}[\mathcal{M}_{f_i^p}(D') + \xi \in \tilde{F}_i^p] \exp(\epsilon) + \delta$$

where  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$  are diff. privacy parameters

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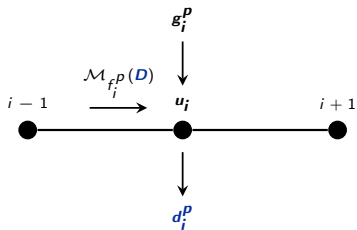
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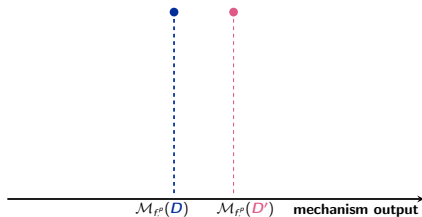
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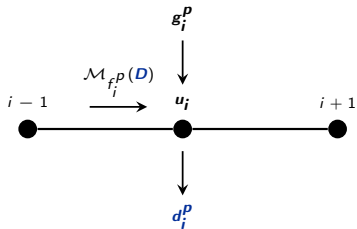
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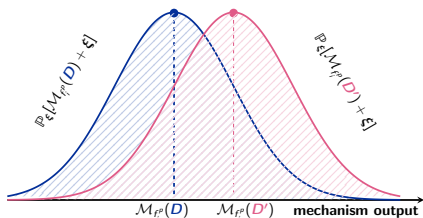
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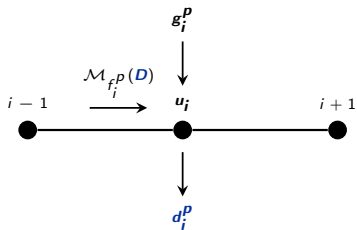
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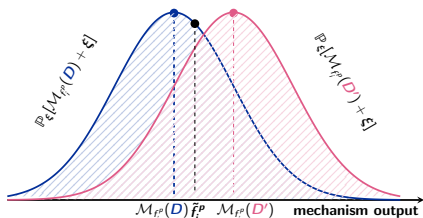
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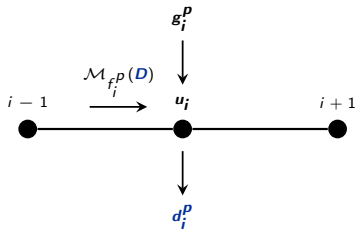
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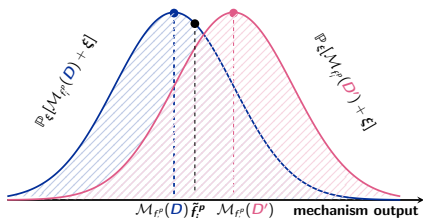
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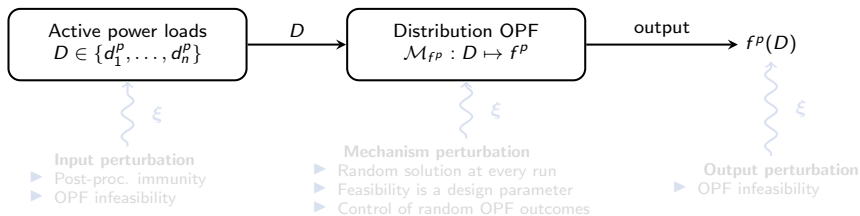
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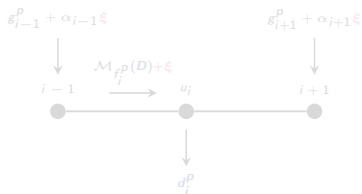
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# Perturbation of the OPF solution



## Mechanism perturbation example:



Grid is balanced if  $\alpha_{i-1} = 1$  and  $\alpha_{i+1} = -1$

▶ Randomized generator policy:

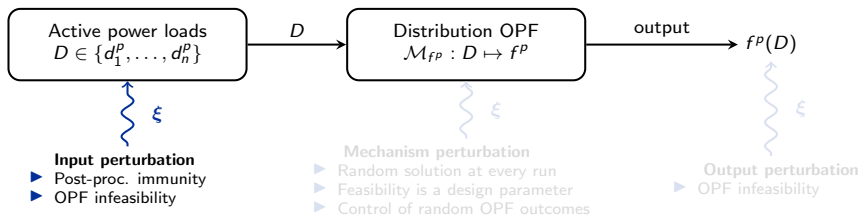
$$\tilde{g}_i^p(\xi) = \underbrace{g_i^p}_{\text{mean}} + \underbrace{(T_i \circ \alpha_i)\xi}_{\text{random component}}$$

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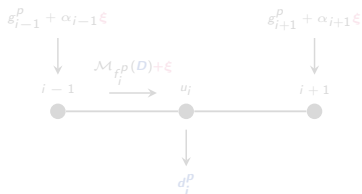
▶ From AC-OPF equations, active power flow

$$\tilde{f}_\ell^p(\xi) = \underbrace{f_\ell^p}_{\text{mean}} + \underbrace{\left[ T_\ell \circ \alpha_\ell + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_\ell} T_j \circ \alpha_j \right] \xi}_{\text{random component}}$$

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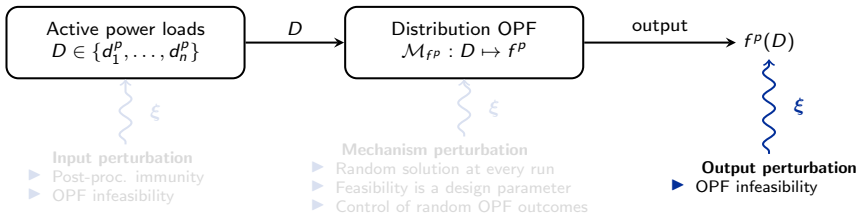
$$\bar{g}_i^p(\xi) = \underbrace{\bar{g}_i^p}_{\text{mean}} + \underbrace{(T_i \circ \alpha_i)\xi}_{\text{random component}}$$

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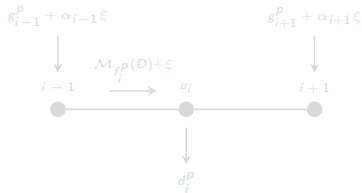
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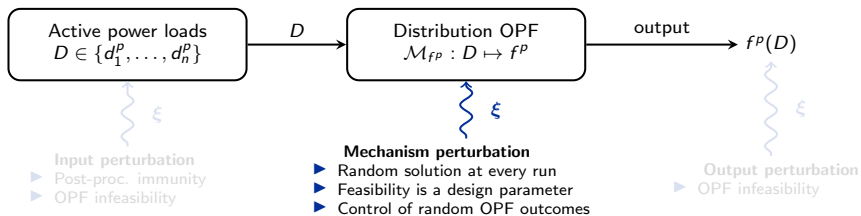
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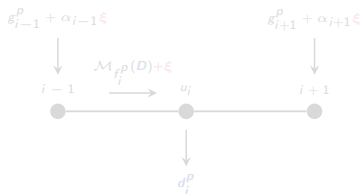
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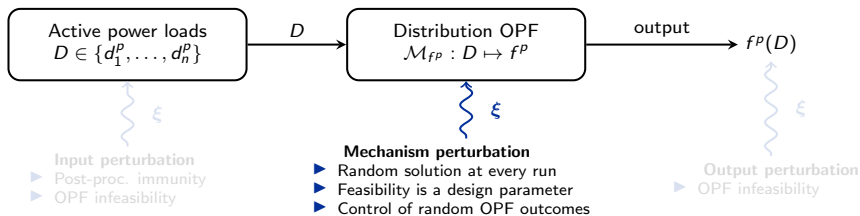
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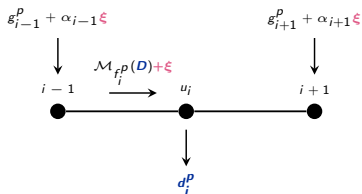
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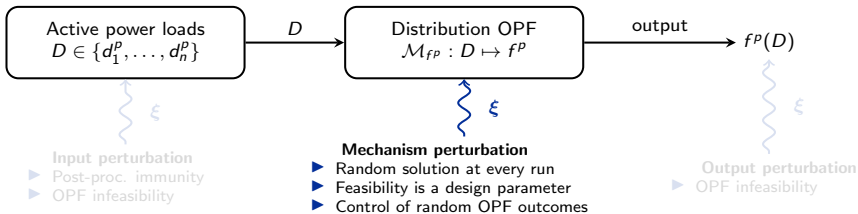
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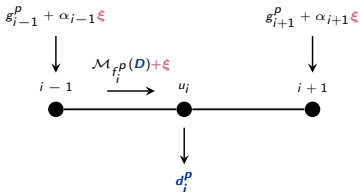
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# Differentially private distribution OPF mechanism (privacy)

- Any load  $d_i^P \in D$  must be indistinguishable from any other load  $d_i^{P'}$  for some  $\beta_i \geq 0$

$$d_i^{P'} \in [d_i^P - \beta_i; d_i^P + \beta_i]$$

- Using the randomized generator policy, the private OPF mechanism  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(D)$  is

Chance-constrained OPF optimization

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{\tilde{g}^\dagger(\xi), \tilde{f}^\dagger(\xi), \tilde{u}(\xi)}{\text{minimize}} && \mathbb{E}_\xi \left[ c^\top \tilde{g}^P(\xi) \right] \\ & \text{subject to} && \text{Stochastic OPF equations} \\ & && \mathbb{P}_\xi \left[ \begin{array}{l} (f_i^P(\xi))^2 + (f_i^Q(\xi))^2 \leq \bar{f}_i \\ \underline{g}^\dagger \leq g^\dagger(\xi) \leq \bar{g}^\dagger \\ \underline{u} \leq u(\xi) \leq \bar{u} \end{array} \right] \geq 1 - \eta \end{aligned}$$

solution

Optimized CC-OPF solution

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{g}_i^P(\hat{\xi}) &= g_i^P + (T_i \circ \alpha_i) \hat{\xi} \\ \tilde{f}_\ell^P(\hat{\xi}) &= f_\ell^P + \left[ T_i \circ \alpha_i + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{D}_\ell} T_j \circ \alpha_j \right] \hat{\xi} \end{aligned}$$

output

$\tilde{f}^P$

distribution  $\mathcal{N}$

Random perturbation  
 $\xi \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma)$

sample  $\hat{\xi}$



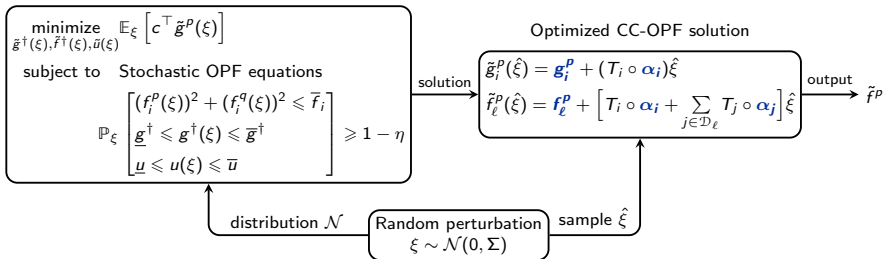
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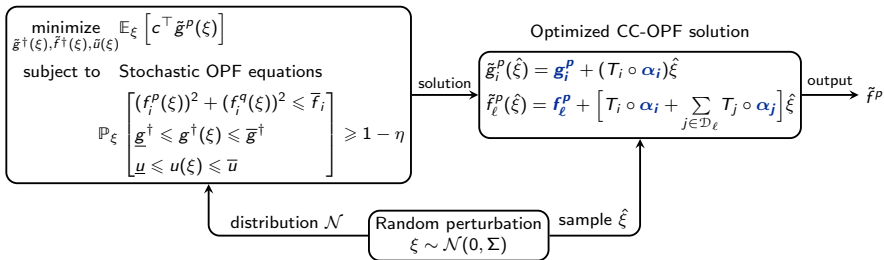


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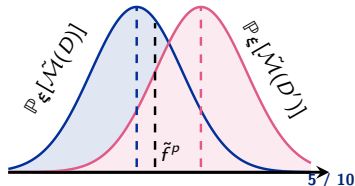


## $(\epsilon, \delta)$ -differential distribution OPF privacy

Let  $\xi_i \in \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_i)$  and  $\sigma_i \geq \beta_i \sqrt{2 \ln(1.25/\delta)}/\epsilon$ ,  $\forall i \in \mathcal{L}$ .  
 Then, for  $\beta$ -adjacent load datasets  $D$  and  $D'$ :

$$\mathbb{P}[\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(D) \in \tilde{f}^P] \leq \exp(\epsilon) \mathbb{P}[\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(D') \in \tilde{f}^P] + \delta,$$

where  $\mathbb{P}$  is the probability over runs of  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}$ .



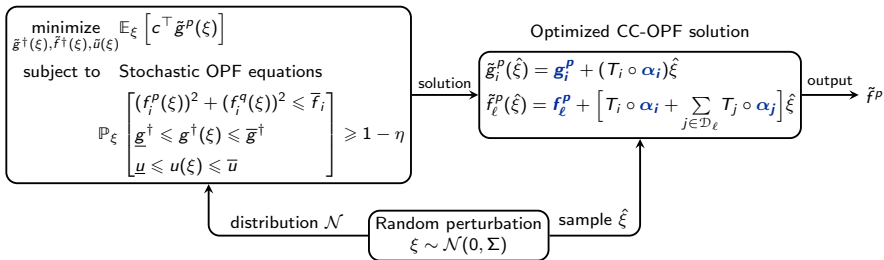
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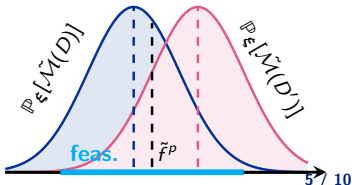


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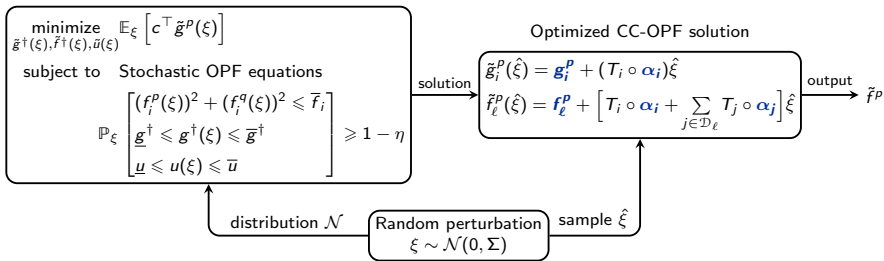
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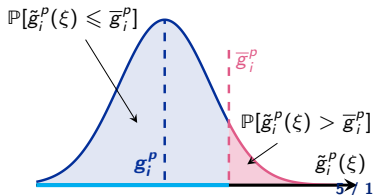


## Feasibility of distribution OPF mechanism

$$\mathbb{P}_\xi [\mathbf{g}_i^P + (T_i \circ \alpha_i) \xi \leq \bar{g}_i^P] \geq 1 - \hat{\eta}_i \iff$$

$$\mathbf{g}_i^P \leq \bar{g}_i^P - \text{CDF}_{\mathcal{N}}^{-1}(1 - \hat{\eta}_i) \|\Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}}(T_i \circ \alpha_i)\|_2$$

Joint constraint satisfaction if  $\sum_i \hat{\eta}_i \leq \eta$

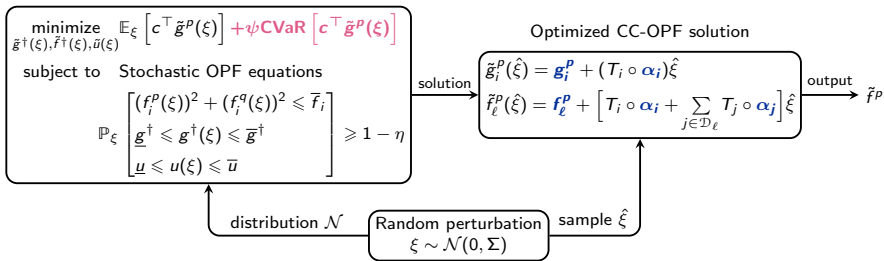


# Differentially private distribution OPF mechanism (optimality loss)

- Any load  $d_i^P \in D$  must be indistinguishable from any other load  $d_i^{P'}$  for some  $\beta_i \geq 0$

$$d_i^{P'} \in [d_i^P - \beta_i; d_i^P + \beta_i]$$

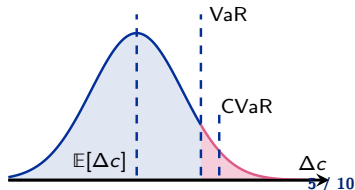
- Using the randomized generator policy, the private OPF mechanism  $\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(D)$  is  
Chance-constrained OPF optimization



- Noise induces the **optimality loss**
- CC-OPF optimizes the exp. optimality loss:

$$\Delta c = \|\tilde{\mathcal{M}}_{\text{obj}}(D) - \mathcal{M}_{\text{obj}}(D)\|_2$$

- Expected optimality loss versus CVaR ( $\psi > 0$ )



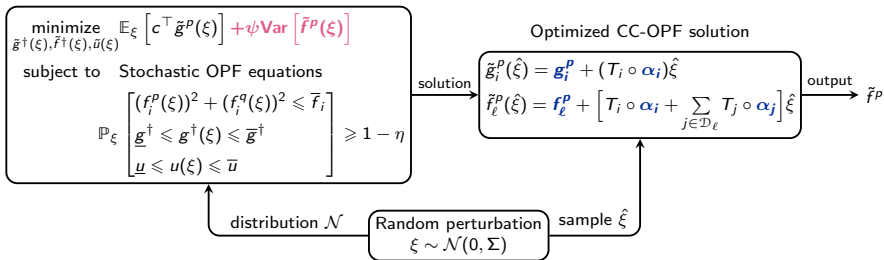
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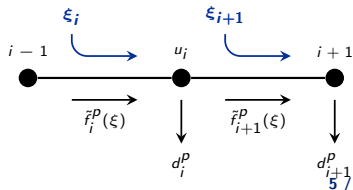
Chance-constrained OPF optimization




- Since the network graph is connected

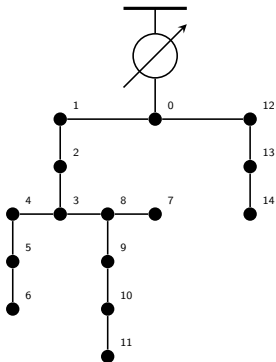
$$\text{Var}[\tilde{f}_i^P(\xi)] \geq \text{Var}[\xi_i], \text{Var}[\tilde{f}_{i+1}^P(\xi)] \geq \text{Var}[\xi_{i+1}]$$

- Independent perturbations accumulate **OPF variance**
- OPF variance (flow, voltage, generation) can be penalized in objective function for some factor  $\psi > 0$



## Experiments: network description

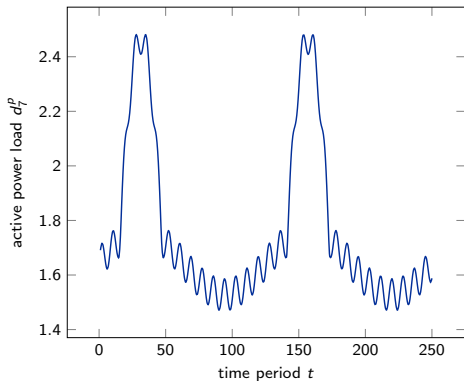
- ▶ 15-node radial distribution network
- ▶ 14 customers with DER, 1 substation
- ▶ Full grid observability (requires many perturbations)
- ▶ Full data and codes are available on [GitHub](#) 



# Experiments: illustrative example

- ▶ Customer at node 7 with a load pattern

$$\max \left\{ \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t, \frac{7}{10} \right\} + \frac{5}{10^2} \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t + \frac{25}{10^3} \sin \frac{75}{10^2} t$$





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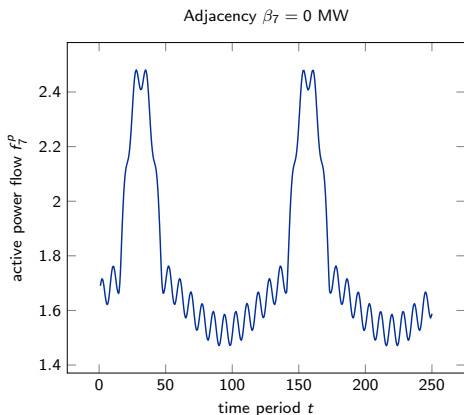
- ▶ The goal is to obfuscate this load pattern in power flow and voltage readings
- ▶  $d_7^p$  must be indistinguishable from any  $d_7^{p'} \in [d_7^p - \beta_7; d_7^p + \beta_7]$ , for some  $\beta_7 \in \mathbb{R}_+$

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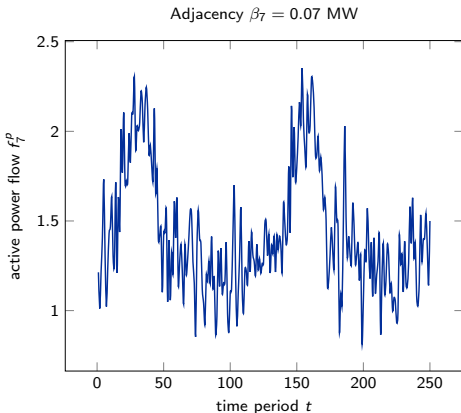


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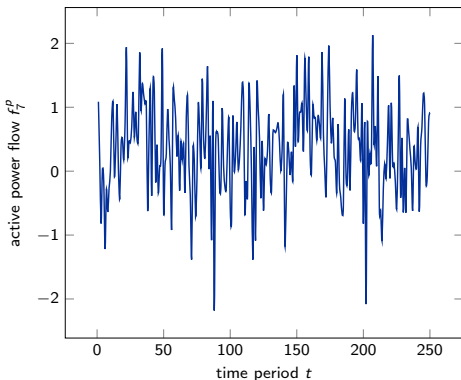
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Adjacency  $\beta_7 = 0.3$  MW



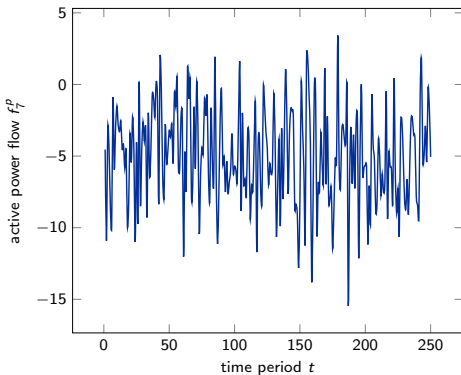
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Adjacency  $\beta_7 = 1.5$  MW

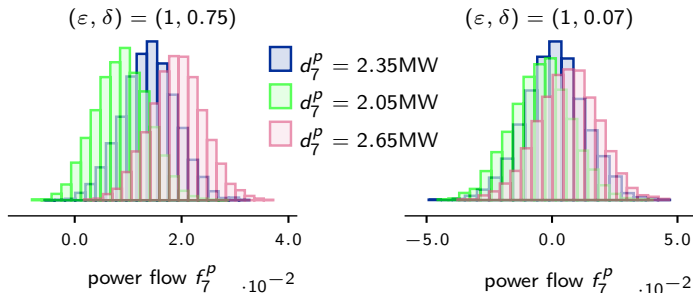


## Experiments: illustrative example

- ▶ Customer at node 7 with a load pattern

$$\max \left\{ \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t, \frac{7}{10} \right\} + \frac{5}{10^2} \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t + \frac{25}{10^3} \sin \frac{75}{10^2} t$$

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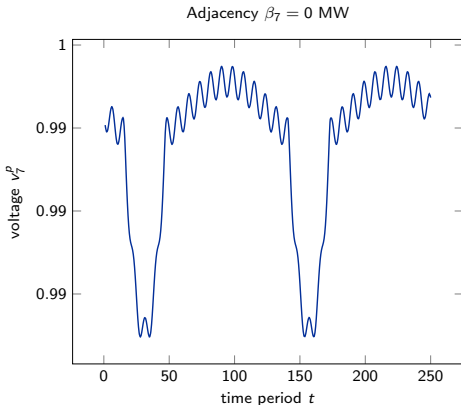
- ▶ The mechanism outputs similar results on different datasets up to DP parameters  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$

## Experiments: illustrative example

- ▶ Customer at node 7 with a load pattern

$$\max \left\{ \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t, \frac{7}{10} \right\} + \frac{5}{10^2} \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t + \frac{25}{10^3} \sin \frac{75}{10^2} t$$

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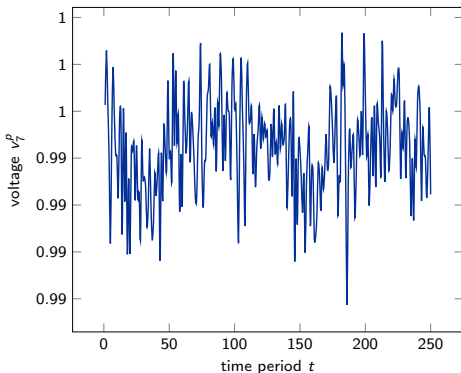
# Experiments: illustrative example

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- ▶  $d_7^P$  must be indistinguishable from any  $d_7^{P'} \in [d_7^P - \beta_7; d_7^P + \beta_7]$ , for some  $\beta_7 \in \mathbb{R}_+$

Adjacency  $\beta_7 = 0.07$  MW





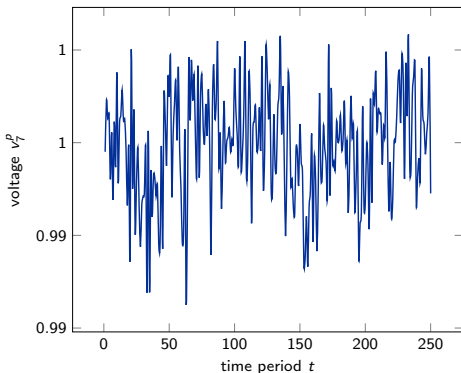
# Experiments: illustrative example

- ▶ Customer at node 7 with a load pattern

$$\max \left\{ \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t, \frac{7}{10} \right\} + \frac{5}{10^2} \sin \frac{5}{10^2} t + \frac{25}{10^3} \sin \frac{75}{10^2} t$$

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Adjacency  $\beta_7 = 0.3$  MW



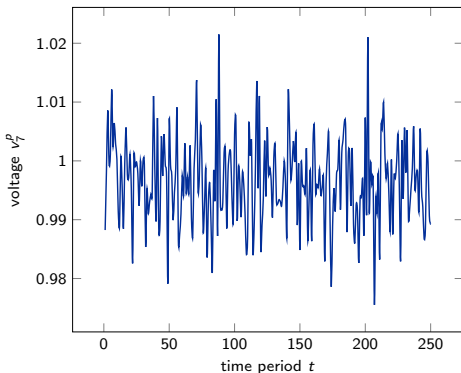
## Experiments: illustrative example

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Adjacency  $\beta_7 = 1.5$  MW



# Experiments: OPF variance control

- ▶ D-OPF — non-private, deterministic OPF
- ▶ CC-OPF — variance-agnostic DP OPF
- ▶ V-CC-OPF — variance-aware DP OPF

$i$	$d_i^P$	$\sigma_i$	D-OPF		CC-OPF				V-CC-OPF				
			$f_i^P$	$v_i$	$f_i^P$		$v_i$		$f_i^P$		$v_i$		
					mean	std	mean	std	mean	std	mean	std	
0	0	–	–	1.00	–	–	1.00	–	–	–	–	1.00	–
1	2.01	<b>0.48</b>	8.5	1.00	11.3	2.68	1.00	0.0016	12.6	0.69	1.00	0.0004	
2	2.01	<b>0.48</b>	6.5	1.00	9.3	2.68	0.99	0.0057	11.4	0.71	0.99	0.0015	
3	2.01	<b>0.48</b>	4.4	1.00	7.3	2.68	0.99	0.0123	10.2	0.78	0.97	0.0033	
4	1.73	<b>0.41</b>	-8.0	1.00	-1.4	1.72	0.99	0.0128	3.6	0.69	0.97	0.0034	
5	2.91	<b>0.70</b>	5.1	1.00	3.1	0.87	0.99	0.0128	2.5	0.82	0.97	0.0035	
6	2.19	<b>0.52</b>	2.2	1.00	0.1	0.87	0.99	0.0128	0.7	0.63	0.97	0.0038	
7	2.35	<b>0.56</b>	2.3	0.99	0.9	0.63	0.98	0.0134	0.9	0.61	0.97	0.0039	
8	2.35	<b>0.56</b>	10.5	0.99	6.7	1.18	0.98	0.0130	5.8	0.78	0.97	0.0036	
9	2.29	<b>0.55</b>	5.8	0.99	3.5	0.88	0.98	0.0132	3.1	0.70	0.97	0.0037	
10	2.17	<b>0.52</b>	3.5	0.99	1.2	0.88	0.98	0.0135	1.6	0.65	0.97	0.0038	
11	1.32	<b>0.32</b>	1.3	0.99	0.4	0.39	0.98	0.0135	0.4	0.40	0.97	0.0038	
12	2.01	<b>0.48</b>	6.5	1.00	3.6	1.23	1.00	0.0008	3.3	0.73	1.00	0.0004	
13	2.24	<b>0.54</b>	4.5	0.99	1.6	1.23	1.00	0.0034	2.1	0.72	1.00	0.0019	
14	2.24	<b>0.54</b>	2.2	0.99	-0.6	1.23	1.00	0.0050	0.8	0.64	0.99	0.0027	
Cost ( $E[\Delta c]$ )			\$396.0 (0%)		\$428.0 (8.1%)				\$463.5 (17.1%)				
$\sum_i \text{std}[f_i^P]$			0 MW		19.1 MW				9.5 MW				
infeas. $\hat{\eta}$			0%		3.3%				6.9%				
CPU time			0.016s		0.037s				0.043s				

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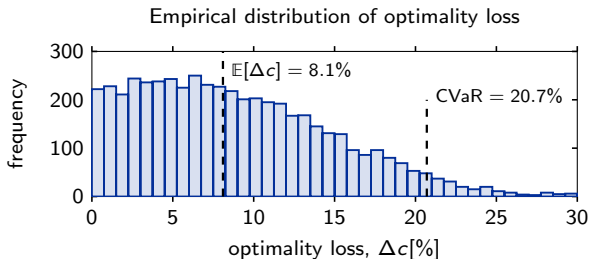
$i$	$d_i^P$	$\sigma_i$	D-OPF		CC-OPF				V-CC-OPF			
			$f_i^P$	$v_i$	$f_i^P$		$v_i$		$f_i^P$		$v_i$	
					mean	std	mean	std	mean	std	mean	std
0	0	–	–	1.00	–	–	1.00	–	–	1.00	–	
1	2.01	<b>0.48</b>	8.5	1.00	11.3	<b>2.68</b>	1.00	0.0016	12.6	<b>0.69</b>	1.00	0.0004
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6	2.19	<b>0.52</b>	2.2	1.00	0.1	<b>0.87</b>	0.99	0.0128	0.7	<b>0.63</b>	0.97	0.0038
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14	2.24	<b>0.54</b>	2.2	0.99	-0.6	<b>1.23</b>	1.00	0.0050	0.8	<b>0.64</b>	0.99	0.0027
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$\sum_i \text{std}[f_i^P]$			0 MW		19.1 MW				9.5 MW			
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infeas. $\hat{\eta}$			0%		3.3%				6.9%				
CPU time			0.016s		0.037s				0.043s				

## Experiments: optimality loss control



$\psi$	exp. value		CVaR <sub>10%</sub>	
	cost, \$	$\Delta c$ , %	cost, \$	$\Delta c$ , %
0.0	428.0	8.1	478.1	20.7
0.1	428.0	8.1	476.3	20.3
0.2	428.3	8.2	475.0	19.9
0.3	428.9	8.3	473.3	19.5
0.4	431.9	9.1	467.8	18.1
0.5	434.5	9.7	464.4	17.3
0.6	438.2	10.7	461.7	16.6
0.7	452.9	14.4	452.9	14.4

- ▶ Distribution OPF models tend to leak sensitive information of grid customers
- ▶ We augment OPFs model with a privacy-preserving layer, while offering:
  - ▶ Robust privacy guarantees
  - ▶ Formal feasibility guarantees
  - ▶ Means to control the randomized OPF solution
- ▶ Distribution DP OPF models are open source and available at

[https://github.com/wdvorkin/DP\\_CC\\_OPF](https://github.com/wdvorkin/DP_CC_OPF)

# Thank you for your attention!

V. Dvorkin, F. Fioretto, P. Van Hentenryck, P. Pinson and J. Kazempour  
**Differentially Private Optimal Power Flow for Distribution Grids**  
IEEE Transactions on Power Systems (to appear), 2020  
[https://github.com/wdvorkin/DP\\_CC\\_OPF](https://github.com/wdvorkin/DP_CC_OPF)

