

Control and Optimization in Smart Power Grids INCITE Seminar @ Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Florian Dörfler Automatic Control Laboratory, ETH Zürich

Complex Control Systems Group



Energy Science Center



FNSNF

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Background: distributed control and optimization



Project samples in power systems





plug-and-play control in microgrids





feedback online optimization (now)



control in low-inertia systems (later)

Distributed Control and Optimization in Smart Power Grids

Acknowledgements:



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How are power systems operated?



- objective: deliver power from generators to loads (typically time-varying & uncertain) supply chain without storage
- physical constraints: Kirchhoff's and Ohm's laws
- operational constraints: thermal and voltage limits, ...

specifications:

running costs, reliability, quality of service

New challenges and opportunities

fluctuating renewable sources

- poor short-range prediction
- correlated uncertainty

distributed microgeneration

- conventional and renewable sources
- congestion (in urban grids)
- under-/over-voltage (in rural grids)





New challenges and opportunities cont'd



electric mobility

- flexible demand
- large peak (power) and total (energy) demand
- spatio-temporal patterns

Information and communication technology

- inexpensive reliable communication
- increasingly ubiquitous sensing
- inverter-based generation
 - fast actuation
 - control flexibility
 - stability concerns



Recall: feedforward vs. feedback or optimization vs. control



closed-loop \triangleq feedback control



feedback control can achieve

- no steady-state error: r(t) = y(t) for $t \to \infty$
- **stability**: bounded output *y* for bounded input *r*
- robustness: reduce influence of uncertainties & disturbances

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open-loop ≜ feedforward optimization



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feedforward optimization can achieve

- transient & asymptotic **optimality**: $\min \int_0^\infty y(t)^2 + u(t)^2 dt + \|y(t \to \infty)\|$
- operational **constraints**: $u(t) \in \mathcal{U}$ and $y(t) \in \mathcal{Y}$
- taking into account forecasts of reference and disturbance signals

Complementary: feedforward optimization & feedback control

Feedforward optimization

- highly model based
- computationally intensive
- optimal decision
- operational constraints

• . . .

Feedback control

- model-free (robust) design
- fast response
- suboptimal operation
- unconstrained operation
- ...

Complementary: feedforward optimization & feedback control



⇒ combine complementary operation methods with a time-scale separation



offline & feedforward

real-time & feedback

Power systems optimization and control architecture



time-scale separation between

- offline feedforward optimization: SC-OPF, planning, markets, ...
- real-time feedback control: droop, AGC, AVR, PSS, WAC, ...

spatial separation: decentralized (PSS) to distributed (WAC) to centralized (OPF)

nested and hierarchical operation layers: primary, secondary, tertiary, ...

Classic example: balancing

- optimization phase economic dispatch based on load prediction
- real-time operation economic re-dispatch, area balancing services
- local feedback control frequency regulation at the individual generators



[Elcom/swissgrid, 2010]





Timely recent example: distribution grid congestion



congestion: operation of the grid close or above the physical and operational limits \rightarrow due to simultaneous and uncoordinated distributed generation and demand \rightarrow inefficient, blackouts, curtailment of renewables, bottleneck to electric mobility

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Ancillary services

- · real-time balancing
- frequency control
- · economic re-dispatch
- voltage regulation
- voltage collapse prevention
- line congestion relief
- · reactive power compensation
- · losses minimization

Today: these services are partially automated, implemented independently, online or offline, based on forecasts (or not), and operating on different time/spatial scales.

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- fast, inverter-based actuation
- ubiquitous sensing
- reliable communication

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A central paradigm of "smart(er) grids": real-time operation

Future power systems will require faster operation, based on online monitoring and measurement, in order to meet operational specifications in real time.

National & international redispatch

- unforeseen congestion or voltage problems
- manually re-dispatched on a 15-minute timescale





Proposal: online optimization in closed loop



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combining optimization & feedback control for real-time operation

robust (feedback strategy)

steady-state optimality

fast response

satisfaction of operational constraints

disclaimer: no predictive optimization (only for static systems) focus today on real-time (no distributed) aspects

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lots of related work: [Bolognani et. al, 2015], [Dall'Anese and Simmonetto, 2016], [Gan and Low, 2016], ...



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OVERVIEW

- 1. The power flow manifold, representations, and approximations
- 2. Projected gradient flow on the power flow manifold
- 3. Tracking performance and robustness of closed-loop optimization
- 4. Output feedback and state uncertainty

THE POWER FLOW MANIFOLD, REPRESENTATIONS, AND APPROXIMATIONS

Steady-state AC power flow model

- quasi-stationary dynamics → complex impedances and voltages
- sources: locally controlled \rightarrow buses are PQ or PV or slack V θ
- loads: constant impedance, current, or PQ power (today)





AC power flow equations
$$S_k = \sum_{l \in N(k)} \frac{1}{z_{kl}^*} V_k (V_k^* - V_l^*) \quad \forall k \in \mathcal{N}$$

Power flow representations

• complex form: $S_k = P_k + jQ_k = \sum_{l \in N(k)} y_{kl}^* V_k \cdot (V_k^* - V_l^*)$ where $y_{kl} = 1/z_{kl}$

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- **branch flow:** parameterized in flows: $I_{k \to l} = y_{kl}(V_k V_l)$ and $S_{k \to l} = V_k I_{k \to l}^*$ \to useful in radial networks: equations can be expressed in magnitudes only

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- many variations, coordinate changes, convexifications, etc.
 - \rightarrow some problems become easier in different coordinates

A brief history of power flow approximations

for computational tractability, analytic studies, & control/optimization design

• **DC power flow**: polar form $\rightarrow \Re(Z) = 0$, |V| = 1, and linearization

B. Stott, J. Jardim, & O. Alsac, DC Power Flow Revisited. IEEE TPS, 2009.

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- LinDistFlow: branch flow \rightarrow parameterization $|\textit{V}|^2$ coordinates and linearization

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- \rightarrow works amazingly well in distribution and transmission
- many variations, extensions, sensitivity and Jacobian methods, etc.

A unifying geometric perspective: the power flow manifold





A unifying geometric perspective: the power flow manifold

node 1 node 2 y = 0.4 - 0.8j $v_1 = 1, \ \theta_1 = 0$ $v_2, \ \theta_2$ $p_1, \ q_1$ $p_2, \ q_2$

- variables: all of $x = (|V|, \theta, P, Q)$
- power flow manifold: $\mathcal{M} = \{x : h(x) = 0\}$
 - \rightarrow submanifold in \mathbb{R}^{2n} or \mathbb{R}^{6n} (3-phase)



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- **normal space** spanned by $\frac{\partial h(x)}{\partial x}\Big|_{x^*} = A_{x^*}^T$
- tangent space $A_{x^*}(x x^*) = 0$

ightarrow best linear approximant at x^*



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 accuracy depends on curvature ∂²h(x) ∂x²
 → constant in rectangular coordinates



Accuracy illustrated with unbalanced three-phase IEEE13



Matlab/Octave code @ https://github.com/saveriob/1ACPF

Special cases reveal some old friends

• flat-voltage/0-injection point: $x^* = (|V|^*, \theta^*, P^*, Q^*) = (1, 0, 0, 0)$

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$$\Rightarrow \text{ tangent space parameterization: } \begin{bmatrix} \Re(Y) & -\Im(Y) \\ -\Im(Y) & \Re(Y) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} |V| \\ \theta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} P \\ Q \end{bmatrix}$$

gives linear coupled power flow [D. Deka, S. Backhaus, and M. Chertkov, '15]

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- \Rightarrow linearization gives (non-radial) LinDistFlow [M.E. Baran and F.F. Wu, '88]

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Properties of power flow manifold that we will exploit

- nonlinear power flow is smooth manifold
- → coordinate-independent no singularities
- \rightarrow better local linear **approximations**
- \rightarrow methods for manifold optimization/control
- natural concept for closed-loop dynamics
- $\rightarrow~\mathcal{M}$ is attractive for grid dynamics
- \rightarrow closed-loop **trajectories** x(t) live on \mathcal{M}
- \rightarrow **control** task: steer $\dot{x}(t)$ in tangent space
 - const.-rank **linearization** $A_{x*}(x x^*) = 0$
- → implicit no input/outputs (no disadvantage)
- \rightarrow **sparse** A_{x*} has the sparsity of the grid
- \rightarrow **structure** elements of A_{x^*} are local



ightarrow S. Bolognani & F. Dörfler (2015) "Fast power system analysis via implicit linearization of the power flow manifold"²⁶

PROJECTED GRADIENT FLOW ON THE POWER FLOW MANIFOLD

AC power flow model, constraints, and objectives

model (physical constraint): $x \in \mathcal{M}$





AC power flow equations $S_k = \sum_{l \in N(k)} \frac{1}{z_{kl}^*} V_k(V_k^* - V_l^*) \quad \forall k \in \mathcal{N}$

(all variables and parameters are C-valued)

- operational constraints: generation capacity, voltage bands, no congestion
- objective: economic dispatch, minimize losses, distance to collapse, etc.
- control: state measurements and actuation via generator set-points

Ancillary services as a real-time OPF

Real-time optimal power flow (OPF)

minimize cost of generation	minimize	$\sum_{k\in\mathcal{N}} \operatorname{cost}_k(P_k^G)$	
 satisfy AC power flow laws 	subject to	$P^G + jQ^G = P^L + jQ^L + \operatorname{diag}(V)Y^*V^*$	
 respect generation capacity 		$\underline{P}_{k} \leq P_{k}^{G} \leq \overline{P}_{k}, \ \underline{Q}_{k} \leq Q_{k}^{G} \leq \overline{Q}_{k}$	$\forall k \in \mathcal{N}$
 no over-/under-voltage 		$\underline{V}_k \leq V_k \leq \overline{V}_k$	$\forall k \in \mathcal{N}$
no congestion		$ P_{kl} + jQ_{kl} \leq \overline{S}_{kl}$	$\forall (k, l) \in \mathcal{E}$

Y admittance matrix, P_k^G , Q_k^G power generation, P_k^L , Q_k^L load, $\{\underline{V}_k, \overline{V}_k, \ldots\}$ nodal limits, \overline{S}_{kl} line flow limit

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A control problem with challenging specifications on the closed-loop system:

- its trajectory x(t) must satisfy the constraints at all times
- **2.** it must converge to x^* , the solution of the AC OPF



Ancillary services as a real-time OPF

Real-time optimal power flow (OPF)• minimize cost of generationminimize $\sum_{k \in \mathcal{N}} \operatorname{cost}_k(P_k^G)$ • satisfy AC power flow lawssubject to $P^G + jQ^G = P^L + jQ^L + \operatorname{diag}(V)Y^*V^*$ • respect generation capacity $\underline{P}_k \leq P_k^G \leq \overline{P}_k, \quad \underline{O}_k \leq Q_k^G \leq \overline{Q}_k \quad \forall k \in \mathcal{N}$ • no over-/under-voltage $\underline{V}_k \leq |V_k| \leq \overline{V}_k \quad \forall k \in \mathcal{N}$ • no congestion $|P_{kl} + jQ_{kl}| \leq \overline{S}_{kl} \quad \forall (k, l) \in \mathcal{E}$

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Prototype	of real-time OPF	$ X = [V \ \theta \ P \ Q]$	grid state
minimizo	$\phi(\mathbf{x})$	$\phi:\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}$	objective function
	$\varphi(\mathbf{x})$	$\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$	AC power flow equations
subject to	$x \in \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{X}$	$\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$	operational constraints

Unconstrained optimization on the power flow manifold

geometric objects:

manifold	$\mathcal{M} = \{x : h(x) = \mathbb{O}\}\$
objective	$\phi:\mathcal{M}\to\mathbb{R}$

tangent space $T_x \mathcal{M} = \ker h(x)$ (degree of freedom)

Riemann metric $q: T_x \mathcal{M} \times T_x \mathcal{M} \to \mathbb{R}$

Unconstrained optimization on the power flow manifold

geometric objects:

manifold	$\mathcal{M} = \{x : h(x) = 0\}$	tangent space	$T_x\mathcal{M} = \operatorname{ker} h(x)$
objective	$\phi:\mathcal{M} ightarrow \mathbb{R}$	Riemann metric	$g: T_x\mathcal{M} imes T_x\mathcal{M} o \mathbb{R}$
		(degree of freedom)	

• target state: local minimizer on the power flow manifold $x^* \in \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{M}} \phi(x)$

Unconstrained optimization on the power flow manifold

geometric objects:

manifold	$\mathcal{M} = \{x : h(x) = 0\}$	tangent space	$T_x\mathcal{M} = \operatorname{ker} h(x)$
objective	$\phi:\mathcal{M} o \mathbb{R}$	Riemann metric	$g: T_x\mathcal{M} imes T_x\mathcal{M} o \mathbb{R}$
		(degree of freedom)	

• target state: local minimizer on the power flow manifold $x^* \in \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{M}} \phi(x)$

always feasible due to physics: trajectory remains on power flow manifold M

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- target state: local minimizer on the power flow manifold $x^* \in \arg \min_{x \in \mathcal{M}} \phi(x)$
- **always feasible** due to physics: trajectory remains on power flow manifold \mathcal{M}
- continuous-time gradient descent on *M*:
 - grad φ(x): gradient of cost function (& soft constraints) in ambient space
 - **2.** Π_x grad $\phi(x)$: **projection** of gradient on the linear approximant $T_x \mathcal{M}$
 - **3.** flow on manifold: $\dot{x} = -\gamma \prod_x \operatorname{grad} \phi(x)$



Constraints: projected dynamical systems for feasibility

Operational constraints

Per specification, the trajectories need to satisfy operational constraints at all times.

 $x(t) \in \mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{X}$

where

- \mathcal{M} power flow manifold
- \mathcal{X} operational constraints

 $\rightarrow \dot{x}(t)$ must belong to a **feasible cone**, subset of the tangent space of \mathcal{M}

precisely: $\dot{x}(t) \in T_X \mathcal{K} \subset T_X \mathcal{M}$,

the inward tangent cone at x

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 $F: \mathbb{R}^n \to \mathbb{R}^n$ vector field, $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ closed domain

Projected dynamical systems:

$$\dot{x} = \Pi_{\mathcal{K}}(x, F(x))$$

where

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{K}}(x,F(x))\in \arg\min_{v\in \mathcal{T}_{x}\mathcal{K}}\|F(x)-v\|_{g}$$

Projected gradient descent on the power flow manifold

 $\dot{x} = \Pi_{\mathcal{K}} (x, -\operatorname{grad} \phi(x)), \quad x(0) = x_0$

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- Does a solution trajectory exist for a non-convex K? Is it unique?
- Are solution trajectories (asymptotically) stable?
- Do solution trajectories converge to a minimizer of ϕ ?

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Corollary (simplified)

Let $x : [0,\infty) \to \mathcal{K}$ be a (Carathéodory-)solution of the initial value problem

$$\dot{x} = \Pi_{\mathcal{K}} \left(x, -\operatorname{grad} \phi(x) \right) , \qquad x(0) = x_0 .$$

If ϕ has compact level sets on \mathcal{K} , x(t) will converge to a critical point x^* of ϕ on \mathcal{K} . Furthermore, if x^* is asymptotically stable then it is a local minimizer of ϕ on \mathcal{K} .

> \rightarrow Hauswirth, Bolognani, Hug, & Dörfler (2016) "Projected gradient descent on Riemanniann manifolds with applications to online power system optimization"

How to induce the projected gradient flow



- the state x is uniquely determined by
 - the algebraic model h(x) = 0 describing the power flow equations
 - an algebraic input constraint g(x) = u

How to induce the projected gradient flow



- the state x is uniquely determined by
 - the algebraic model h(x) = 0 describing the power flow equations
 - an algebraic input constraint g(x) = u
- steady state: the closed-loop system converges to the solution of the OPF
- closed-loop trajectory remains in *K* at all times
- ightarrow no need to solve the optimization problem numerically
- $\rightarrow\,$ no need to solve any power flow equation

From projected gradient flow to discrete-time feedback control

partition:
$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_{exo} \\ x_{endo} \end{bmatrix}$$

exogenous variables:

inputs/disturbances

(e.g., reactive injection Q_k)

endogenous variables:

determined by the physics (e.g., voltage V_k)

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- **1.** compute continuous **feasible descent direction** : $d^t = \prod_{\mathcal{K}} (x, -\text{grad } \phi(x(t)))$
- **2.** Euler integration step to compute new set-points : $\tilde{x}(t + 1) = x(t) + \alpha \cdot d^{t}$
- **3.** actuate exogeneous variables (inputs) based on $\tilde{x}_{endo}(t + 1)$ (note: x_{exo} will be updated accordingly since h(x) = 0 holds implicitly by physics)
- **4. retraction step** $x(t + 1) = R_{x(t)}(\tilde{x}(t + 1)) \Rightarrow x(t + 1) \in \mathcal{M}$

(note: carried out by physics since \mathcal{M} is attractive / use AC PF solver in simulations)

Simple illustrative case study








TRACKING PERFORMANCE AND ROBUSTNESS OF CLOSED-LOOP OPTIMIZATION

The tracking problem

- the power system state is also affected by exogeneous inputs w_t
- $\rightarrow\,$ because of these inputs, the state could leave the feasible region ${\cal K}$
- $\rightarrow\,$ outside of $\mathcal{K},$ the projected gradient flow is not defined

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constraints satisfaction for non-controllable variables:

- *K* accounts only for hard constraints on controllable variables *u* (e.g., generation limits)
- gradient projection becomes input saturation (saturated proportional feedback control)
- soft constraints included via penalty functions in ϕ (e.g., thermal and voltage limits)
- → alternative method (not discussed today) is dualization (i.e., integral control)

Tracking performance



controller: penalty + saturation

 \rightarrow Hauswirth, Bolognani, Dörfler, & Hug (2017) "Online Optimization in Closed Loop on the Power Flow Manifold"

Tracking performance



Comparison

- closed-loop feedback trajectory
- benchmark: feedforward OPF

(solution of an ideal OPF without computation delay)

- practically exact tracking
- + trajectory feasibility
- + robustness to model mismatch



Trajectory feasibility

The feasible region $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{X}$ often has **disconnected components**.



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feedback (gradient descent)

- \rightarrow the closed-loop trajectory x(t) is guaranteed to be **feasible**
- \rightarrow convergence of x(t) to a **local minimum** is guaranteed

feedforward (OPF)

- optimizer x^* = arg min_{$x \in \mathcal{K}$} $\phi(x)$ can be in different **disconnected component**
- \rightarrow no feasible trajectory exists: $x_0 \rightarrow x^*$ must violate constraints

Illustration of trajectory feasibility

5-bus example known to have two disconnected feasible regions:



- [0s,2000s]: separate feasible regions
- $\label{eq:constraint} \begin{array}{c} \mbox{[2000s,3000s]: loosen limits on} \\ \mbox{reactive power } \underline{Q}_2 \rightarrow \mbox{regions merge} \end{array}$
- [4000s,5000s]: tighten limits on <u>Q</u>₂ → vanishing feasible region



Robustness to model mismatch

Intuition in 2D case: cost on x_1 , soft penalty for constraint $x_2 \le \bar{x}_2$, actuation on x_1



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↑ feedforward (OPF)

model-based approach: model mismatch directly affects the decision u^*

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Illustration of robustness to model mismatch

IEEE 30-bus test system



	no automatic re-dispatch			feedback optimization		
model uncertainty	feasible ?	$f - f^*$	$\ v - v^*\ $	feasible ?	$f - f^*$	$\ v - v^*\ $
loads \pm 40%	no	94.6	0.03	yes	0.0	0.0
line params $\pm 20\%$	yes	0.19	0.01	yes	0.01	0.003
2 line failures	no	-0.12	0.06	yes	0.19	0.007

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on-going work: observations can be made mathematically rigorous and quantified

OUTPUT FEEDBACK AND STATE UNCERTAINTY

Use real-time output measurements to reduce uncertainty



How to project the trajectory to $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} \cap \mathcal{X}$ when the state is **partially known**?

- power flow manifold *M*: attractive manifold + robustness ✓
- operational constraints X: how to deal with state uncertainty?

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Chance constraints

generally non-convex set of all *u* such that $\mathbb{P}[x \in \mathcal{X}_w | y(x) = y] \ge 1 - \epsilon$ where *w* is random and $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$ is probability of constrained violation

Scenario approach to chance-constrained optimization

- chance constraint: $\mathbb{P}[x \in \mathcal{X}_w] \ge 1 \epsilon$ where *w* is random and $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$
- → often intractable for complex (possibly unknown) distributions/constraints

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- ightarrow often intractable for complex (possibly unknown) distributions/constraints
 - sample from distribution \rightarrow deterministic constraints $x \in \mathcal{X}_{w^{(i)}}, i \in \{1, ..., N\}$
 - convert stochastic constraint to large set of deterministic ones: $\mathcal{X}_w \approx \bigcap_{i=1}^N \mathcal{X}_{w^{(i)}}$
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IEEE 13 grid with random demand and actuation (microgenerators & tap changers)



feasible region with scenario approach

Scenario approach with real-time measurements

 \blacksquare scenario approach: stochastic constraint \rightarrow large set of deterministic ones

- two sources of information on the unknown w
 - **1. historical samples** *w*^(*i*) of prior distribution
 - \rightarrow classic scenario-based approach



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- ightarrow high computational demand, large memory footprint, not suited for real time

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- ightarrow high computational demand, large memory footprint, not suited for real time
- today: online computation of posterior distribution after measurement

Linear case

linear grid model

x=Au+Bw

- polytopic constraints *Cx* ≤ *z*
- linear measurement

y = Hw

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Approximate conditioning

affine transformation:

$$\hat{w}_{y} = w + K(y - Hw)$$

where $K = \Sigma H^{\top} (H \Sigma H^{\top})^{-1}$

- \rightarrow **projection** of uncertainty in the subspace {y = Hw}
- \rightarrow Gaussian case: recovers the conditional distribution

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Bimodal distribution	Mean	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis
True posterior Gaussian approximation	3.35 3.20	4.23 3.57	-0.74 0	2.00 3
Affine transformation	3.20	3.57	-0.54	2.35





Annular distribution	Mean	Variance	Skewness	Kurtosis
True posterior	-0.6	32.9	0	1.08
Gaussian approximation	-0.6	17.8	0	3
Affine transformation	-0.6	17.8	0	1.60





Affine transformation of the feasible region

transformation: the feasible polytope $Cx \le z$ can be rewritten as

$$C(Au + B\hat{w}_y) \leq z \approx C(Au + B(w + K(y - Hw))) \leq z$$

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scenario approach: replace w with finitely many historical samples $w^{(l)}$

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^{N} C\Big(Au + B(w^{(i)} + K(y - Hw^{(i)})\Big) \le z \quad \rightarrow \quad \text{polytope } \hat{\mathcal{U}} \text{ in } u \text{ and } y$$

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Two-phase algorithm

- offline: construct a feasible region $\hat{\mathcal{U}}(y)$ parametrized in *y*
- online: compute the conditional feasible polytope U = Û(y_{measured})

) → Bolognani, Arcari, & Dörfler (2017) "A fast method for real-time chance-constrained decision with application to power systems".

Example: IEEE 123-bus test system

6

6 8

- scalar measurement total demand
- operational constraint

overvoltage limits

actuation

distributed microgenerators

samples

metered demand of 1200 households





Computation time				
Offline	Compute Σ and K			
	Construct augmented polytope $\hat{\mathcal{U}}$			
	Compute minimal representation of $\hat{\mathcal{U}}$			
	Total offline computation time	55 min		
Online	Slice $\hat{\mathcal{U}}$ at $y = y^{\text{meas}}$ to obtain \mathcal{U}			
	Total online computation time	1.8 ms		
Memory footprint				
Offline	Augmented polytope $\hat{\mathcal{U}}$	48620 constraints		
Online	Minimal representation of \hat{U}	12 constraints		

CONCLUSIONS

Summary and conclusions

control perspective on real-time power system operation

- feedback control on manifolds
- steady-state optimality
- feasibility at all times

robustness and performance

- real-time constrained tracking
- robust to model uncertainty
- chance constraints

ongoing and future work

- quantify robustness margins
- saddle-flows on manifolds for primal-dual optimization
- distributed control approach
- include primary frequency control
- online scenario-based approach



Thanks!

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