Virtual Energy Storage through Distributed Control of Flexible Loads

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Innovative Solutions to Integrate Renewable Energy

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Challenges

Ducks

28 thousand megawatts



Source: CallSO

MISO, CAISO, and others: seek markets for ramping products



- Ducks
- 2 Ramps
- 8 Regulation



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One potential solution:

Large-scale storage with fast charging/discharging rates

- Ducks
- 2 Ramps
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One potential solution:

Large-scale storage with fast charging/discharging rates

Let's consider some alternatives



Virtual Energy Storage

Frequency Decomposition



Today: PJM decomposes regulation signal based on bandwidth, $\label{eq:RegA} R = RegA + RegD$

Proposal: Each class of DR (and other) resources will have its own bandwidth of service, based on QoS constraints and costs.



ISOs need help: ... ramp capability shortages could result in a single, five-minute dispatch interval or multiple consecutive dispatch intervals during which the price of energy can increase significantly due to scarcity pricing, even if the event does not present a significant reliability risk http://tinyurl.com/FERC-ER14-2156-000

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Frequency Decomposition Regulation



Frequency Decomposition Regulation



Frequency Decomposition Regulation



Regulation



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Local feedback loop

Demand Dispatch Design

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Demand Dispatch: Power consumption from loads varies automatically and continuously to provide service to the grid, without impacting QoS to the consumer

Responsive Regulation and desired QoS

- A partial list of the needs of the grid operator, and the consumer

• High quality AS? (Ancillary Service)

Does the deviation in power consumption accurately track the desired deviation target?

Responsive Regulation and desired QoS

– A partial list of the needs of the grid operator, and the consumer

- High quality AS? (Ancillary Service)
- Reliable?

Will AS be available each day?

It may vary with time, but capacity must be predictable.

Responsive Regulation and desired QoS

- A partial list of the needs of the grid operator, and the consumer

- High quality AS?
- Reliable?
- Cost effective?

This includes installation cost, communication cost, maintenance, and environmental.

Responsive Regulation and desired QoS

- A partial list of the needs of the grid operator, and the consumer

- High quality AS?
- Reliable?
- Cost effective?
- Customer QoS constraints satisfied?

The pool must be clean, fresh fish stays cold, building climate is subject to strict bounds, farm irrigation is subject to strict constraints, data centers require sufficient power to perform their tasks.

Responsive Regulation and desired QoS

- A partial list of the needs of the grid operator, and the consumer

- High quality AS?
- Reliable?
- Cost effective?
- Customer QoS constraints satisfied?

Virtual energy storage: achieve these goals simultaneously through distributed control

General Principles for Design



- Each load monitors its state and a regulation signal from the grid.
- Prefilter and decision rules designed to respect needs of load and grid
- Randomized policies required for finite-state loads

MDP model

MDP model

The state for a load is modeled as a controlled Markov chain. Controlled transition matrix:

$$P_{\zeta}(x, x') = \mathsf{P}\{X_{t+1} = x' \mid X_t = x, \ \zeta_t = \zeta\}$$



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Questions:

• How to analyze aggregate of similar loads? • How to design P_{ζ} ?

How to analyze aggregate? Mean field model



State process:

$$\mu_t(x) \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{I}\{X_t^i = x\}, \quad x \in \mathsf{X}$$
Evolution: $\mu_{t+1} = \mu_t P_{C_t}$

Output (mean power):
$$y_t = \sum_x \mu_t(x) \mathcal{U}(x)$$

Nonlinear state space model

Linearization useful for control design

Frequency Allocation for Demand Dispatch



A typical macro model of the power grid Motivation for PI control architecture, and **fear** of droop gain

H. Chavez, R. Baldick, and S. Sharma. Regulation adequacy analysis under high wind penetration scenarios in ERCOT nodal. IEEE Trans. on Sustainable Energy, 3(4):743-750, Oct 2012.

Frequency Allocation for Demand Dispatch



Fear is justified!

There is significant gain and phase uncertainty in this bandwidth

Frequency Allocation for Demand Dispatch





Fans in commercial buildings in the state of Florida can supply all of the RegD and RegA regulation needs of PJM

Frequency Allocation for Demand Dispatch



The bandwidth of these devices is centered around their natural cycle the capacity is enormous in this bandwidth

Frequency Allocation for Demand Dispatch



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Frequency Allocation for Demand Dispatch



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When you open that faucet, it's more than water that's flowing.



Conclusions

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Conclusions

Volatility appears to be manageable!

Randomized control architecture designed so that everyone is happy. The virtual storage capacity from demand dispatch is enormous

Open questions on many spatial and temporal scales

- Most loads could provide synthetic inertia and governor response¹. Is this wise?
- We don't know why the grid is so reliable today

 we need better macro models²
- S And of course, incentives are needed: contracts and/or standards

¹Scweppe et. al. 1980

²Thorpe et. al. 2004

Conclusions

Conclusions



Thank You!

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