

ADMM-based Unit and Time Decomposition for Price Arbitrage by Cooperative Price-Maker Electricity Storage Units

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Joint work with Miguel F. Anjos¹ and James R. Cruise²

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Introduction - The Electric Power System

- Electric power systems must be in close balance at any time:

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- Traditional approach: Keep **flexible** power plants on call:
 1. Hydro
 2. Gas
 3. Diesel, coal and biomass
- Challenges:
 1. Hydro resources are limited.
 2. Other resources produce carbon emissions.

Introduction - Increasing Flexibility Needs

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This **increases flexibility needs** for two reasons:

1. Higher shares of wind, solar and/or nuclear.
2. Reduction of the sources that currently provide a substantial amount of flexibility: gas, diesel and coal.

Introduction - *Green* Sources of Flexibility

1. A well-connected grid

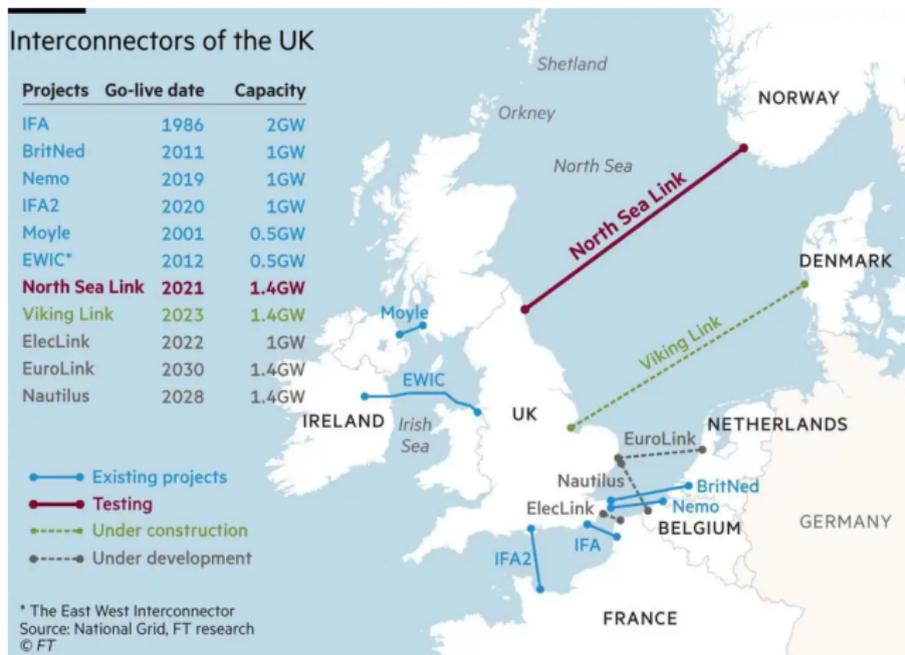


Figure: Interconnectors between the UK and other European countries: operational (blue and purple) and under construction or planned (other).

Introduction - *Green* Sources of Flexibility

2. Electric energy storage



Figure: A pumped-storage hydro station.



Figure: A lithium-ion battery.

Introduction - *Green* Sources of Flexibility

3. Demand-side response



Figure: The canal network and an electric vehicle.



Figure: A fridge and an electric water heater.

Introduction - *Green* Sources of Flexibility

4. Fossil fuels + carbon capture and storage

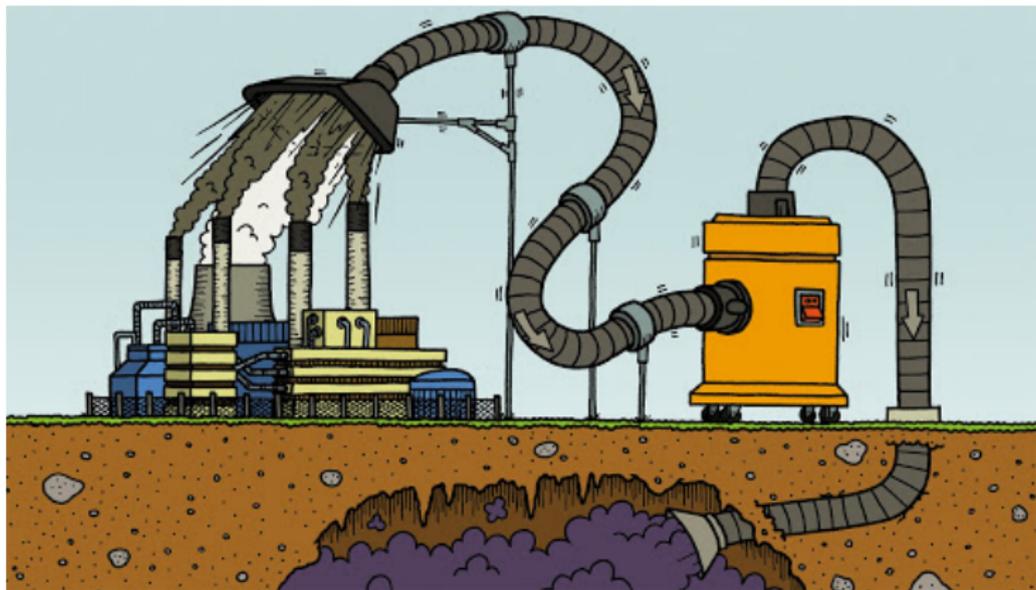


Figure: Liberal representation of carbon capture and storage.

Research Question

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Electric energy storage

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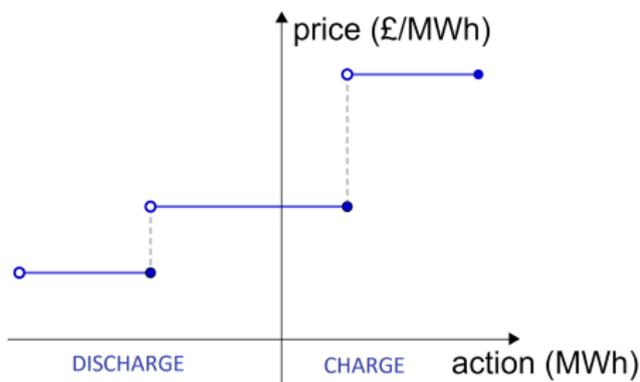
Electric energy storage

Research Question: How should we control **multiple price-maker** electric energy storage units that **cooperate** for **price arbitrage**?

We extend previous work on a single unit by Cruise et al. (2019), and our previous work on two units (Anjos, Cruise, SV (2020)).

Modelling Price-Makers

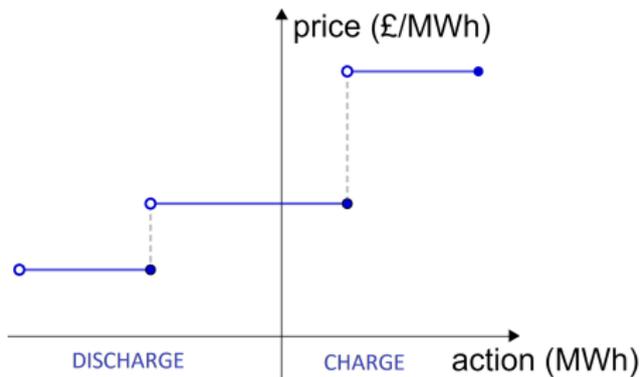
Residual Demand Curve



Given an action, provides the market clearing price.

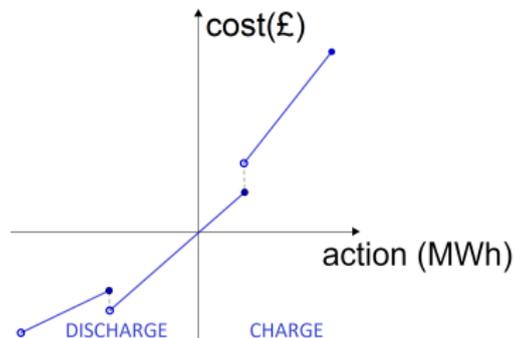
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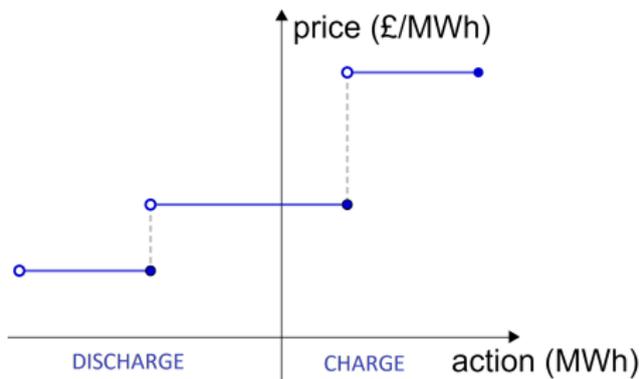
Cost Function C_t



Given an action, provides the total cost or reward of that action.

Modelling Price-Makers

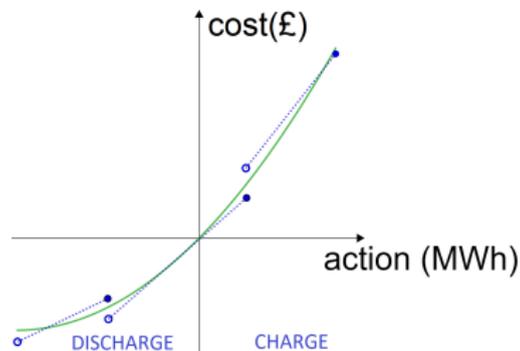
Residual Demand Curve



Given an action, provides the market clearing price.

Key assumption: C_t is convex.

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Mathematical Formulation

Let $x_{j,t} \in \mathbb{R}$ be the action taken by unit $j \in \mathcal{S}$ at time $t \in \mathcal{T}$.

$$\text{Minimize}_{x_{j,t}} \quad \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} C_t \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} x_{j,t} \right)$$

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- Discrete Time
- Deterministic Prices

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*The model can account for round-trip efficiencies, leakage and negative electricity prices.

Decomposition by Unit

Minimize $x_{j,t}$ $\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} C_t \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} x_{j,t} \right)$

subject to $-P_j \leq x_{j,t} \leq P_j \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{S}, \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$

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Decomposition by Unit

Minimize
 $x_{j,t}, z_t$

$$\sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} C_t(z_t)$$

subject to

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$$z_t = \sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} x_{j,t} \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T}$$

Decomposition by Unit

$$\text{Minimize}_{x_{j,t}, z_t} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \left[C_t(z_t) + \nu_t \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} x_{j,t} - z_t \right) + \frac{\gamma}{2} \left(\sum_{j \in \mathcal{S}} x_{j,t} - z_t \right)^2 \right]$$

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Convexity and linear constraints imply strong duality



Use the Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers (ADMM)

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This results in $N + 1$ 1-Unit Subproblems:

- A subproblem for every storage unit.
- A subproblem for the auxiliary variable z .

They are solved iteratively until the linking constraints are satisfied.

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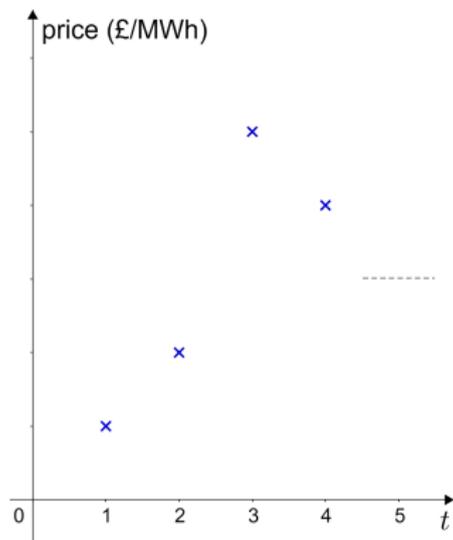
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Ex: Consider a price-taker storage unit with energy capacity $E = 2$ and power rate $P = 1$ with initial SoC $\bar{S}_0 = 0$. Assume prices are given by:

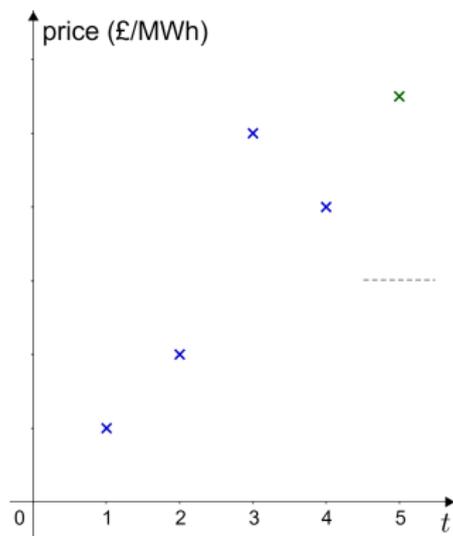


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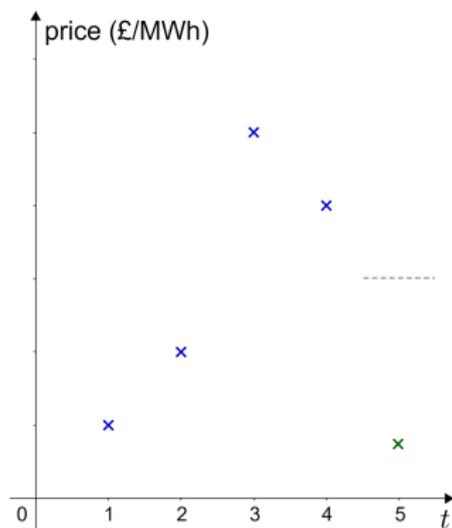


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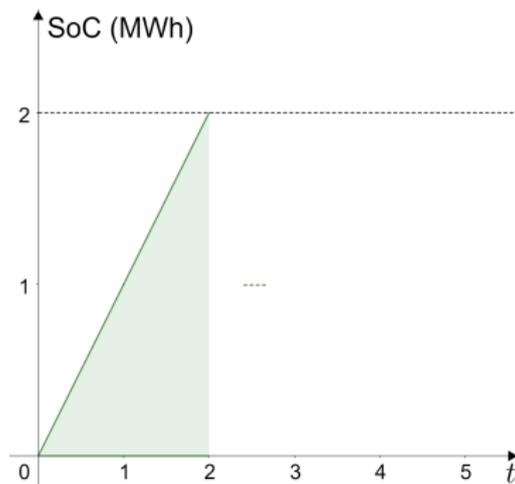
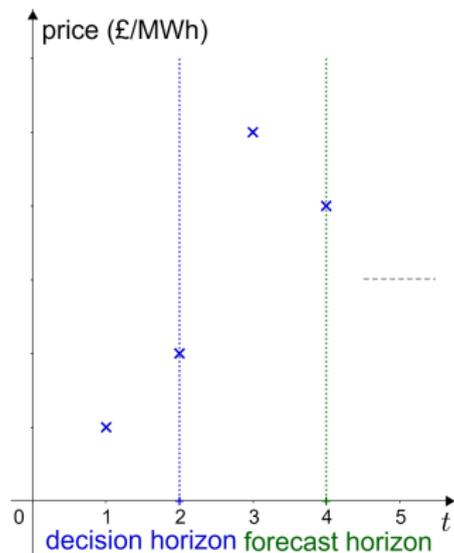


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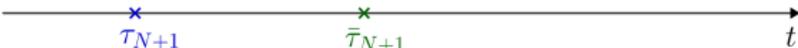
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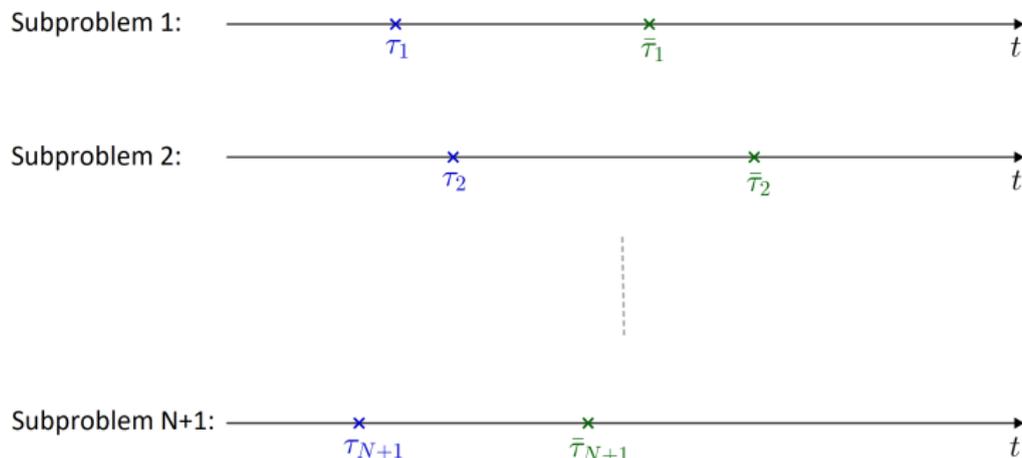
Subproblem 2: 

⋮

Subproblem N+1: 

Decomposition in Time

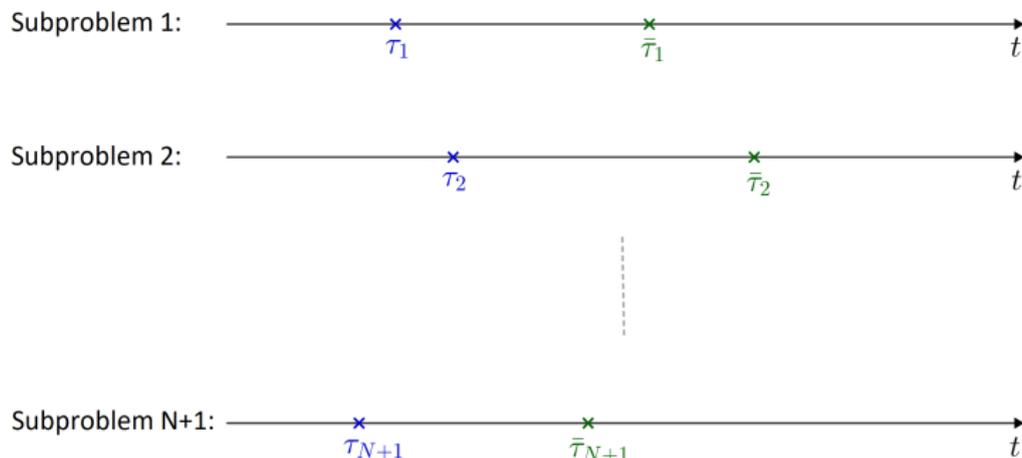
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Decomposition in Time

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It is the forecast horizon of the unit with the largest energy-to-power ratio.

Results

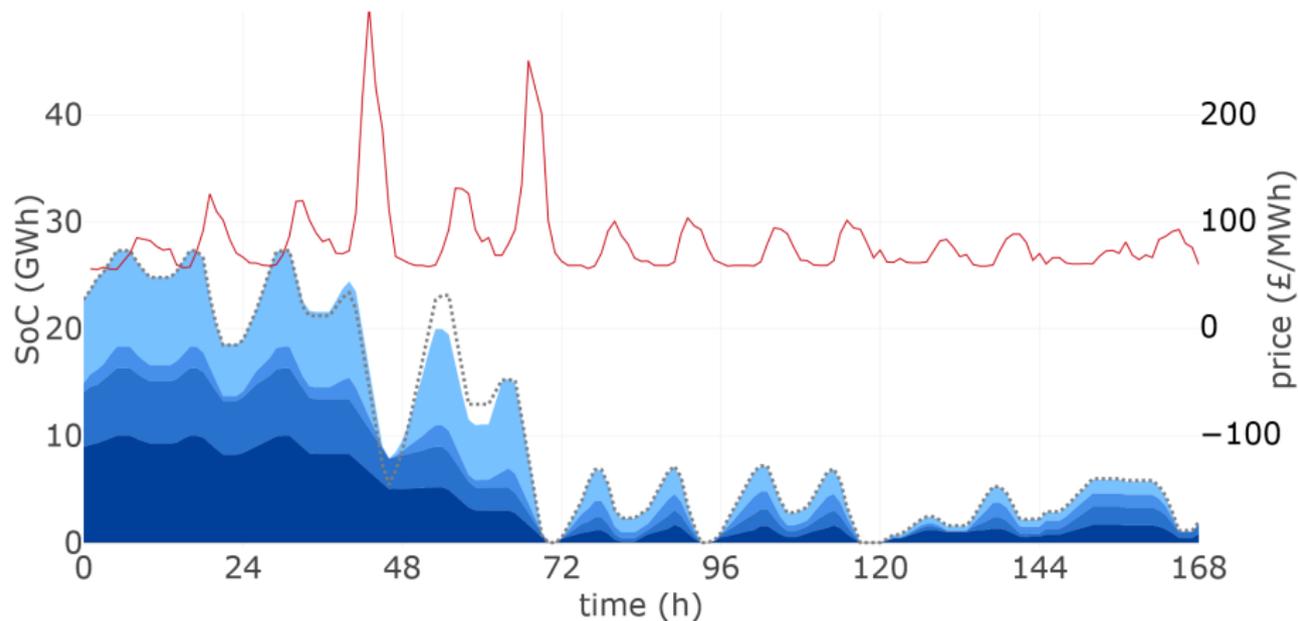


Figure: Left axis: Stacked SoC of unit 1 [very dark blue], unit 2 [dark blue], unit 3 [light blue] and unit 4 [very light blue]. SoC of aggregated unit [dotted grey line]. Right axis: Electricity market-clearing prices [red].

Computational Performance I

Instance	Anjos et al. (2020)	Anjos et al. (2021)	Gap
Oct '19	-6.231×10^6	-6.230×10^6	0.02%
Nov '19	-5.689×10^6	-5.688×10^6	0.02%
Dec '19	—————	-7.091×10^6	—————
Jan '20	-5.988×10^6	-5.986×10^6	0.03%
Feb '20	-6.558×10^6	-6.953×10^6	-6.03%
Mar '20	6.384×10^6	6.378×10^6	0.09%

Table: Objective function values and gap between the methods in Anjos, Cruise, SV (2020) and Anjos, Cruise, SV (2021). One month instances of 2-Unit Problems.

Computational Performance II

Month	Anjos et al. (2020)	Anjos et al. (2021)
Oct '19	91s	0.83s
Nov '19	89s	0.54s
Dec '19	—	0.45s
Jan '20	112s	0.56s
Feb '20	83s	0.28s
Mar '20	103s	0.19s

Table: Computational time comparison of the solution methods in Anjos, Cruise, SV (2020) and Anjos, Cruise, SV (2021). One month instances of 2-Unit Problems.

Computational Performance III

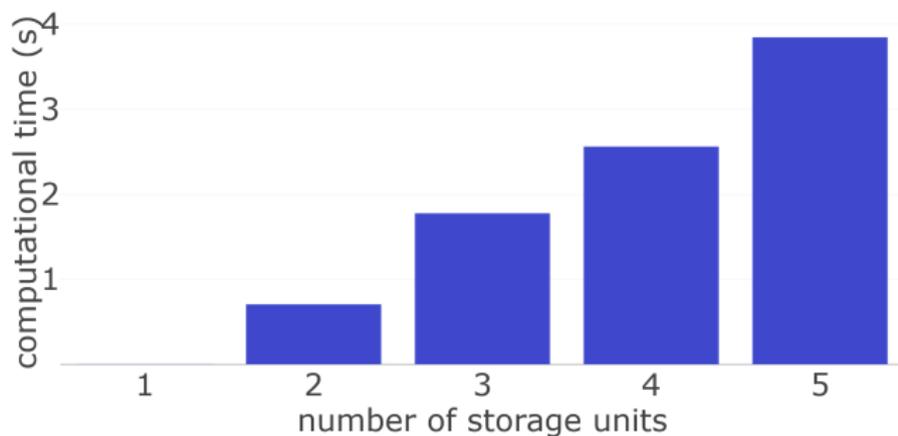


Figure: Average computational time of one month instances for different number of storage units.

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- Two orders of magnitude computational time reduction compared to the algorithm in Anjos, Cruise, SV (2020) in 2-unit instances, with minor solution quality losses ($< 0.1\%$).
- Linear scaling of computational time w.r.t. the number of units.
- The energy-to-power ratio of storage units plays a crucial role.

References

-  Anjos MF, Cruise JR, Solà Vilalta A (2020) Control of two energy storage units with market impact: Lagrangian approach and horizons. *Proc. 2020 International Conference on Probabilistic Methods Applied to Power Systems (PMAPS IEEE, Liege)*, 1–6.
-  Anjos MF, Cruise JR, Solà Vilalta A (2021) ADMM-based Unit and Time Decomposition for Price Arbitrage by Cooperative Price-Maker Electricity Storage Units. Working paper.
-  Cruise JR, Flatley L, Gibbens RJ, Zachary S (2019) Control of energy storage with market impact: Lagrangian approach and horizons. *Operations Research* 67(1):1–9.