

# Multistage Stochastic Program for Mitigating Power System Risks under Wildfire Disruptions

**Hanbin Yang**, Noah Rhodes, Haoxiang Yang,  
Line Roald, Lewis Ntaimo

hanbinyang@link.cuhk.edu.cn

School of Data Science  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

June 6, 2024



# Motivation

- Power supply is critical to our lives.
- Wildfire can cause severe damages in power systems.
  - In California, 10% of wildfires ignited by electrical equipment were responsible for more than 70% of damages.
  - The 2020 Australian bushfires lasted several months and spread across multiple states, affecting numerous power infrastructure components.



# Motivation

## Challenges in Power System Management:

- Uncertainty: Wildfires can occur at any time and place, creating unpredictable risks;
- Duration and Spread: Wildfires can last for varying durations and have the potential to spread across multiple components.

## Importance of Proactive Measures:

- Effective strategies are essential to minimize the impact of wildfires;
- Proactive measures can help in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from wildfire-induced disruptions.

# Wildfire Disruptions

## Exogenous Fire

- Ignited by external factors (e.g., human activities, lightning);
- Can spread and damage power grid equipment;
- Grid operator has **no control** over risk!

# Wildfire Disruptions

## Exogenous Fire

- Ignited by external factors (e.g., human activities, lightning);
  - Can spread and damage power grid equipment;
- ~> Grid operator has **no control** over risk!

## Endogenous Fire

- Ignited by energized power grid equipment;
  - Can spread and damage other grid equipment;
- ~> Risk can be reduced by **turning off** power lines.

## Tradeoffs: Should a power line be de-energized?

|              | Advantages        | Disadvantages                  |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| De-energized | Prevents ignition | <b>Cannot</b> deliver power    |
| Energized    | Power delivery    | <b>Cannot</b> prevent ignition |

The disadvantages are exacerbated in the event of a disruption:

~> **De-energization + Exogenous**  $\Rightarrow$  Blackout.

- If too many components are de-energized, an exogenous wildfire can lead to significant load-shedding due to the inability to supply power.

~> **Energization + Failure**  $\Rightarrow$  Endogenous.

- If components remain energized and an endogenous wildfire occurs, it can spread to other components, causing widespread damage.

# Multistage Model

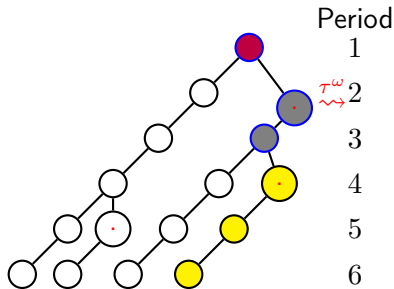
Consider a multi-period power flow problem incorporating line de-energization decisions:

- Stochastic Disruptions:
  - Timing, location, and magnitude of the wildfires are uncertain.

# Multistage Model

Consider a multi-period power flow problem incorporating line de-energization decisions:

- Stochastic Disruptions:
  - Timing, location, and magnitude of the wildfires are uncertain.
- Modeling:
  - Modeled as a multistage stochastic mixed-integer program:
    - First-stage Nominal Plan:** Before any wildfire occurs.
    - $t$ -stage Disruption Plan:** Before the  $t$ -th disruption occurs.



**Figure:** The presence of a "." symbol within the nodes denotes the occurrence of a disruption.



## First-stage Model – Objective Function

The first-stage model decides a nominal plan for the entire horizon:

- Objective is to minimize **load shed** + **the second stage cost**;
- This plan is in effect until the first disruption occurs  $\tau^{\dot{\omega}}$ ;
- Decisions for line de-energization, dispatch, load shed.

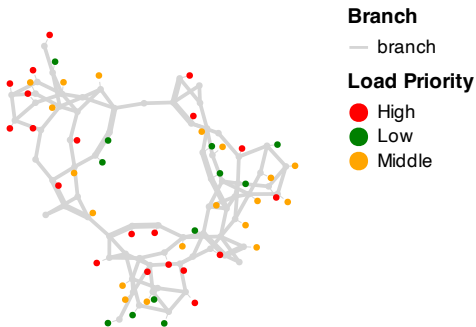
$$\sum_{\dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_{\omega_0}} p^{\dot{\omega}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{Before Disruption} \\ \overbrace{\sum_{t=1}^{\tau^{\dot{\omega}} - 1}} \\ \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} w_d s_{dt} + \underbrace{f^{\dot{\omega}}(z_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1})}_{\text{Second-stage Cost}} \end{array} \right].$$

## First-stage Model – Fairness

The burden of load-shedding should not:

- Fall solely on lower-priority loads;
- Be evenly distributed.

**Require better tradeoffs!**



# First-stage Model – Constraints

$$P_{ijt}^L \leq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it} - \theta_{jt} + \bar{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt})) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (1a)$$

$$P_{ijt}^L \geq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it} - \theta_{jt} + \underline{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt})) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (1b)$$

$$-W_{ij}z_{ijt} \leq P_{ijt}^L \leq W_{ij}z_{ijt} \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (1c)$$

$$\sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}_i} P_{gt}^G + \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}_i} P_{lt}^L = \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}_i} D_{dt}(1 - s_{dt}) \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B} \quad (1d)$$

$$\underline{P}_g^G z_{gt} \leq P_{gt}^G \leq \bar{P}_g^G z_{gt} \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{G} \quad (1e)$$

$$z_{it} \geq x_{dt} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, d \in \mathcal{D}_i \quad (1f)$$

$$z_{it} \geq z_{gt} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, g \in \mathcal{G}_i \quad (1g)$$

$$z_{it} \geq z_{lt} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, l \in \mathcal{L}_i \quad (1h)$$

$$r_{ct} \geq r_{c, \max\{t-1, 1\}} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (1i)$$

$$r_{ct} - r_{c, \max\{t-1, 1\}} \geq z_{ct} - z_{c, \max\{t-1, 1\}} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (1j)$$

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} (s_{dt} - s_{d't}) \leq \beta \cdot T \quad \forall d, d' \in \mathcal{D} \quad (1k)$$

$$z_{ct}, r_{ct} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}. \quad (1l)$$

Power systems operations with shut-offs:

- Linearized Power Flow;
- Power Balance and Limits;

Logic Constraints:

- Connection to de-energized components;
- Restoration can occur only once.

# First-stage Model – Constraints

$$P_{ijt}^L \leq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it} - \theta_{jt} + \bar{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt})) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (1a)$$

$$P_{ijt}^L \geq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it} - \theta_{jt} + \underline{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt})) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (1b)$$

$$-W_{ij}z_{ijt} \leq P_{ijt}^L \leq W_{ij}z_{ijt} \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (1c)$$

$$\sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}_i} P_{gt}^G + \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}_i} P_{lt}^L = \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}_i} D_{dt}(1 - s_{dt}) \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B} \quad (1d)$$

$$\underline{P}_g^G z_{gt} \leq P_{gt}^G \leq \bar{P}_g^G z_{gt} \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{G} \quad (1e)$$

$$z_{it} \geq x_{dt} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, d \in \mathcal{D}_i \quad (1f)$$

$$z_{it} \geq z_{gt} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, g \in \mathcal{G}_i \quad (1g)$$

$$z_{it} \geq z_{lt} \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, l \in \mathcal{L}_i \quad (1h)$$

$$r_{ct} \geq r_{c, \max\{t-1, 1\}} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (1i)$$

$$r_{ct} - r_{c, \max\{t-1, 1\}} \geq z_{ct} - z_{c, \max\{t-1, 1\}} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (1j)$$

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} (s_{dt} - s_{d't}) \leq \beta \cdot T \quad \forall d, d' \in \mathcal{D} \quad (1k)$$

$$z_{ct}, r_{ct} \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}. \quad (1l)$$

Power systems operations with shut-offs:

- Linearized Power Flow;
- Power Balance and Limits;

Logic Constraints:

- Connection to de-energized components;
- Restoration can occur only once.

Fairness Constraint

- The parameter  $\beta$  is to regulate the level of fairness.

## t-stage Model – Objective Function

The  $t$ -stage problem  $f^\omega(\hat{z}_{\tau^\omega-1}^{\omega'})$  is an optimization problem:

- $\omega$  is the realization of the  $t$ -stage disruption;
- $\dot{\omega}$  is the realization of the  $(t+1)$ -stage disruption;
- The  $(t-1)$ -stage state decision at time  $\tau^\omega - 1$  serving as its input;

$$\min_{\dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_{\omega}} p^{\dot{\omega}} \left[ \sum_{t=\tau^\omega}^{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} w_d s_{dt}^\omega + \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} \underbrace{c_c^r \nu_c^\omega}_{\text{Damage cost}} + f^{\dot{\omega}}(z_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^\omega) \right].$$

- Effects from a wildfire disruption occurring
  - min load shed + damage cost from wildfire + future costs;
  - Starts at the time of the disruption  $\tau^\omega$ ;
  - s.t. de-energization decisions  $z_{\tau^\omega-1}$  made in the  $(t-1)$  stage.

# t-stage Model – Constraints

$$P_{ijt}^{L,\omega} \leq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it}^\omega - \theta_{jt}^\omega + \bar{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt}^\omega)) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (2a)$$

$$P_{ijt}^{L,\omega} \geq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it}^\omega - \theta_{jt}^\omega + \underline{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt}^\omega)) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (2b)$$

$$-W_{ij}z_{ijt}^\omega \leq P_{ijt}^{L,\omega} \leq W_{ij}z_{ijt}^\omega \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (2c)$$

$$\sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}_i} P_{gt}^{G,\omega} + \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}_i} P_{lt}^{L,\omega} = \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}_i} D_{dt}(1 - s_{dt}^\omega) \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B} \quad (2d)$$

$$P_g^{G,\omega} z_{gt}^\omega \leq P_{gt}^{G,\omega} \leq \bar{P}_g^{G,\omega} z_{gt}^\omega \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{G} \quad (2e)$$

$$z_{it}^\omega \geq x_{dt}^\omega \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, d \in \mathcal{D}_i \quad (2f)$$

$$z_{it}^\omega \geq z_{gt}^\omega \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, g \in \mathcal{G}_i \quad (2g)$$

$$z_{it}^\omega \geq z_{lt}^\omega \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, l \in \mathcal{L}_i \quad (2h)$$

$$z_{ct-1}^\omega \geq z_{ct}^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2i)$$

$$z_{ct}^\omega \leq 1 - \nu_c^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2j)$$

$$\nu_c^\omega \geq v_c^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2k)$$

$$\nu_k^\omega \geq u_c^\omega z_{c\tau^\omega-1}^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, k \in I_c^\omega \quad (2l)$$

$$z_{c\tau^\omega-1}^\omega = \hat{z}_{c\tau^\omega-1}^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2m)$$

$$z_{ct}^\omega, \nu_c^\omega, z_{ct}^\omega \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}. \quad (2n)$$

Power systems operations with shut-offs:

- Linearized Power Flow;
- Power Balance;
- Generator limits.

Logic Constraints:

- Exo. damage (2k);
- End. fire spread (2l);

## t-stage Model – Constraints

$$P_{ijt}^{L,\omega} \leq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it}^\omega - \theta_{jt}^\omega + \bar{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt}^\omega)) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (2a)$$

$$P_{ijt}^{L,\omega} \geq -b_{ij} (\theta_{it}^\omega - \theta_{jt}^\omega + \underline{\theta}(1 - z_{ijt}^\omega)) \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (2b)$$

$$-W_{ij}z_{ijt}^\omega \leq P_{ijt}^{L,\omega} \leq W_{ij}z_{ijt}^\omega \quad \forall (i, j) \in \mathcal{L} \quad (2c)$$

$$\sum_{g \in \mathcal{G}_i} P_{gt}^{G,\omega} + \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}_i} P_{lt}^{L,\omega} = \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}_i} D_{dt}(1 - s_{dt}^\omega) \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B} \quad (2d)$$

$$\underline{P}_g^{G,\omega} z_{gt}^\omega \leq P_{gt}^{G,\omega} \leq \bar{P}_g^{G,\omega} z_{gt}^\omega \quad \forall g \in \mathcal{G} \quad (2e)$$

$$z_{it}^\omega \geq x_{dt}^\omega \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, d \in \mathcal{D}_i \quad (2f)$$

$$z_{it}^\omega \geq z_{gt}^\omega \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, g \in \mathcal{G}_i \quad (2g)$$

$$z_{it}^\omega \geq z_{lt}^\omega \quad \forall i \in \mathcal{B}, l \in \mathcal{L}_i \quad (2h)$$

$$z_{ct-1}^\omega \geq z_{ct}^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2i)$$

$$z_{ct}^\omega \leq 1 - \nu_c^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2j)$$

$$\nu_c^\omega \geq v_c^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2k)$$

$$\nu_k^\omega \geq u_c^\omega z_{c\tau^\omega-1}^\omega \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}, k \in I_c^\omega \quad (2l)$$

$$z_{c\tau^\omega-1}^\omega = \hat{z}_{c\tau^\omega-1}^{\omega'} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C} \quad (2m)$$

$$z_{ct}^\omega, \nu_c^\omega, z_{ct}^\omega \in \{0, 1\} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}. \quad (2n)$$

Power systems operations with shut-offs:

- Linearized Power Flow;
- Power Balance;
- Generator limits.

Logic Constraints:

- Exo. damage (2k);
- End. fire spread (2l);

Non-anticipativity Constraint:

- $\omega'$  is the realization of the  $(t - 1)$ -stage disruption.

# Decomposition Algorithm - First Master Problem

Approximate the value function with **cutting-planes**:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{Z}_\ell^* = \min \quad & \sum_{\dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_{\omega_0}} p^{\dot{\omega}} \left[ \sum_{t=1}^{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} w_d s_{dt} + V^{\dot{\omega}} \right] & (M_\ell) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{Constrictions}(1a) - (1l) & \forall t \in \mathcal{T} \\ & V^{\dot{\omega}} \geq (\lambda^{\dot{\omega},k})^\top (z_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1} - \hat{z}_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^k) + \\ & v^{\dot{\omega},k}, \quad \forall \dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_{\omega_0}, k = 1, \dots, \ell - 1, \end{aligned}$$



# Decomposition Algorithm - Subsequential Master Problem

Substitute the value function with a **cutting-plane** approximation:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{f}_\ell^\omega(\hat{z}_{\tau^\omega-1}^{\omega',\ell}) &= (S_\ell^\omega) \\ \min \quad & \sum_{\dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_\omega} p^{\dot{\omega}} \left[ \sum_{t=\tau^\omega}^{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} w_d s_{dt}^\omega + \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} c_c^r \nu_c^\omega + V^{\dot{\omega}} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{Constrictions}(2a) - (2l), (2n) \quad \forall t \in \{\tau^\omega, \dots, T\} \\ & V^{\dot{\omega}} \geq (\lambda^{\dot{\omega},k})^\top (z_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^\omega - \hat{z}_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^{\dot{\omega},k}) + \\ & \quad v^{\dot{\omega},k}, \quad \forall \dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_\omega, k = 1, \dots, \ell - 1 \\ & z_{\tau^\omega-1}^\omega = \hat{z}_{\tau^\omega-1}^{\omega',\ell}. \end{aligned}$$

## Decomposition Algorithm - Cut Generation Problem

To generate Lagrangian cuts, we solve the following non-anticipativity Lagrangian dual problem

$$\max \quad \mathcal{R}_\ell^\omega(\hat{z}^{\omega',\ell}, \lambda; \mathcal{Z}),$$

where  $\mathcal{R}_\ell^\omega(\cdot, \cdot)$  is the Lagrangian relaxation problem

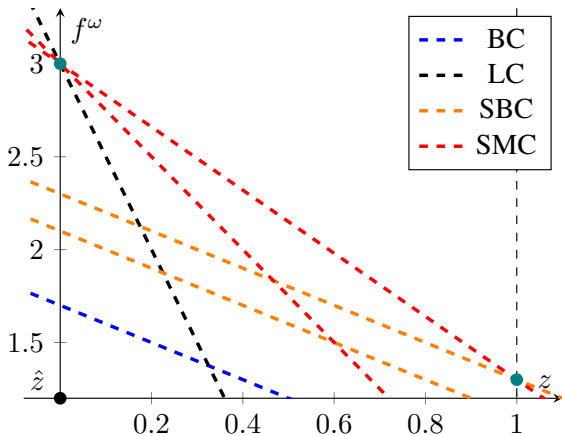
$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{R}_\ell^\omega(\hat{z}^{\omega',\ell}, \lambda; \mathcal{Z}) = \\ \min \quad & \sum_{\dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_\omega} p^{\dot{\omega}} \left[ \sum_{t=\tau^\omega}^{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1} \sum_{d \in \mathcal{D}} w_d s_{dt}^{\dot{\omega}} + \sum_{c \in \mathcal{C}} c_c^r \nu_c^{\dot{\omega}} + V^{\dot{\omega}} \right] + \lambda^\top (\hat{z}_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^{\omega',\ell} - z_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^{\dot{\omega}}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \text{Constrictions(2a) - (2l), (2n)} \quad \forall t \in \{\tau^\omega, \dots, T\} \\ & V^{\dot{\omega}} \geq (\lambda^{\dot{\omega},k})^\top (z_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^{\dot{\omega}} - \hat{z}_{\tau^{\dot{\omega}}-1}^{\dot{\omega},k}) + \\ & \quad v^{\dot{\omega},k}, \quad \forall \dot{\omega} \in \Omega|_\omega, k = 1, \dots, \ell \\ & z_{c\tau^\omega-1} \in \mathcal{Z} \quad \forall c \in \mathcal{C}. \end{aligned}$$

## Decomposition Algorithm - Square-Minimization Cut

- Lagrangian cuts may be steep and fail to provide a good lower approximation at other solutions;
- To address this limitation, we use an alternative cut-generation problem (2):

$$\min_{\lambda} \quad \lambda^{\top} \lambda \quad (2a)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \mathcal{R}_{\ell}^{\omega}(\hat{z}^{\omega', \ell}, \lambda; \mathcal{Z}) \geq (1 - \delta) f_{\underline{\ell}}^{\omega}(\hat{z}_{\tau^{\omega-1}}^{\omega', \ell}), \quad (2b)$$



**Figure:** The upper and lower SBC (SMC) are obtained by taking  $\mathcal{Z} = \{0, 1\}$  and  $[0, 1]$ , respectively.

## Test System: RTS-GMLC

73-bus test system with geographic coordinates:

- Three levels of load priority and damage cost to generations;
- Visualization of “Scenarios”.

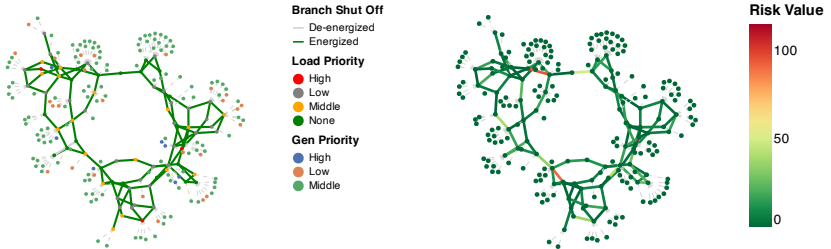


Figure: Power System Configuration.

Figure: Wildfire risk value at  $t = 13$ .

## Cut Performance

**Table:** Assessing Decomp. Alg. performance with different cut families.

| Cut Type         | Solution Quality |        |        | Runtime (sec.) |       |
|------------------|------------------|--------|--------|----------------|-------|
|                  | LB               | UB     | Gap    | Time/Iter.     | Total |
| BC               | 3305.3           | 3457.8 | 4.41%  | 214.2          | 5377  |
| LC               | 3306.9           | 4116.8 | 19.67% | 193.4          | 3803  |
| SBC <sup>B</sup> | 3397.5           | 3449.6 | 1.51%  | 237.7          | 8472  |
| SBC <sup>I</sup> | 3323.1           | 3433.6 | 3.15%  | 210.8          | 10500 |
| SMC <sup>B</sup> | 3414.9           | 3426.5 | 0.34%  | 445.4          | 20516 |
| SMC <sup>I</sup> | 3368.6           | 3419.3 | 1.48%  | 391.9          | 13414 |

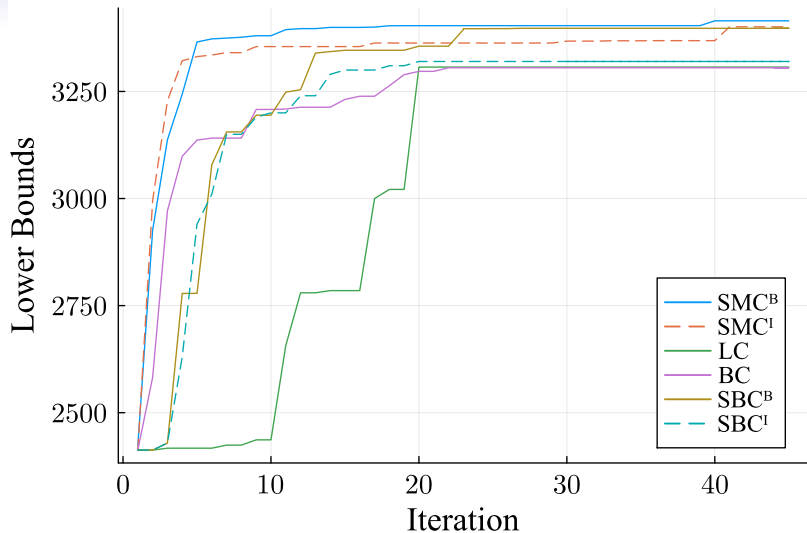


Figure: Convergence v.s. Iter.

## Fairness Evaluation: Fairness $\beta = 0.0$ v.s. $\beta = 0.4$

- The maximum load-shedding percentage is at 10% vs 40%.
- The total amount of load shedding is 9.2% vs 4.9%.

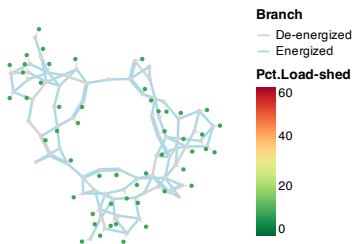


Figure: Load-shedding is evenly distributed.

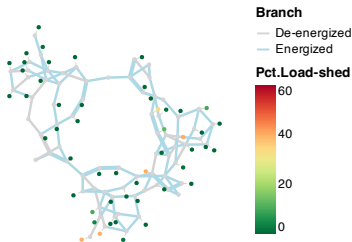


Figure: Load-shedding is concentrated on 4 lower-priority loads.

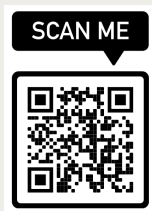


## Restoration v.s. No Restoration

Significant disruptive cost reduction ( $> 10\%$ ).

| Setting |         | Nominal   | Disruptive |        | Total Cost |
|---------|---------|-----------|------------|--------|------------|
| Res.    | $\beta$ | Load shed | Load shed  | Damage | $g(\cdot)$ |
| RES.    | 0.0     | 23276.1   | 1789.0     | 1389.0 | 18517.6    |
|         | 0.4     | 2978.4    | 1971.7     | 1515.6 | 5948.9     |
|         | 0.6     | 2873.5    | 1967.9     | 1533.7 | 5886.4     |
| Non.    | 0.0     | 21710.1   | 2108.8     | 1957.4 | 18370.4    |
|         | 0.4     | 2933.7    | 2077.3     | 1887.3 | 6409.6     |
|         | 0.6     | 2776.7    | 2045.8     | 1937.2 | 6331.7     |

# Acknowledgements



Thank you for attending!  
Thanks to all my collaborators!

[hanbinyang@link.cuhk.edu.cn](mailto:hanbinyang@link.cuhk.edu.cn)