

Robust policies for storage used to offset renewable variance

Daniel Bienstock, Gonzalo Muñoz and Shuoguang Yang,
Columbia University
Carsten Matke, NEXT ENERGY (Germany)

Talk outline

- Optimization framework for using storage to offset uncertainty in renewable forecast output
- “OPF-like” setup: minimize cost of generation
- Multiperiod model, with per-period renewable forecasts
- linear control for battery output
- nonconvex model for battery operation
- robust optimization used to handle forecast errors

Broader goal: dealing/using risky injections

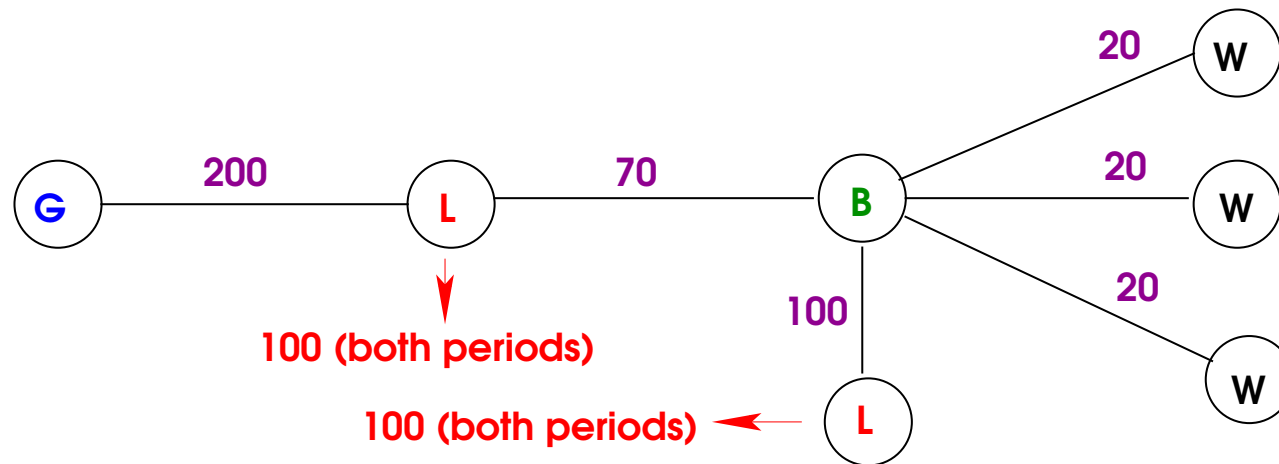
- At some buses: controllable injections (e.g. generation) or known loads
- At some buses, uncontrollable (uncertain or adversarial) injections
- At other buses: controllable injection used to mitigate risk
- Multi-time period and ‘OPF-like’: minimize cost subject to being able to react to any (uncontrollable) event in each time period
- **Three-level** (not bilevel) optimization problem over multiple periods
- NP-hard in strong sense even for simple trees and one time period

Control setup outline

1. T time periods of equal length Δ . Assume $\Delta = 1$.
2. $P_k^{g,t}$ = output of generator at bus k at time t (decision variable)
3. $\bar{w}_i^t + w_i^t$ = output of renewable at bus i at time t .
 \bar{w}_i^t = forecast, w_i^t = error (uncertain).
4. **Control** used to set battery output; applied as a function of observations of the w_i^t .
5. w_i^t **estimated** at start of period t .
6. **Control** held constant during period t .
7. **Control** does not handle additional real-time deviations.

A simple example on 2 periods

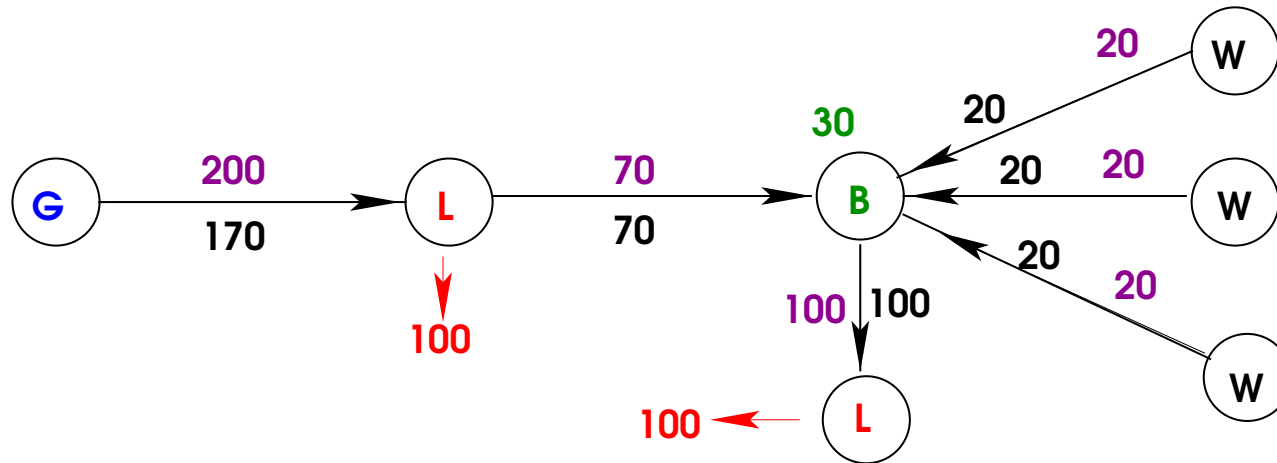
G = generator, L = load, B = battery, W = renewable



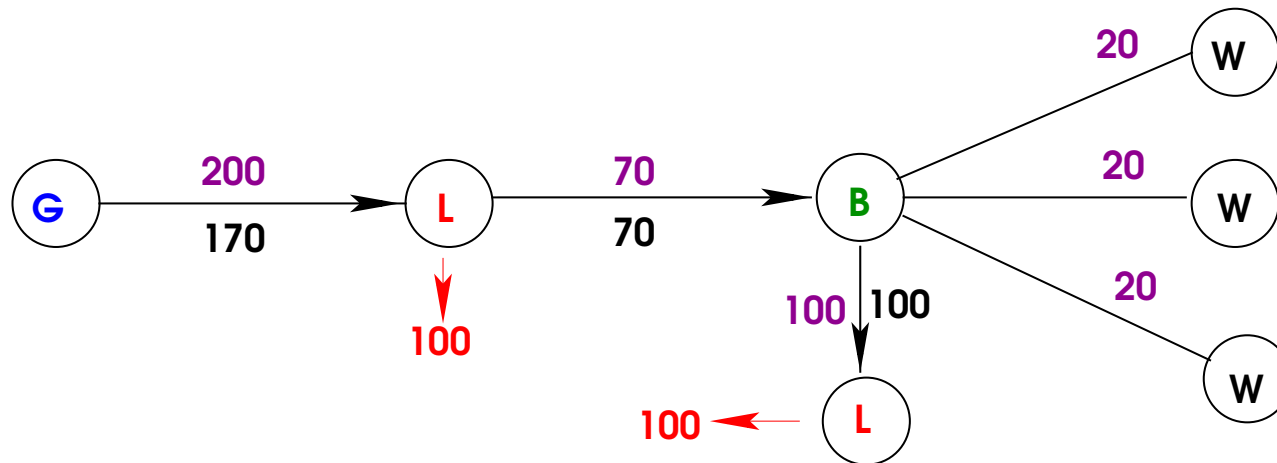
- **Period 1:** each renewable outputs **20**, no uncertainty.
- **Period 2:** each renewable outputs in the range **[0, 20]**.
- Battery and generator are large, but battery starts **drained**.

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Period 1:



Period 2:



Notation

1. T time periods of equal length Δ . Assume $\Delta = 1$ for this talk.
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 \bar{w}_i^t = forecast, w_i^t = error (uncertain).
4. δ_j^t = output of battery at bus j at time t .
Assumption: all batteries at a given bus j are of similar type.
5. $P_k^{d,t}$ = load at bus k at time t (data).
6. **DC** power flow \rightarrow for all t , and all w ,

$$\sum_k P_k^{g,t} + \sum_i (\bar{w}_i^t + w_i^t) + \sum_j \delta_j^t = \sum_k P_k^{d,t}$$

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Generic linear control:

$$\delta_j^t = - \sum_i \lambda_{ji}^t w_i^t$$

- λ^t : decision variables
- Complex? Requires many (accurate?) real-time observations

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Specialized linear control:

$$\delta_j^t = -\lambda_j^t \sum_{i \in R(j)} w_i$$

- λ_j^t : decision variables
- $R(j)$: set of buses that battery at j responds to

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Example 1: (bad?) a battery at each renewable, $R(j) = j$ for all j

Example 2: for all j , $R(j) =$ all renewables

Regardless of control, **nominal case:** must hold

$$\sum_k P_k^{g,t} + \sum_i \bar{w}_i^t = \sum_k P_k^{d,t}$$

Balance: $\sum_k P_k^{g,t} + \sum_i (\bar{w}_i^t + \mathbf{w}_i^t) + \sum_j \delta_j^t = \sum_k P_k^{d,t}$

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Generic linear control: $\delta_j^t = - \sum_i \lambda_{ij}^t \mathbf{w}_i^t$

Rewrite balance:

$$\sum_k P_k^{g,t} + \sum_i \bar{w}_i^t + \sum_i \left[\left(1 - \sum_j \lambda_{ji}^t \right) \mathbf{w}_i^t \right] = \sum_k P_k^{d,t}$$

Together with nominal case, implies:

$$\sum_i \left[\left(1 - \sum_j \lambda_{ji}^t \right) \mathbf{w}_i^t \right] = \mathbf{0}$$

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“Full dimensional” uncertainty set \Rightarrow

$$\sum_j \lambda_{ji}^t = 1 \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{i} \text{ (and } \mathbf{t})$$

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Together with nominal case, implies:

$$\left(1 - \sum_{j: i \in R(j)} \lambda_j^t \right) \mathbf{w}_i^t = 0$$

“Full dimensional” uncertainty set \Rightarrow

$$\sum_{j: i \in R(j)} \lambda_j^t = \mathbf{1} \text{ for all } \mathbf{i} \text{ (and } \mathbf{t})$$

Sign of λ^t ?

Battery model

- Energy state bounds. Let E_j^0 = initial energy state of battery at site i . Then

$$E_j^t = E_j^0 + \Delta \sum_{h=1}^t \delta_j^h$$

is the energy state at the end of period t . (Δ = length of time periods)

Must have lower- and upper-bounds on E_j^t .

- Special bounds for E_j^T ?
- Discharge rate bounds. We will want to lower- and upper-bound

$$\delta_j^t = \bar{D}_j^t - \lambda_j^t \left(\sum_{i \in R(j)} w_i^t \right)$$

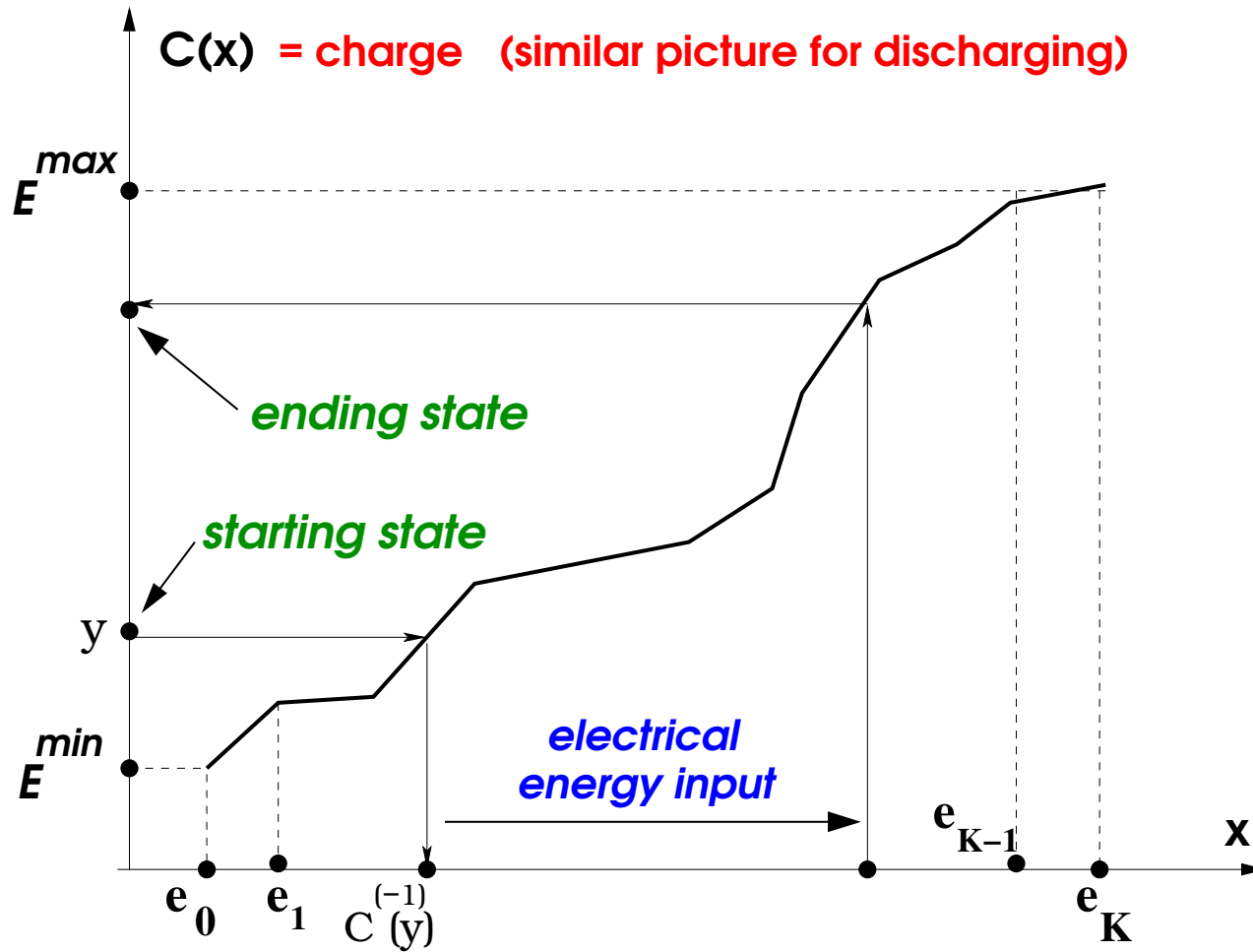
for all batteries i , time t and all w .

Battery chemistry is complex. Traditional model:

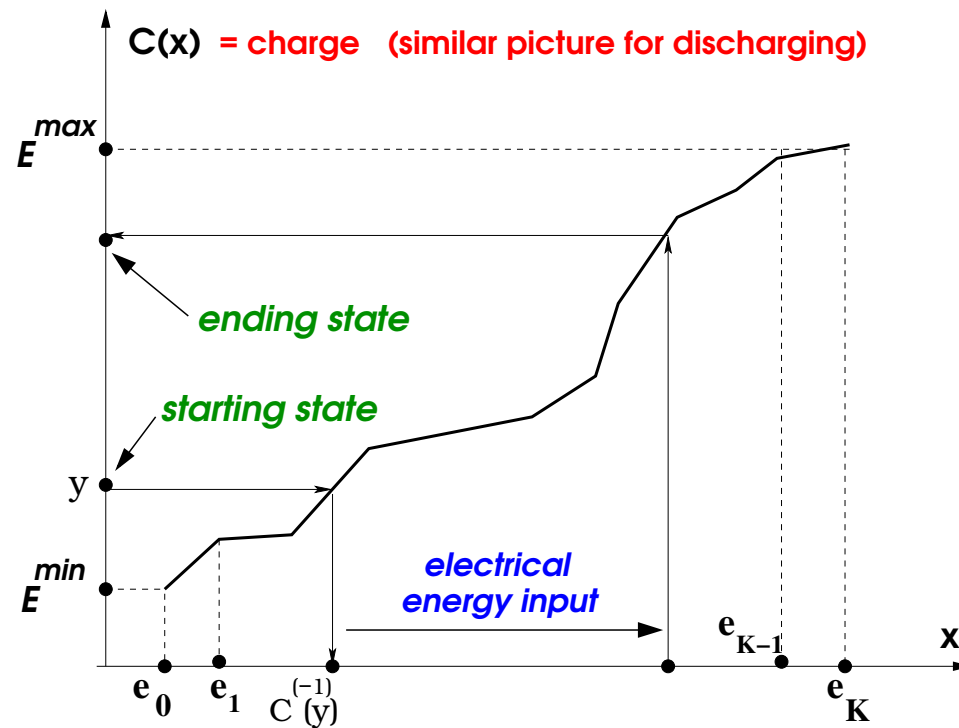
1. $0 < \eta_i^c \leq 1$, $0 < \eta_i^d \leq 1$: charging, discharging efficiency for battery i
2. If we **inject electrical power** $D_i \geq 0$ into battery i , energy state increases by $\eta_i^c D_i$
3. If we **extract electrical power** $G_i \geq 0$ from battery i , energy state decreases by $(\eta_i^d)^{-1} G_i$
4. **Summary:** if the **electrical power injection** into battery i is P_i , energy state changes by
$$(-\eta_i^d)^{-1} [P_i]^- + \eta_i^c [P_i]^+$$
5. A **nonconvex** model: if P_i is a decision variable, must enforce

$$[P_i]^- [P_i]^+ = 0$$

Piecewise-constant battery efficiency model



- Slope = charge (or discharge) efficiency



- **Constraint:** if the battery charge lies in some interval

$$[C(e_s), C(e_{s+1})]$$

then can inject charge **at most**

$$\sigma_s \quad (= \text{slope}) \text{ per unit time}$$

- Generalizes traditional constraint
- But very nonconvex

Renewable forecast error model

Should we rely on chance-constrained models?

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Suppose that $\mathbf{x}(t)$, $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ is a stochastic process:

- Even if we understand each $\mathbf{x}(t)$ well enough to provide tail probabilities ...

Renewable forecast error model

Should we rely on chance-constrained models?

Suppose that $\mathbf{x}(t)$, $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ is a stochastic process:

- Even if we understand each $\mathbf{x}(t)$ well enough to provide tail probabilities ...
- **Partial sums** $\sum_{t=1}^k \mathbf{x}(t)$ are a different story

Except e.g. in the gaussian case

Renewable forecast error model

Output of renewable i at time t : $\bar{w}_i^t + w_i^t$

- \bar{w}_i^t = forecast output
- w_i^t = error; $w \in \mathcal{W}$, where \mathcal{W} = uncertainty model.

Concentration models: \mathcal{W} is the set of all w such that

$$C^1 w^+ + C^2 w^- \leq b, \quad (1a)$$

$$w_{k,t}^{\min} \leq w_k^t \leq w_{k,t}^{\max} \quad \text{for all } t \text{ and } k, \quad (1b)$$

- C^1, C^2 are **nonnegative** matrices
- b, w^{\min}, w^{\max} : parameters of model
- Caution! (1a) is **not** a linear model
- Allows for spatial and temporal correlation

Renewable forecast error model

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Special example: uncertainty budgets

$$\begin{aligned} |w_i^t| &\leq \gamma_i^t, \quad \text{all } t \text{ and } i \\ \sum_i \alpha_i^t |w_i^t| &\leq \Gamma^t \quad \text{all } t \end{aligned}$$

Here, the γ_i^t , α_i^t and Γ^t are parameters.

Extra special case: $\alpha_i^t = 1/\gamma_i^t$

Many variations, e.g. time-correlated models

$$\sum_t \alpha_i^t |w_i^t| \leq \Gamma_i, \quad \sum_i \sum_t \alpha_i^t |w_i^t| \leq \Gamma$$

Optimization Problem

Minimize generation cost subject to being feasible under all modeled renewable outputs.

- **Variables:** P^g, λ (both time-indexed)
- **Constraints:** feasibility for all $w \in \mathcal{W}$ (soft-robustness for lines)

Optimization Problem

$$\min_{P^g, \lambda} \sum_t \sum_k c_k^t(P_k^{g,t})$$

s.t. the following system is feasible at all times t , for all $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}$:

Flow balance:

$$B \boldsymbol{\theta}^t = P^{g,t} + \overbrace{\bar{w}^t + \mathbf{w}^t}^{\text{renewables}} - \overbrace{\left(\sum_i w_i^t \right)}^{\text{batteries}} \lambda^t - P^{d,t}$$

Energy state constraints

Hard (?) line limits:

$$\frac{|\boldsymbol{\theta}_k^t - \boldsymbol{\theta}_m^t|}{x_{km}} \leq u_{km} \quad \forall km, t$$

Soft line limits are equally tractable and might be preferred

Soft line limits

Let \mathcal{W}^h and \mathcal{W} be **two** uncertainty models with $\mathcal{W}^h \subseteq \mathcal{W}$

- Require that

$$\frac{|\theta_k^t - \theta_m^t|}{x_{km}} \leq u_{km}$$

for all km , t and $w \in \mathcal{W}^h$

- Require that

$$\frac{|\theta_k^t - \theta_m^t|}{x_{km}} \leq u_{km}(1 + \epsilon)$$

for all km , t and $w \in \mathcal{W}$

Ben-Tal, Boyd, Nemirovski, “Comprehensive Robust” models (2005)

(Familiar?) cutting-plane procedure

Start with a **relaxation** for the robust problem, e.g. the nominal problem (no errors), and then

1. Solve relaxation, with solution (Pg^*, λ^*)
2. **Play adversary:** find a worst-case distribution \hat{w} for (Pg^*, λ^*)

Comment: Requires solving small LPs

3. Procedure detects if a battery constraint (or line limit constraint) is violated.
4. If so – add corresponding cut (**a disjunctive cut**).
5. Else if the adversary fails, (Pg^*, λ^*) is **optimal**

Adversarial procedure, batteries

Concentration models for renewable uncertainty:

\mathcal{W} is the set of all w such that

$$\begin{aligned} C^1 w^+ + C^2 w^- &\leq b, \\ w_{k,t}^{\min} &\leq w_k^t \leq w_{k,t}^{\max} \quad \text{for all } t \text{ and } k \end{aligned}$$

- C^1, C^2 are **nonnegative** matrices

What is the problem?

Already in “simple” charge/discharge efficiency model, want for all k and t ,

$$\Delta \max_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^t \lambda_{k,i} \left(-(\eta_{k,i}^d)^{-1} \left[\sum_j \mathbf{w}_{j,i}^t \right]^- + \eta_{k,i}^c \left[\sum_j \mathbf{w}_{j,i}^t \right]^+ \right) \right\} \leq E_{k,t}^{\max} - E_{k,0},$$

and

$$\Delta \min_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^t \Delta_i \lambda_{k,i} \left(-(\eta_{k,i}^d)^{-1} \left[\sum_j \mathbf{w}_{j,i}^t \right]^- + \eta_{k,i}^c \left[\sum_j \mathbf{w}_{j,i}^t \right]^+ \right) \right\} \geq E_{k,t}^{\min} - E_{k,0}.$$

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Adversarial problem:

choose $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}$ to break either constraint.

Adversarial problem appears to be NON convex!

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Lemma!

An optimal solution to adversarial problem is **sign-consistent**.

Yields efficient routine!

Six-period results on Polish Grid (2746wp)

penetration	max error	Cost	Iterations	Time (s)
18 %	9 %	7236431	18	348
18 %	14 %	7257286	28	515
18 %	17 %	7263172	25	498

- base load \approx 24.8 GW
- 32 wind farms, average predicted output \approx 4.5 GW
- 50 batteries, total initial energy state \approx 3.2 GW

Interesting results?

- Solution is **sparse**! **50** batteries, but only \sim **14** participate in the optimal control in any time period
- Solution is **non-uniform**! Different batteries participate to different **degree**, even though batteries are all identical
- **Which** batteries **participate** depends on the time period!
Why?