



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Electricity Delivery  
& Energy Reliability

# Advanced Grid Modeling 2014 Peer Review

## Chance-constrained OPF – Incorporating High-Performance Computing into Power Grid Operations

Daniel Bienstock  
Columbia University  
Misha Chertkov and Russell Bent  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
June 18, 2014

# *Operational challenges in renewable incorporation*

---

## **CIGRE -International Conference on Large High Voltage Electric Systems '09:**

- *Large, **random** fluctuations in wind power must be balanced by other power sources, possibly located **far away***
- *This causes large power flows through the transmission system*
- ***Control is difficult** – e.g. flow reversal observed*
- *Expand transmission capacity? Difficult, expensive, takes time*
- *Problems **already observed** when penetration is high*
- **Our work: to develop a robust control scheme that is foundationally strong, computationally practicable and easy to incorporate into existing power engineering practice**

# Presentation Outline

---

1. **Project purpose**: develop robust, modern mathematical methodologies for use in grid operations, *principally* OPF and Unit Commitment
2. **Significance and Impact**: safe, economic operation of the grid under high renewable penetration and high transmission levels
3. **Technical approach**: use of chance-constrained and robust optimization; fast optimization algorithms
4. **Technical accomplishments** (so far): a fast, scalable, robust chance-constrained optimization approach that scales well to real-world power transmission systems.

**OPF:**

$$\begin{aligned} & \min c(p) \quad (\text{a quadratic}) \\ & \text{s.t.} \\ & B\theta = p - d \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

$$|y_{ij}(\theta_i - \theta_j)| \leq u_{ij} \quad \text{for each line } ij \tag{2}$$

$$P_g^{min} \leq p_g \leq P_g^{max} \quad \text{for each generator bus } g \tag{3}$$

**Notation:**

$p$  = vector of generations  $\in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $d$  = vector of loads  $\in \mathbb{R}^n$

$B \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ , (bus susceptance matrix)

$$\forall i, j : \quad B_{ij} = \begin{cases} -y_{ij}, & ij \in \mathcal{E} \text{ (set of lines)} \\ \sum_{k; \{k,j\} \in \mathcal{E}} y_{kj}, & i = j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# OPF + Real-Time Control

---

$$\begin{aligned} & \min c(p) \quad (\text{a quadratic}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & B\theta = p - d \\ & |y_{ij}(\theta_i - \theta_j)| \leq u_{ij} \quad \text{for each line } ij \\ & P_g^{\min} \leq p_g \leq P_g^{\max} \quad \text{for each bus } g \end{aligned}$$

How does OPF handle short-term fluctuations in **demand** (d)?

## Frequency control:

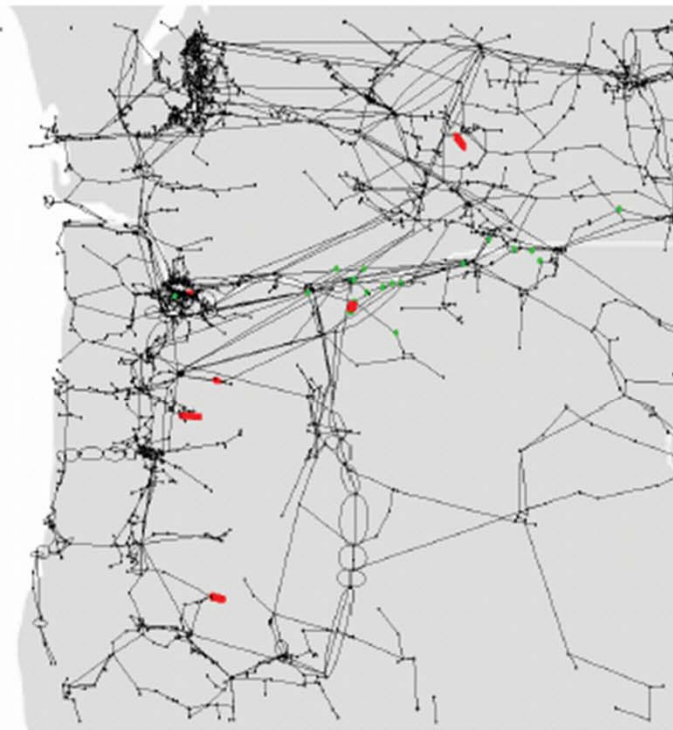
- Automatic control: primary, secondary
- Generator output varies up or down **proportionally** to **aggregate change**  
Each participating generator has its own preset constant

# Experiment—OPF + Real-Time Control

---

Bonneville Power Administration data, Northwest US

- data on wind fluctuations at planned farms
- with standard OPF, 7 lines exceed limit  $\geq 8\%$  of the time



# *Line limits and line tripping*

---

If power flow on a line exceeds its limit, the line becomes compromised and may 'trip'. But process is complex and time-averaged:

- Thermal limit is most common
- Thermal limit includes capabilities of terminal equipment
- Wind strength and direction contributes to line temperature. 'Exact' process governed by heat equation (IEEE 738).
- In 2003 Northeast U.S. and Canada blackout event, many critical lines tripped due to thermal reasons, but **well short** of their limits.

## **Take away:**

***Extremely difficult*** to precisely model line tripping as a function of line overloads.

## *Practicable proxy for line protection*

---

- **Summary of above:** it is bad for a line to exceed its limit for too long; exact process complex and data-challenging
- **Want:** "fraction time a line exceeds its limit to be small"
- **Proxy:**  $\text{Prob}(\text{violation on line } i) < \varepsilon_i$  for each line  $i$



# *Goals for Control Under Uncertainty*

---

- **Familiar control:** if possible, similar to current power engineering practice
- **Aware of line and generator limits,** through chance constraints, i.e. probabilistic reliability
- **But not too conservative**
- **Computationally practicable:** should run fast on a current workstation even on large examples

## Model for Real-Time Control Between OPFs

---

The control specifies, for each generator  $i$ , two parameters

- $\bar{p}_i$  = mean output at  $i$
- $\alpha_i$  = response parameter, nonnegative

Real-time output of generator  $i$ :

$$p_i = \bar{p}_i - \alpha_i \sum_j \Delta\omega_j$$

Here  $\Delta\omega_j$  = deviation from mean output of renewable  $j$ . We impose

$$\sum_i \alpha_i = 1$$


to emulate the action of primary and secondary frequency control

Parallels existing engineering practice, **BUT** we optimize over the control parameters in risk-aware fashion (chance constraints)

## Computing line flows, under DC approximation

---

$B$  = bus susceptance matrix,  $B^+$  = pseudo-inverse of  $B$

wind power at bus  $i$ :  $\mu_i + \mathbf{w}_i$   Wind generation fluctuations

DC approximation

- $B\theta = \bar{p} - d + \mu + \mathbf{w} - (\sum_{i \in G} \mathbf{w}_i)\alpha$
- $\theta = B^+(\bar{p} - d + \mu) + B^+(I - \alpha e^T)\mathbf{w}$
- flow is a linear combination of bus power injections:

$$\mathbf{f}_{ij} = y_{ij}(\theta_i - \theta_j)$$

**Boldface** = random variables

## Computing *fluctuating* line flows, under DC approximation

---

$$\mathbf{f}_{ij} = y_{ij} \left( (B_i^+ - B_j^+)^T (\bar{p} - d + \mu) + (A_i - A_j)^T \mathbf{w} \right).$$

$$A = B^+(I - \alpha e^T)$$

Fluctuating power flows due to wind and system response

Given distribution of wind can calculate moments of line flows:

- $E\mathbf{f}_{ij} = y_{ij}(B_i^+ - B_j^+)^T (\bar{p} - d + \mu)$
- $var(\mathbf{f}_{ij}) = y_{ij}^2 \sum_k (A_{ik} - A_{jk})^2 \sigma_k^2$  (assuming independence)
- and higher moments if necessary

## *From chance constraints to deterministic model*

---

- chance constraint:  $P(\mathbf{f}_{ij} > f_{ij}^{max}) < \epsilon_{ij}$  **and**  $P(\mathbf{f}_{ij} < -f_{ij}^{max}) < \epsilon_{ij}$
- from moments of  $\mathbf{f}_{ij}$ , can get conservative approximations using e.g. Chebyshev's inequality
- for Gaussian wind, can do better, since  $\mathbf{f}_{ij}$  is Gaussian :

$$|E\mathbf{f}_{ij}| + \text{var}(\mathbf{f}_{ij})\phi^{-1}(1 - \epsilon_{ij}) \leq f_{ij}^{max}$$

# Chance Constrained Optimal Power Flow

Choose control parameters so as to minimize expected cost, with overload probability kept small

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \min_{\bar{p}, \alpha} \mathbb{E}[c(\bar{p})] && \text{Min Cost} \\
 \text{s.t. } & \sum_{i \in G} \alpha_i = 1, \alpha \geq 0 && \text{Freq. regulation model} \\
 & B\delta = \alpha, \delta_n = 0 \\
 & \sum_{i \in G} \bar{p}_i + \sum_{i \in W} \mu_i = \sum_{i \in D} d_i && \text{Avg. power balance} \\
 & \bar{f}_{ij} = y_{ij}(\bar{\theta}_i - \bar{\theta}_j), && \text{Line flows} \\
 & B\bar{\theta} = \bar{p} + \mu - d, \bar{\theta}_n = 0 && \text{DC power flow} \\
 & s_{ij}^2 \geq y_{ij}^2 \sum_{k \in W} \sigma_k^2 (B_{ik}^+ - B_{jk}^+ - \delta_i + \delta_j)^2 && \text{Auxiliary constraint} \\
 & |\bar{f}_{ij}| + s_{ij} \phi^{-1}(1 - \epsilon_{ij}) \leq f_{ij}^{\max} && \text{Chance constraint}
 \end{aligned}$$

## *Polish 2003-2004 “winter peak”*

---

- 2746 buses, 3514 branches, 8 wind sources
- 5 – 20 % penetration,  $\sigma = .3\mu$  at each wind source
- Formulation has 36625 variables
- 38507 constraints, 6242 conic constraints
- 128538 non-zeros, 87 dense columns
- *Piece of cake?*

## *Polish 2003-2004 “winter peak”*

---

### CPLEX:

- Total time on 16 threads = 3393 seconds
- “optimization status 6”
- Solution is very infeasible

### Gurobi:

- Time = 31.1 seconds
- “Numerical trouble encountered”



# *Basic cutting-plane algorithm*

---

conic constraint:

$$\sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_k^2} = \|x\|_2 \leq y$$

candidate solution:

$$(x^*, y^*)$$

cutting-plane (linear constraint):

$$\|x^*\|_2 + \frac{x^{*T}}{\|x^*\|_2}(x - x^*) = \frac{x^{*T}x}{\|x^*\|_2} \leq y$$

Reduces conic program to a sequence of *linearly* constrained QPs

## *Basic cutting-plane algorithm*

---

Polish 2003-2004 case

CPLEX: infeasible after 3300 seconds

Gurobi: “numerical trouble”

Cutting-plane algorithm: 33 seconds

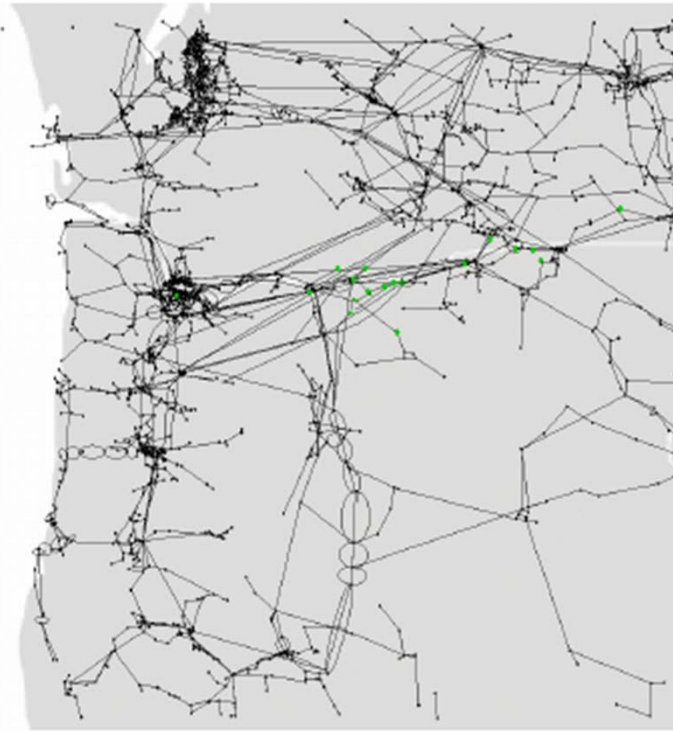
Iteration	Max rel. error	Objective
1	1.2e-1	7.0933e6
4	1.3e-3	7.0934e6
7	1.9e-3	7.0934e6
10	1.0e-4	7.0964e6
12	8.9e-7	7.0965e6

## *Back to motivating example*

---

BPA case:

- Standard OPF: cost 235603, 7 lines unsafe  $\geq 8\%$  of the time
- CC-OPF: cost 237297, every line safe  $\geq 98\%$  of the time
- Runtime = 9.5 seconds



## *Robustness? Data errors? Model error?*

---

$$s_{ij}^2 \geq y_{ij}^2 \sum_{k \in W} \sigma_k^2 (B_{ik}^+ - B_{jk}^+ - \delta_i + \delta_j)^2$$

$$|\bar{f}_{ij}| + s_{ij} \phi^{-1}(1 - \epsilon_{ij}) \leq f_{ij}^{\max}$$

(the  $\bar{f}_{ij}$  implicitly incorporate the  $\mu_i$ )

What if the  $\mu_i$  or the  $\sigma_k$  are incorrect? ... What happens to

$$\text{Prob}(\mathbf{f}_{ij} > f_{ij}^{\max})?$$

## *Robustness? Data errors? Model error?*

---

Let the *correct* parameters be  $\tilde{\mu}_i, \tilde{\sigma}_i$  for each farm  $i$ .

**Theorem:** Suppose there are parameters  $M > 0, V > 0$  such that

$$|\bar{\mu}_i - \mu_i| < M\mu_i \text{ and } |\bar{\sigma}_i^2 - \sigma_i| < V\sigma_i$$

for all  $i$ . Then:

$$Prob(\mathbf{f}_{ij} > f_{ij}^{max}) < \epsilon_{ij} + O(V) + O(M)$$

Here, the  $O()$  “hides” some constants dependent on e.g. reactances

*In other words, model deteriorates in a controlled manner.*

*How about small data errors?*

# *Robust optimization*

---

Polyhedral data error model:

$$|\tilde{\sigma}_i - \sigma_i| \leq \gamma_i \quad \forall i, \quad \sum_i \frac{|\tilde{\sigma}_i - \sigma_i|}{\gamma_i} \leq \Gamma.$$

Ellipsoidal data error model:

$$(\tilde{\sigma} - \sigma)^T A (\tilde{\sigma} - \sigma) \leq b$$

Here  $A \succeq 0$  and  $b > 0$  are parameters.

# *Robust handling of chance constraints*

---

**Nominal case:**  $|E \mathbf{f}_{ij}| + \text{var}(\mathbf{f}_{ij})\phi^{-1}(1 - \epsilon_{ij}) \leq f_{ij}^{\max}$

→ a conic constraint

**Robust case:**  $\max_{\mathcal{E}} \{|E \mathbf{f}_{ij}| + \text{var}(\mathbf{f}_{ij})\phi^{-1}(1 - \epsilon_{ij})\} \leq f_{ij}^{\max}$

(  $\mathcal{E}$  : data error model)

*How do we solve the robust-constrained case?*

*Traditional robust-optimization (duality) approach yields a nonconvex problem*

**Theorem.** The robust problem is a convex optimization problem and can be solved in polynomial time in the polyhedral and ellipsoidal data cases.

An “ambiguous chance-constrained problem”

# *Conclusion*

---

Chance Constrained Optimal Power Flow is a control formulation/algorithm that enables:

**Computationally practicable probabilistic reliability:** No sampling required—runs large examples on current workstations

**Fully network aware:** Considers all individual lines and generators

**Integrates with current practice**

**Tunable conservatism**



## *Future Work—FY15*

---

- **Time-extended formulation:** Chance constraints on individual generator ramping between OPF periods
- **Fluctuating voltage magnitudes:** Increasing levels of sophistication of approximations to voltage fluctuations
  - Full linearization
  - Multi-linear convexification
  - Quadratic convexification
  - In collaboration with U. of Michigan (Ian Hiskens)

# *Acknowledgements/Contacts*

---

*Contact:*

*Scott Backhaus*

*[backhaus@lanl.gov](mailto:backhaus@lanl.gov)*