# Algorithms for Multi-Agent Microgrids & Wider Power Systems

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#### AC Optimal Power Flow



IEEE 96 Reliability Test System

# Challenges

- AC optimal power flow
- Nonconvex constraints
- Potentially large scale



Decomposition Based Optimal Power Flow

• Reformulate as bilevel problem

Master Problem:

$$\min_{x} \quad C(x) + \sum_{t \in T} C_{t}^{*}(x)$$
  
s.t.  $h(x) \leq 0$ 

Subproblems:

$$C_t^*(x) = \min_{y_t} \quad C_t(y_t; x)$$
  
s.t.  $h_t(y_t; x) \leq 0$ 



# Decomposition Based Optimal Power Flow

- Allows parallelization
- Subproblems: solved using second order cone (SOCP) or other relaxation techniques
- Master problem: general nonlinear programming solver
- Caveat:  $C_t^*(x)$  may be non-smooth



#### Non-smoothness

$$C_t^*(x) = \min_{y_t} \quad C_t(y_t; x)$$
  
s.t.  $h_t(y_t; x) \leq 0$ 

- Change of x may cause  $C_t^*(x)$  to be non-smooth.
- Different inequality constraints being tight.



## Smoothen subproblems by logarithmic barrier



- Large  $\mu$ : smoothed value function, but different from the original function.
- Small  $\mu$ : value function still has high curvature.

#### Smoothing

Solve a sequence of problems:

$$\min_{x} \quad C(x) + \sum_{t \in T} C_{t}^{*}(x, \mu)$$
  
s.t. 
$$h(x) \leq 0$$

- **①** Start with a large  $\mu$  to guide towards the solution.
- **2** Gradually reduce  $\mu$ , using previous solution as a warm-start.
- $C_t^*(x,\mu)$  is smooth for fixed  $\mu$ .
- Apply NLP solver to solve the master problem.
- Need to compute  $C_t^*(x)$ ,  $\nabla_x C_t^*(x)$ ,  $\nabla_x^2 C_t^*(x)$ .

#### Numerical Performances

• Scales linearly with problem size



## Demand Response



Figure from www.gismart.eu

#### Sample price fluctuations

**Real-time Electricity Price** 



Hour

Figure: Hourly real time price per megawatt-hour for Cambridge, MA for Dec 10, 2013 to Jan 7, 2014.

## **Demand Response**









#### Historical Demand Response Data



# Time-of-Use vs Non-Time-of-Use: Temperature Effects



# Time-of-Use vs Non-Time-of-Use: Seasonal Effects



In order to fully explore DR potential, aim to establish models of user behavior