



# ECONOMICS OF MODERN POWER SYSTEMS

## M7 – Economic Dispatch with Renewables

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# Learning Goals

- Understand the economic dispatch problem definition
- Understand the challenges posed by renewables and storage
  - ▣ Present decisions impact future cost
  - ▣ Add another level of uncertainty – generation
- Discuss ways to handle uncertainty in decision problems
- Understand the hydro-thermal scheduling problem



# Economic Dispatch Problem

## Definition

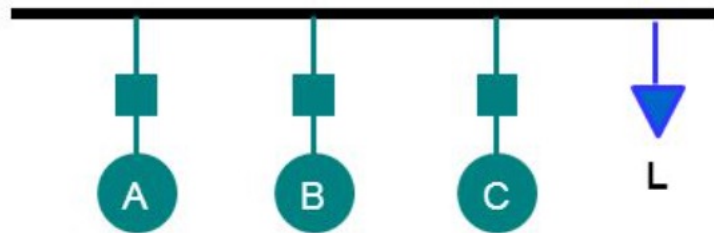
# Context

- In power systems
  - ▣ Power plants are not located at the same distance from the center loads
  - ▣ Their fuel costs are different
  - ▣ Generation capacity is more than total load demand and losses

**Thus, there are many options for scheduling generation!**

# Economic Dispatch Definition

Economic dispatch is the problem of finding the optimal electricity generation targets for all power plants in order to meet the system load at the lowest possible cost subject to generation, transmission and operational constraints



What share of the load should each generating unit produce?

# Economic Dispatch Definition

- Economic Dispatch Components
  - ▣ Planning for tomorrow's dispatch (Day-ahead)
  - ▣ Dispatching the power system today (Real-time)
  
- Variations of the problem
  1. Thermal units only
  2. Hydro and thermal units
  3. Hydro-thermal with wind and solar

# Planning for tomorrow's dispatch

Scheduling generating units for each hour of the next day's based on

- ▣ Forecasted load for the next day
- ▣ Generating unit's operational limits
  - Maximum and minimum generation levels
  - Ramp rate (how quickly generator's output can be changed)
- ▣ Generating unit's characteristics
  - Cost of generating (heat rate, fuel or non-fuel)
  - Start-up costs
  - Environmental compliance

# Dispatching the power system today

Monitoring load and generation to ensure balance of supply and demand (plus losses)

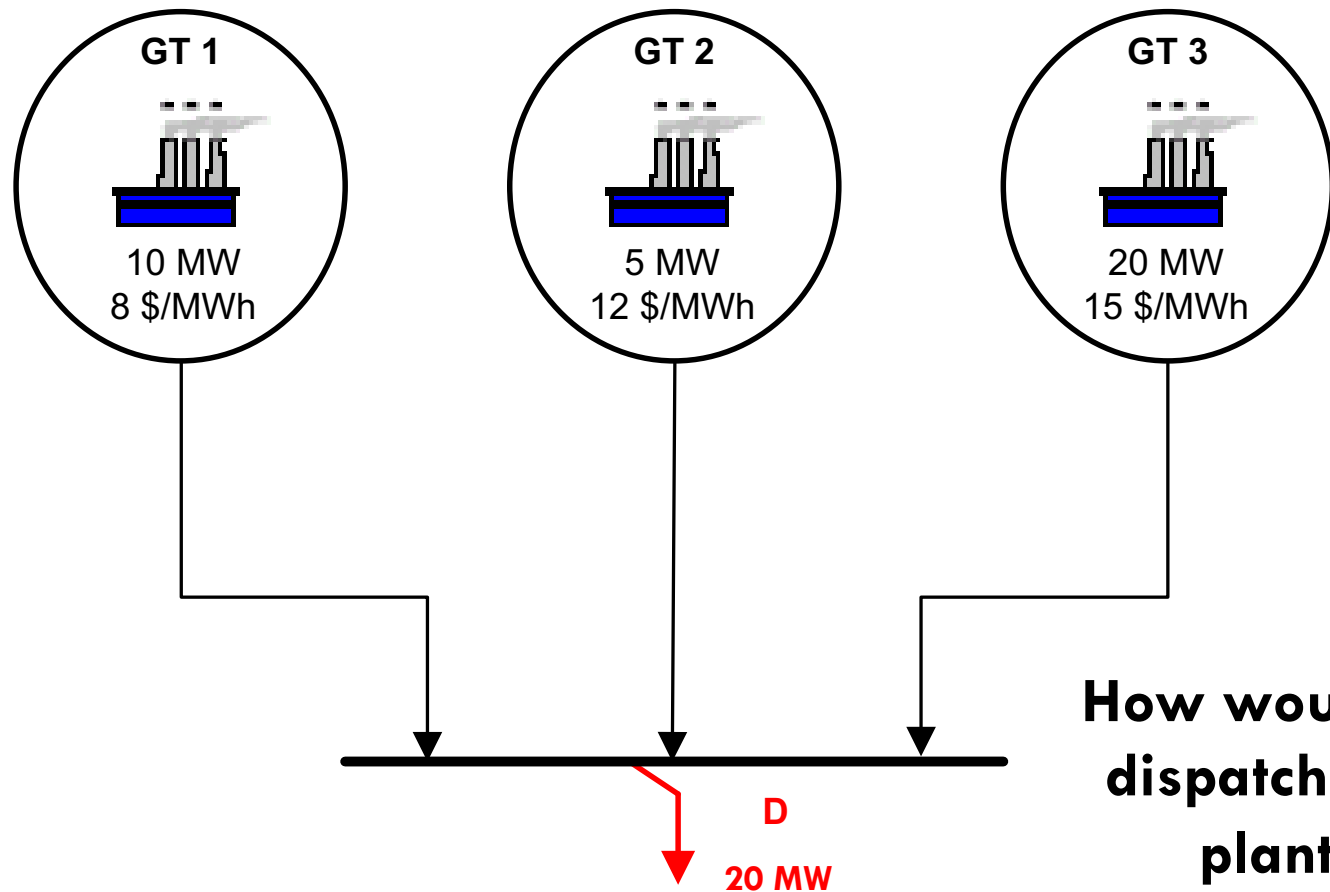
- ▣ Actual load
- ▣ Maintaining required system frequency
- ▣ Keeping voltage levels within reliability ranges
- ▣ Taking corrective action
  - Limiting new power flow schedules
  - Curtailing existing power flow schedules
  - Changing dispatch
  - Load shedding



# Let's see an example...

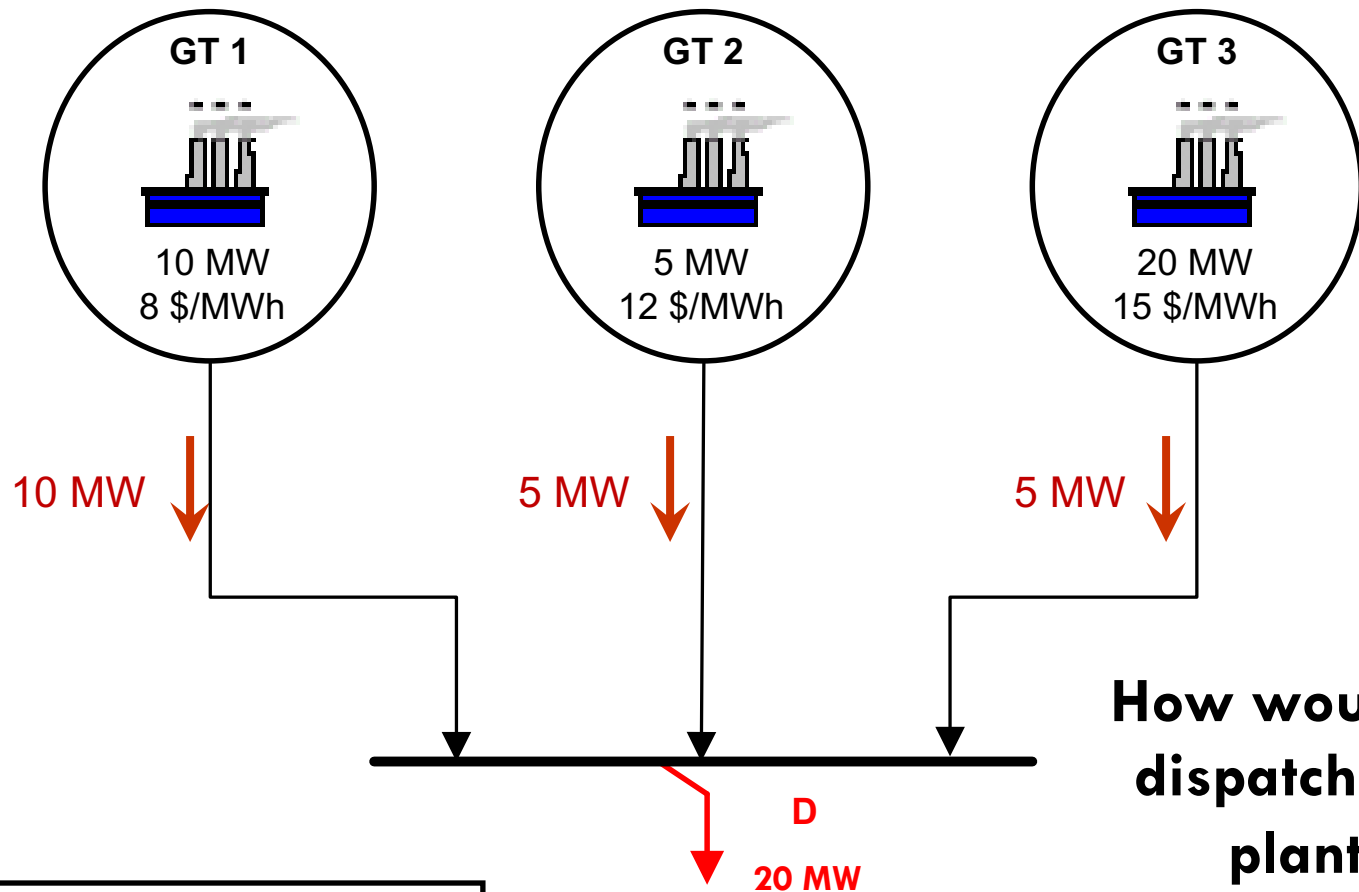
- A power supplier owns three thermal units
  - ▣ Cost of each thermal unit (\$/MW) as a constant
  - ▣ Each plant has a maximum generation capacity
- Need to meet demand
- Assumptions
  - ▣ No transmission constraints, no losses
  - ▣ No operational constraints other than maximum generation
  - ▣ Only one time step
- What is the optimal dispatch of these three units?

# Example 1: Thermal Scheduling Problem



**How would you dispatch these plants?**

# Example 1: Thermal Scheduling Problem



$$\text{Cost} = 10 \cdot 8 + 5 \cdot 12 + 5 \cdot 15 = \$215$$

**How would you  
dispatch these  
plants?**

**Merit order**

# Example 1: Thermal Scheduling Problem

- Our problem formulation would be

$$\begin{array}{ll}\min_{P_1, P_2, P_3} & 8P_1 + 12P_2 + 15P_3 \\s.t. & P_1 + P_2 + P_3 = 20 \\ & P_1 \leq 10 \\ & P_2 \leq 5 \\ & P_3 \leq 20\end{array}$$

- Should we add more constraints?

# What constraints should be added?

- We already have generator capacity, but it could go both ways

$$P_i^{min} \leq P_i \leq P_i^{max}$$

- Generator ramp limits

$$P_i - P_{i0} \leq UR_i \quad (\text{Ramping Up limit in MW})$$

$$P_{i0} - P_i \leq DR_i \quad (\text{Ramping down limit in MW})$$

where  $P_{i0}$  is the initial state, i.e., how much plant  $i$  is already producing

- Transmission lines losses

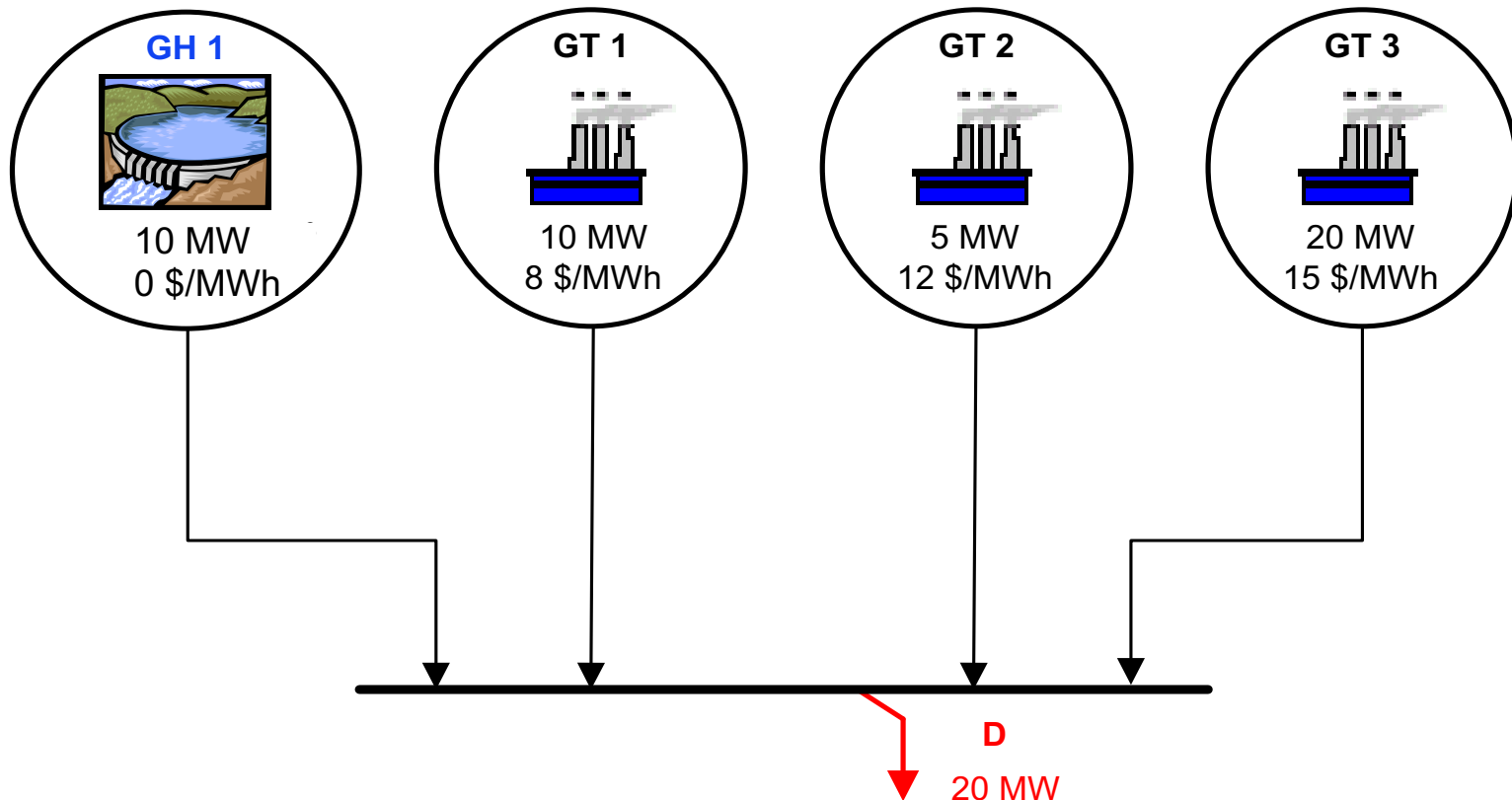
- More constraints and change on RHS of meet demand constraint

# Now let's look at another example...

- We will include one hydro plant with enough water in its reservoir to generate up to 10 MW
- Hydro plants have low operational cost because there is no fuel cost, so we consider no cost at all to generate from the hydro plant

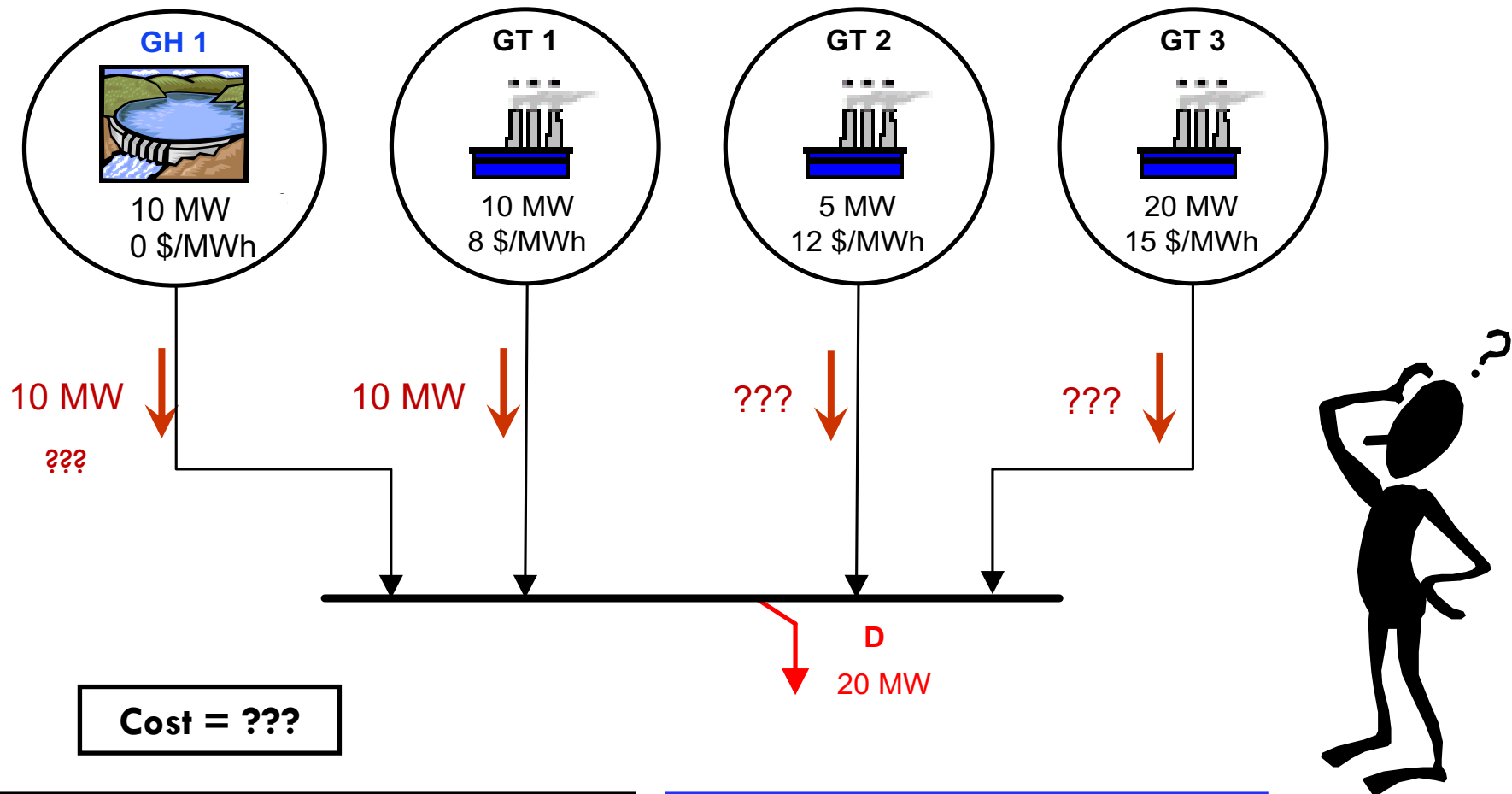
**We are now at the hydro-thermal economic dispatch**

# Example 2: Hydrothermal Scheduling



- Try to come up with the best solution
- Now think about the next time stage. Is your solution still optimal??

## Example 2: Hydrothermal Scheduling (2 stages)



$$\text{Cost}_{t_1} = 10 \cdot 0 + 10 \cdot 8 = \$80$$

$$\text{Cost}_{t_2} = 10 \cdot 8 + 5 \cdot 12 + 5 \cdot 15 = \$215$$

$$\text{Cost}_{t_1} = 5 \cdot 0 + 10 \cdot 8 + 5 \cdot 12 = \$140$$

$$\text{Cost}_{t_2} = 5 \cdot 0 + 10 \cdot 8 + 5 \cdot 12 = \$140$$



# What constraints should be added?

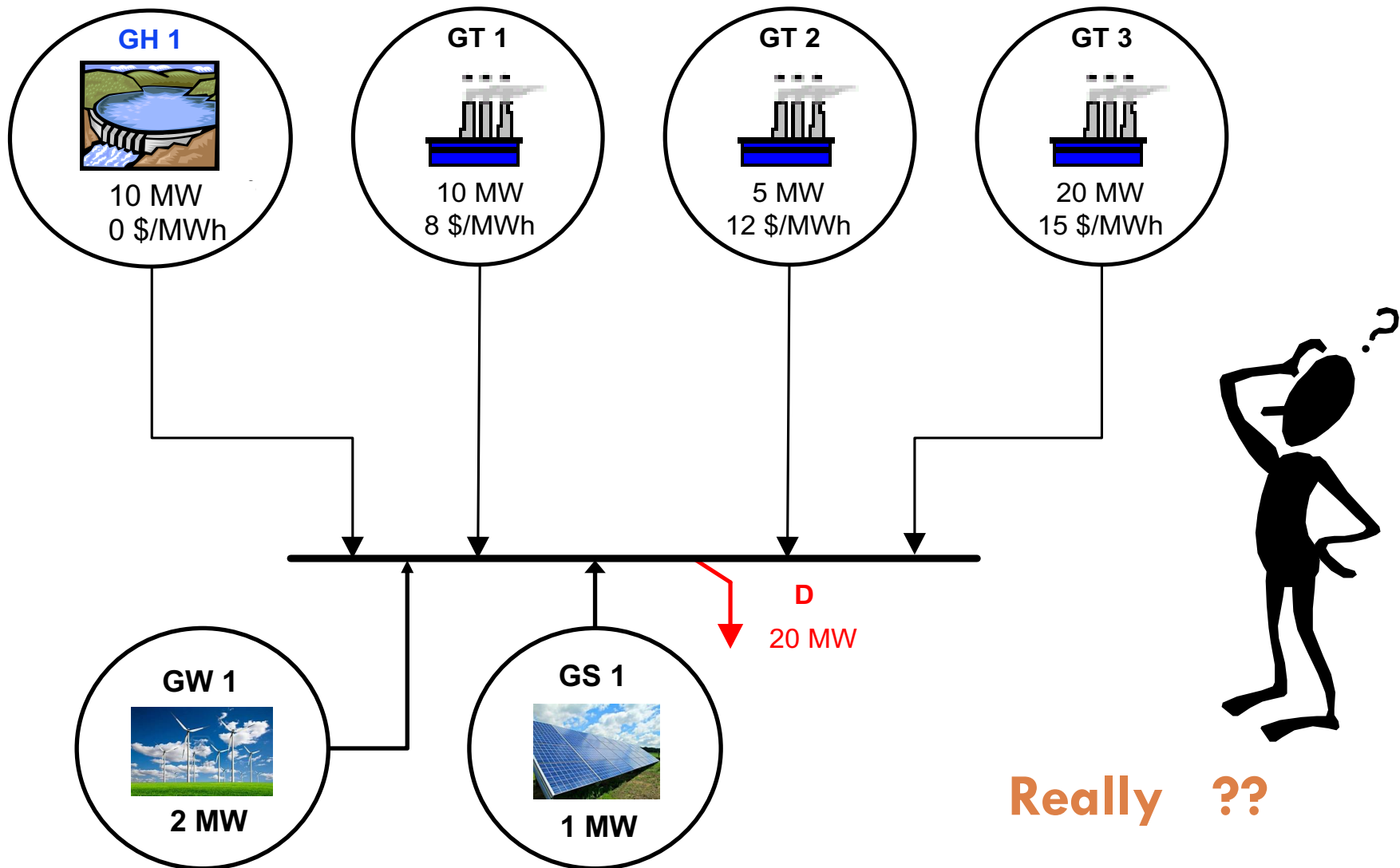
- Hydro power generation as a function of water discharge rate and storage volume
  - ▣ This will transform inflow volume [ $m^3/s$ ] into electricity in [ $MW$ ]
- Power generation limits
- Water balance constraint
- Reservoir storage volume limits
- Water discharge rate limits
- Note that these may differ for hydro plant with reservoir and run-of-river

*We will go over this constraints formulation later...*

# Now let's make it more complicated!

- Imagine we add a solar and a wind farm to this system...
- That's the third variation of economic dispatch we will cover
  - ▣ Hydro-thermal system plus renewables (W & S)
- Similar to what we did with hydro, we will consider zero cost to generate electricity with solar and wind

# Example 3: Hydrothermal with Solar and Wind



# What constraints should be added?

- Wind power generation as a function of wind speed
- Solar power generation as a function of solar radiation
- If these plants have storage we can model them similarly as to hydro with reservoir
  - ▣ Remember the state of charge equations for the residential storage management
- If they don't have storage we can model them as run-of-river plants

# Main Takeaway for now

- When we have renewables and storage capacity,  
**our current decision will impact future cost**
- So we need to look ahead to make better decisions today
- But if we look ahead we find...

**Uncertainty !!**





# Uncertainty Modeling

# Sources of Uncertainty in ED

- Generation availability
- Load requirements
- Fuel prices
- Forces of nature such as extreme weather

Usually economic dispatch consider **forecasted values** for the uncertain parameters and solve economic dispatch as a **determinist problem**.

**But, there are other ways to deal with uncertainty.**

They become more and more relevant when we **introduce more renewables** to the economic dispatch problem.

# Uncertainty Modeling Techniques

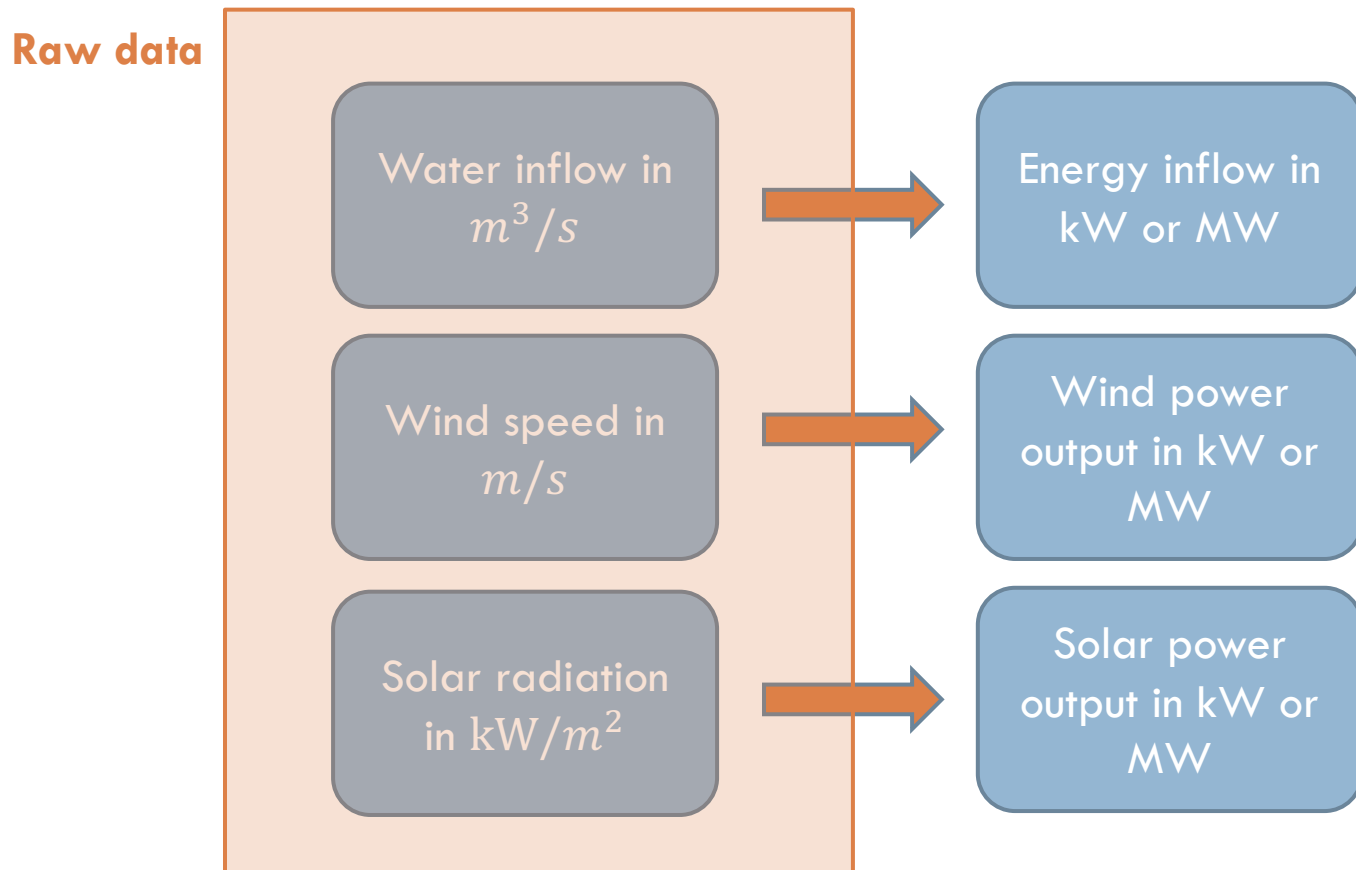
Common methods to deal with uncertainty parameters in the optimization problem:

- ▣ **Probabilistic approach**: assumes that uncertain input parameters are random variables with a known probability density function (pdf)
- ▣ **Robust optimization**: uses uncertainty sets to describe uncertain parameters. Optimal solution will be optimal even for the worst case scenario
- ▣ **Interval analysis**: uncertain parameter takes values from a known interval. Finds the bounds of output variables



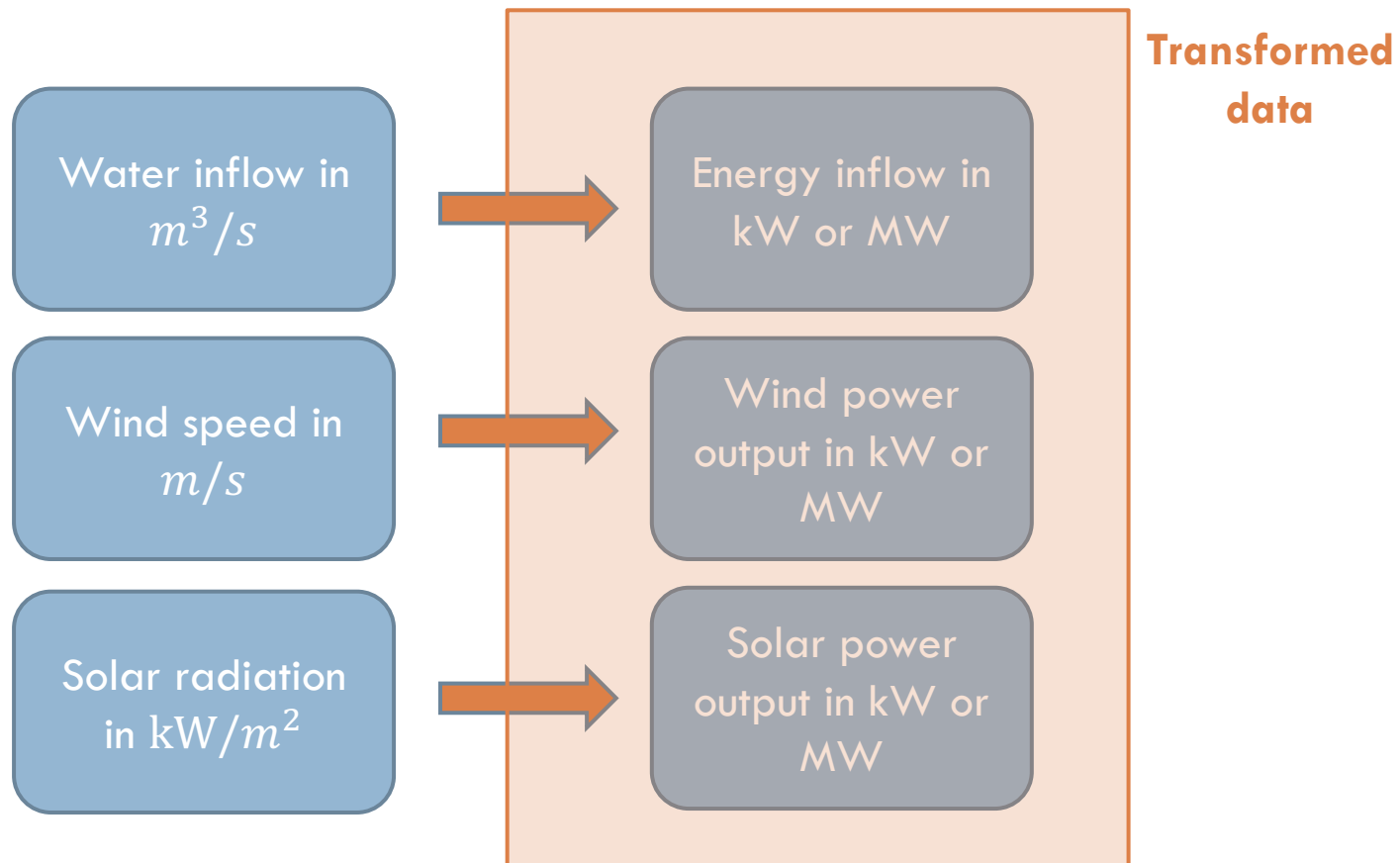
# How do we incorporate uncertainty?

- Approach 1 - Consider uncertainty on natural resources



# How do we incorporate uncertainty?

- Approach 2 - Consider uncertainty on energy output



# How do we incorporate uncertainty?



- Which one is the better approach?
- From a forecasting perspective, ideally we should model the raw data
- From a optimization perspective, having the forecasted energy output eliminates the need to incorporate the transformation equations as constraints



# Closer Look at Hydrothermal Scheduling Problem

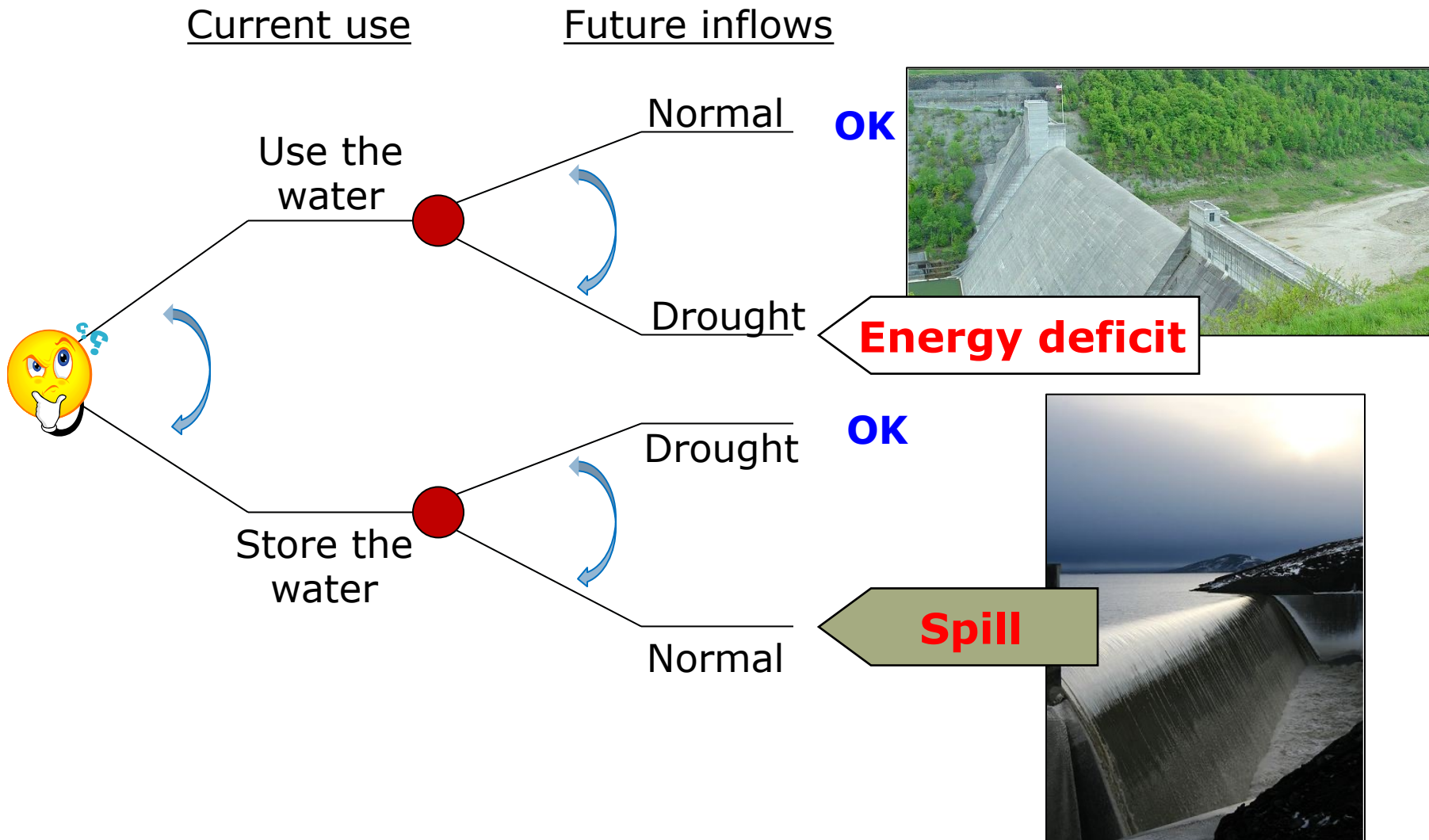
# Hydrothermal Scheduling Problem

- Find the **sequence of hydro releases** and **thermal plant dispatches** for a planning horizon in order to match system demand
  - Resource management
  - Input variable forecasting
  - Operational aspects
- Basic economic criterion is the same
  - Minimize operational costs (present + future)



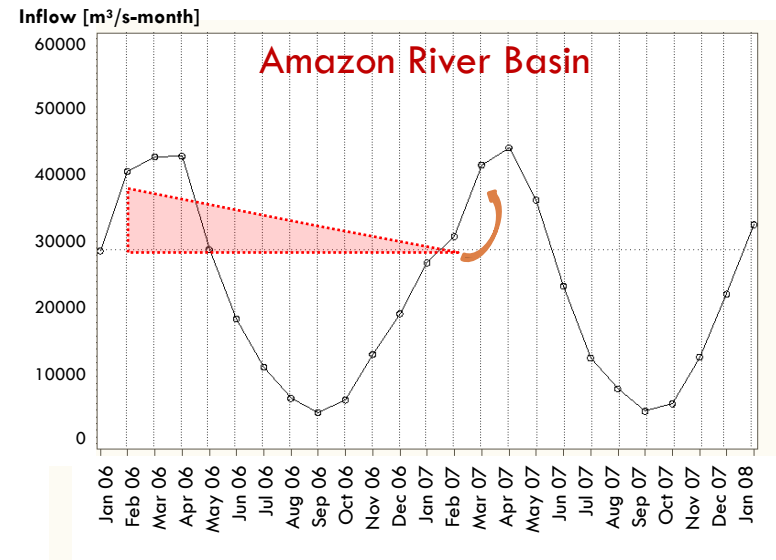
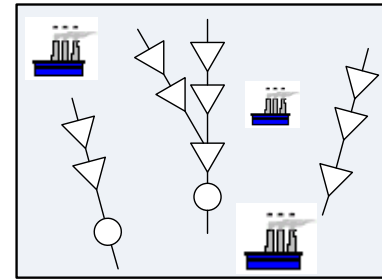
**But now we worry  
about future cost!**

# Decision Tree



# Problem Characteristics

- Temporal coupling: relation between a decision today and the consequences in the future
- Spatial coupling: the decision for one plant can influence other plants in the cascade
- Stochastic nature of the water inflows
- Large problem: multi-period with many decision variables and constraints



# Problem Characteristics (cont'd)

Uncertainties

## Energy Operational Planning

### MEDIUM TERM

Horizon: 5 years  
Step period: month

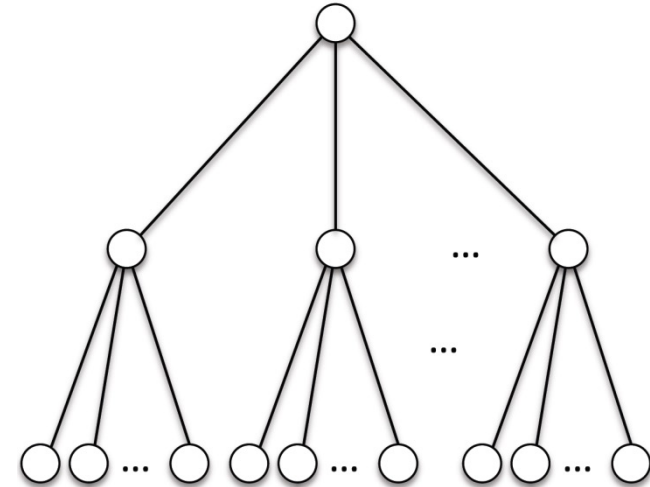
### SHORT TERM

Horizon: 12 months  
Step period: week / month

### VERY SHORT TERM

Horizon: 1 week  
Step period: hour

System details







# Hydrothermal Scheduling Problem Formulation

# Example 1 - Thermal only system

## □ LP formulation

$$\min_{P_1, P_2, P_3} \quad 8P_1 + 12P_2 + 15P_3$$

$$s.t. \quad P_1 + P_2 + P_3 = 20$$

$$P_1 \leq 10$$

$$P_2 \leq 5$$

$$P_3 \leq 20$$

$$P_1, P_2, P_3 \geq 0$$

# Example 2 – Hydrothermal system

## Stage 1

$$\min_P z = 8P_{G1} + 12P_{G2} + 15P_{G3}$$

$$s.t. P_{G1} + P_{G2} + P_{G3} + P_H = 20$$

$$P_{G1} \leq 10$$

$$P_{G2} \leq 5$$

$$P_{G3} \leq 20$$

$$P_H \leq 10$$

$$\text{All } P \geq 0$$



## Stage 2

$$\min_P z = 8P_{G1} + 12P_{G2} + 15P_{G3}$$

$$s.t. P_{G1} + P_{G2} + P_{G3} + P_H = 20$$

$$P_{G1} \leq 10$$

$$P_{G2} \leq 5$$

$$P_{G3} \leq 20$$

$$P_H \leq ?$$

$$\text{All } P \geq 0$$

# How to optimize the two stages simultaneously?

- Could use the multi-period LP
- Introduce one more index to the decision variables:  $t$

$$\min_P z = 8(P_{G1}^1 + P_{G1}^2) + 12(P_{G2}^1 + P_{G2}^2) + 15(P_{G3}^1 + P_{G3}^2)$$

$$s. t. \quad P_{G1}^1 + P_{G2}^1 + P_{G3}^1 + P_H^1 = 20$$

$$P_{G1}^2 + P_{G2}^2 + P_{G3}^2 + P_H^2 = 20$$

$$P_{G1}^1, P_{G1}^2 \leq 10$$

$$P_{G2}^1, P_{G2}^2 \leq 5$$

$$P_{G3}^1, P_{G3}^2 \leq 20$$

$$P_H^1 + P_H^2 \leq 10$$

$$\text{All } P \geq 0$$

How to implement this  
model in R?

Look at file *EconDispatch.R*  
on Sakai

# What if we have more than 2 stages?

- General form: Multi-stage problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_P z &= \sum_t \sum_i C_{Gi} P_{Gi}^t \\ \text{s.t. } \sum_i P_{Gi}^t + P_H^t &= D \quad \forall t \\ P_{Gi}^t &\leq \overline{GT_i} \quad \forall t, i \\ \sum_t P_H^t &\leq \overline{GH} \\ P_{Gi}^t, P_H^t &\geq 0 \quad \forall t, i \end{aligned}$$

Note that we are still considering everything deterministic. And there is no incoming inflow from one stage to the other

If you want it more to be realistic, need to incorporate **water balance equation** and transformation of **inflow into energy** (more on that later)

# Example 3: Hydro-thermal + wind + solar

□ Let's look at the multistage formulation

$$\min_P z = \sum_t \sum_i C_{Gi} P_{Gi}^t$$

$$s.t. \quad \sum_i P_{Gi}^t + P_H^t + P_S^t + P_W^t = D \quad \forall t$$

$$P_{Gi}^t \leq \overline{GT_i} \quad \forall t, i$$

$$P_W^t \leq \overline{GW}$$

$$P_S^t \leq \overline{GS}$$

$$\sum_t P_H^t \leq \overline{GH}$$

$$P_{Gi}^t, P_H^t, P_W^t, P_S^t \geq 0 \quad \forall t, i$$

$$P_S^t + P_W^t \leq 0.3D$$

Here we incorporated wind and sun in a very simplistic approach.

Because we know that we don't have the same 2MW of wind and 1MW of sun at all time stages

Some markets are limiting the penetration from sun and wind at a percentage (0.3, 0.5, etc) of the demand level, just to maintain reliability of the system!

# General HTSP: Variables & Parameters

## □ Sets:

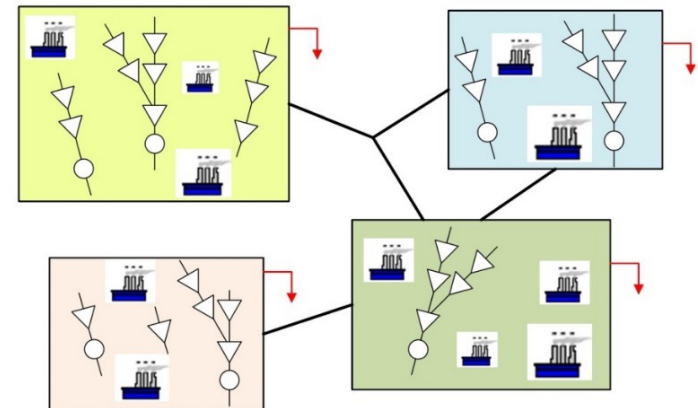
- Set of **hydro power plants**:  $i \in I$
- Set of **thermal power plants**:  $\ell \in L$
- Set of time stages:  $t \in T$
- Set of electrical **subsystems**:  $r \in R$
- Set of **curtailment levels**:  $k \in K$
- Subset of upstream reservoirs:  $M_i$

## □ Decision variables:

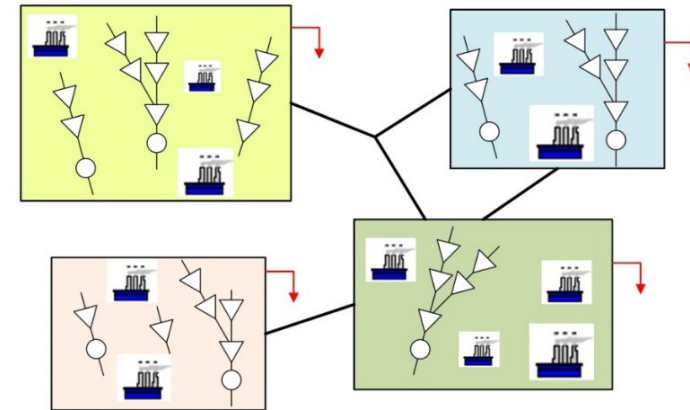
- **Hydro generation**:  $GH_i^t$
- **Spilled volumes**:  $S_i^t$
- **Water volume storage**:  $x_i^t$
- **Thermal generation**:  $GT_\ell^t$
- **Energy transfers between regions**:  $F_{r r'}^t$
- **Load curtailment**:  $GD_k^t$

## □ Parameters:

- Future water inflows:  $b_t, b_{t+1}, \dots, b_T$  (uncertainty)
- Electricity demand at region  $r$ :  $D_{tr}$
- Bound limits:  $\underline{x}, \bar{x}$



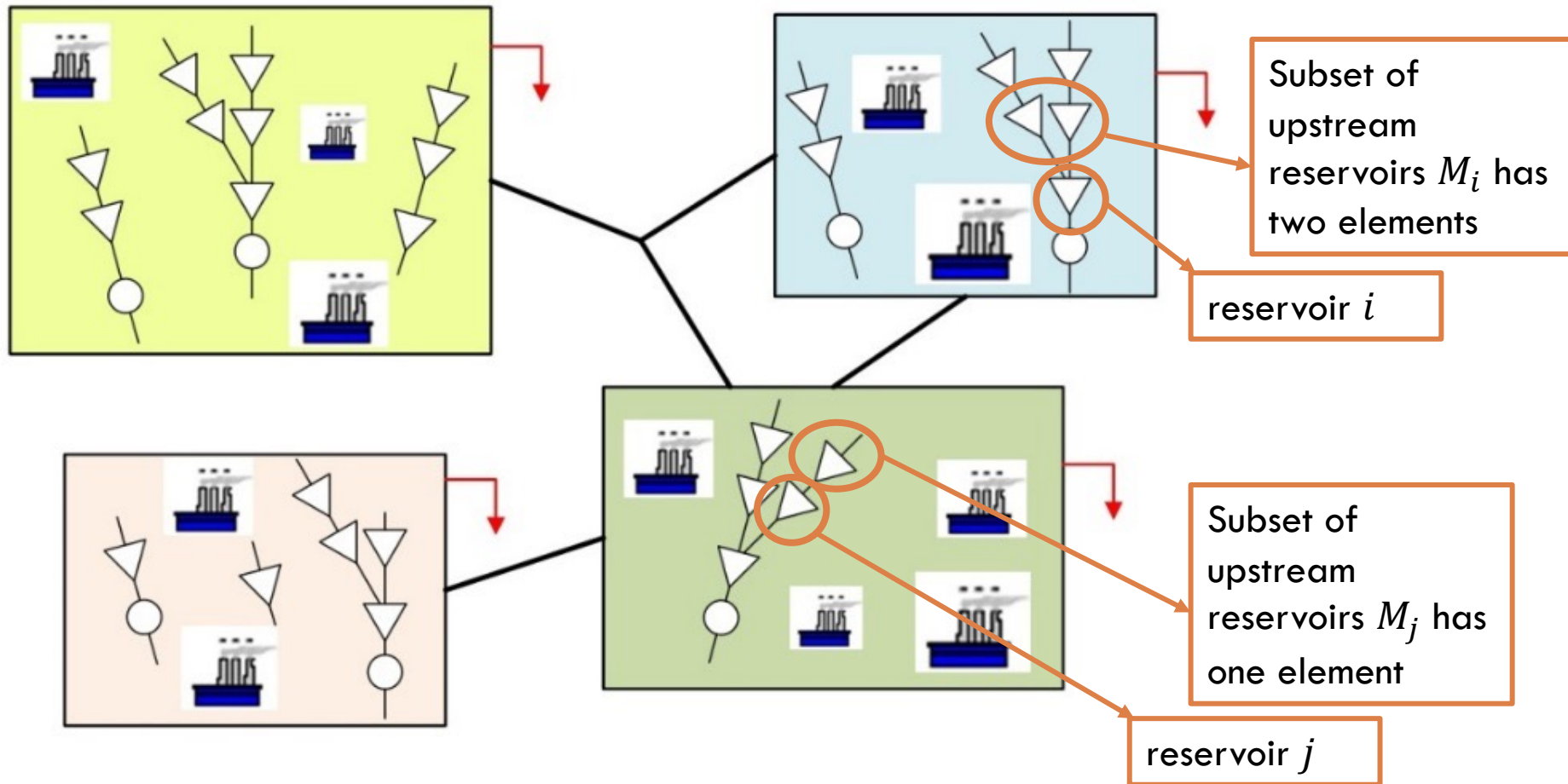
# Aggregated Reservoir Scheme



**System  
aggregated in  
four regions**



# Examples: Subset of upstream reservoirs



# HTSP Model Formulation for Stage-t

$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \underbrace{\sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t}_{\text{Present Cost}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})}_{\text{Expected Future Cost}}$$

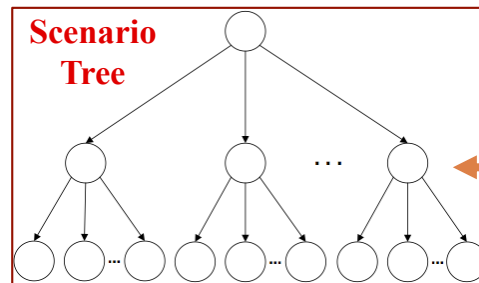
Cost of  
dispatching  
thermal plants

Cost of  
curtailing  
load

Discount  
rate

Cost of stage  $t$   
depends on decisions  
at previous states and  
inflow at stage  $t$  for  
scenario  $\omega$

Expected value of  
cost at  $t+1$ , why  
expected ??



Because I have a  
number of possible  
realizations for inflow  
 $b_{t+1}$

# HTSP Model Formulation for Stage-t

$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \underbrace{\sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t}_{\text{Present Cost}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})}_{\text{Expected Future Cost}}$$

**Water Balance** s. t.  $x_i^t + GH_i^t + S_i^t - \sum_{j \in M_i} (GH_j^t + S_j^t) = x_i^{t-1} + b_{i,t}^\omega \quad \forall i \in I$

Water volume of reservoir left at stage t

Hydro generation at t

Water spilled at t

Set of reservoirs upstream on the cascade

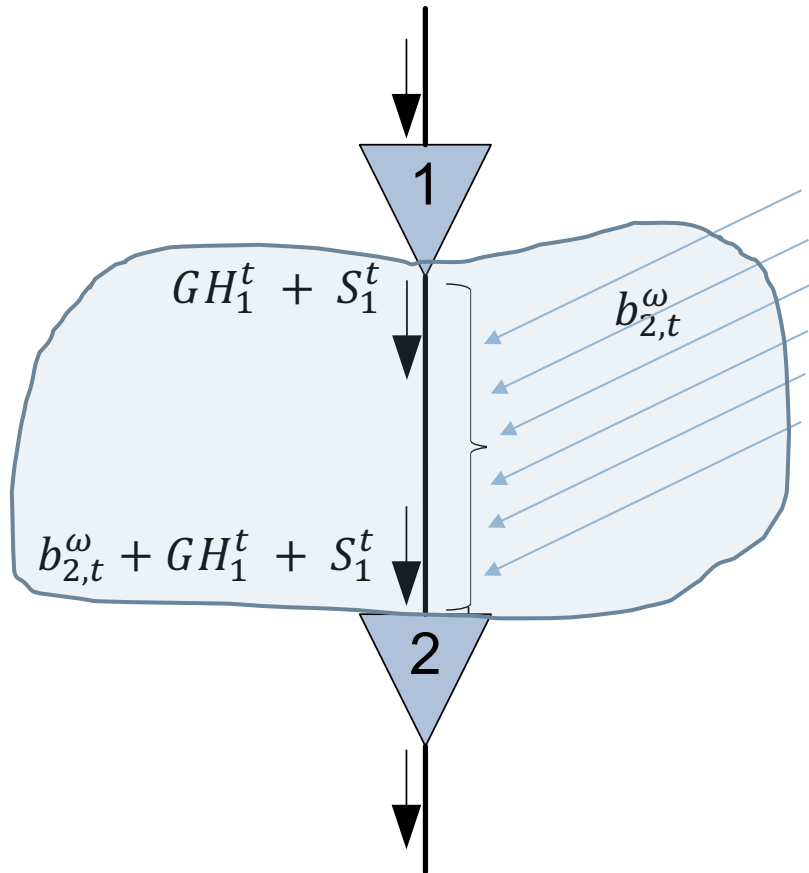
Generation and spillage upstream on the cascade for reservoir j

Water volume of reservoir at stage t-1

Incoming inflow at t for scenario  $\omega$

For all hydro plants, or aggregated hydro

# Incremental Inflow Definition



$b_{2,t}^\omega$  = water captured/received  
between reservoirs 1 and 2,  
a.k.a., incremental inflow at  
reservoir 2

# HTSP Model Formulation for Stage-t

$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \underbrace{\sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t}_{\text{Present Cost}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})}_{\text{Expected Future Cost}}$$

Water Balance

$$\text{s.t. } x_i^t + GH_i^t + S_i^t - \sum_{j \in M_i} (GH_j^t + S_j^t) = x_i^{t-1} + b_t^\omega \quad \forall i \in I$$

Demand Satisfaction

$$\sum_{i \in I_r} \rho_i GH_i^t + \sum_{\ell \in L_r} GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K_r} GD_k^t - \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{rr'}^t + \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r'r}^t = D_{tr} \quad \forall r \in R$$

Productivity of hydro  $i$ , coefficient that will transform water into energy

Water used for generation at hydro  $i$

Sum of Thermal generation

Sum of curtailed load

Note that all three sums are over subsets  $I_r$ ,  $L_r$  and  $K_r$

Energy transfer between region  $r$  and  $r'$

Energy transfer between region  $r'$  and  $r$

Demand at time  $t$  and region  $r$

# HTSP Model Formulation for Stage-t

$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \underbrace{\sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t}_{\text{Present Cost}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})}_{\text{Expected Future Cost}}$$

**Water Balance** s.t.  $x_i^t + GH_i^t + S_i^t - \sum_{j \in M_i} (GH_j^t + S_j^t) = x_i^{t-1} + b_t^\omega \quad \forall i \in I$

**Demand Satisfaction**  $\sum_{i \in I_r} \rho_i GH_i^t + \sum_{\ell \in L_r} GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K_r} GD_k^t - \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r r'}^t + \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r' r}^t = D_{tr} \quad \forall r \in R$

Min and max bounds  
on reservoir volume

$$\underline{x}_i^t \leq x_i^t \leq \bar{x}_i^t \quad \forall i \in I$$

Nonnegativity on  
spillage (defy gravity!!)

$$0 \leq GH_i^t \leq \overline{GH}_i^t \quad \forall i \in I$$

$$0 \leq S_i^t \quad \forall i \in I$$

$$\underline{GT}_\ell^t \leq GT_\ell^t \leq \overline{GT}_\ell^t \quad \forall \ell \in L$$

Nonnegativity on  
curtailment

$$0 \leq GD_k^t \quad \forall k \in K$$

$$0 \leq F_{r r'}^t \leq \overline{F}_{r r'}^t \quad \forall (r, r') \in R$$

Bounds on hydro  
generation capacity

Min and max bounds on  
thermal generation capacity

Bounds on energy transfer  
(transmission constraint)

# HTSP Model Formulation for Stage-t

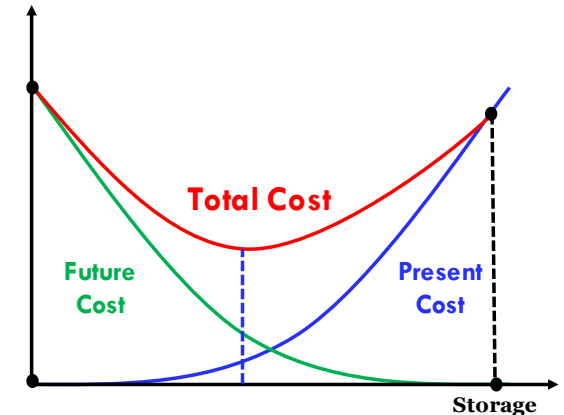
$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \underbrace{\sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t}_{\text{Present Cost}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})}_{\text{Expected Future Cost}}$$

**Water Balance** s. t.  $x_i^t + GH_i^t + S_i^t - \sum_{j \in M_i} (GH_j^t + S_j^t) = x_i^{t-1} + b_t^\omega \quad \forall i \in I$

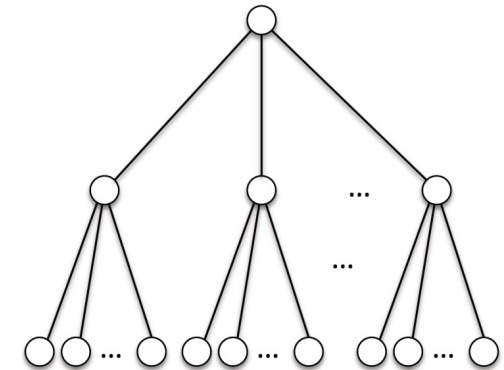
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Simple  
Bounds

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{x}_i^t &\leq x_i^t \leq \bar{x}_i^t & \forall i \in I \\ 0 &\leq GH_i^t \leq \overline{GH}_i^t & \forall i \in I \\ 0 &\leq S_i^t & \forall i \in I \\ \underline{GT}_\ell^t &\leq GT_\ell^t \leq \overline{GT}_\ell^t & \forall \ell \in L \\ 0 &\leq GD_k^t & \forall k \in K \\ 0 &\leq F_{rr'}^t \leq \overline{F}_{rr'}^t & \forall (r, r') \in R \end{aligned}$$



# What's next?



- Now we need to solve it!!!
- Remember that scenario tree??
- The model we just created will be solved for all these nodes
- Do you see the dots ... it means that each node may have as many sons as you imagine
- Oh no...
- Can't we just go back to thermal only??

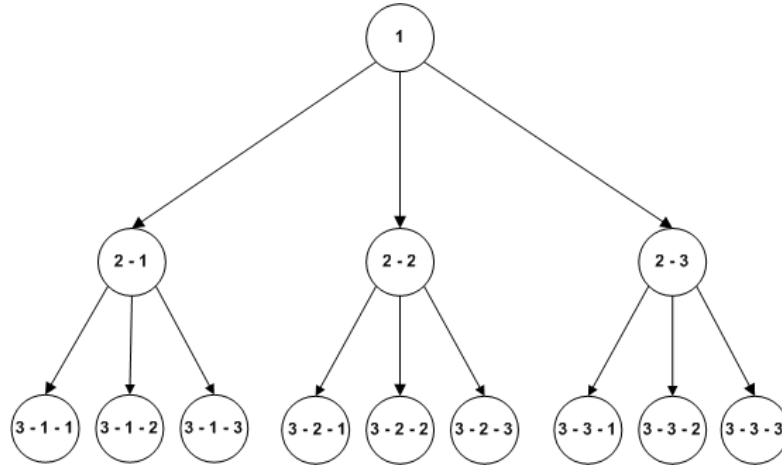


**No! Let's save the world  
with green energy and  
stochastic optimization!**

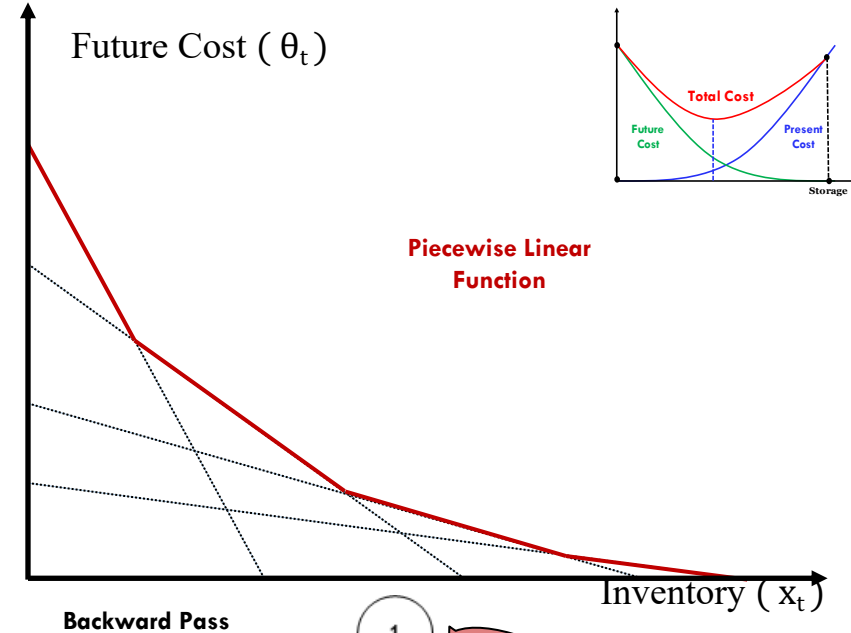
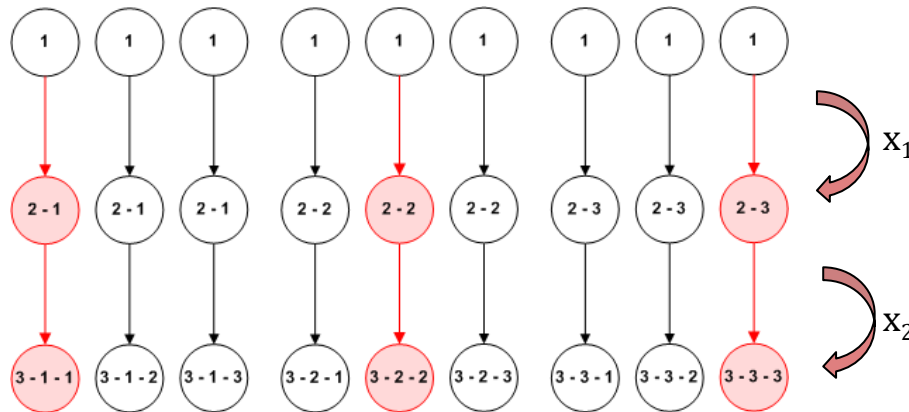




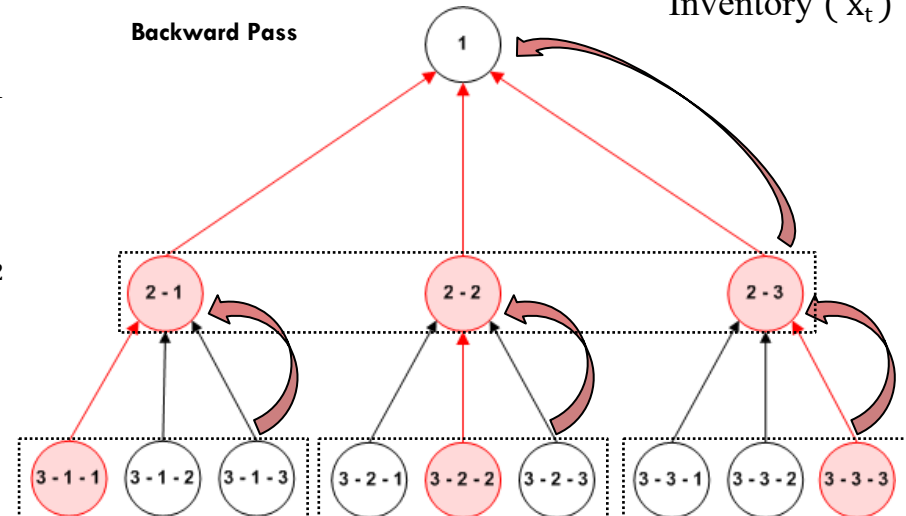
# Sampling-based Decomposition Algorithm



Forward Pass



Backward Pass



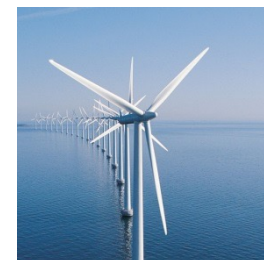
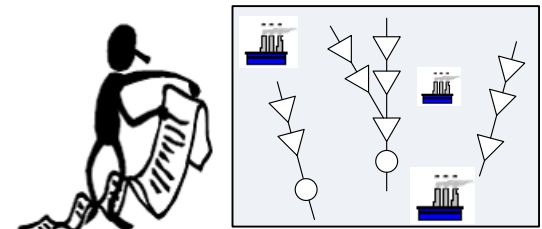
# Let's add wind power...

- Wind power plants may be considered such as run-of-river hydro plants



Except that power variability is higher in smaller time intervals for wind

- **Objective:** Minimize operational costs to supply system electricity demand with hydro, thermal and wind plants
- **Constraints:**
  - Water balance
  - Electricity demand satisfaction
  - **Max wind power generation**
  - Electricity exchanges between regions
  - Other operational bounds



# HTSP + Wind

Present Cost

Future Cost Function

$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t + \frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})$$

Water  
Balance

$$\text{s.t. } x_i^t + GH_i^t + S_i^t - \sum_{j \in M_i} (GH_j^t + S_j^t) = x_i^{t-1} + b_t^\omega \quad \forall i \in I$$

Demand  
Satisfaction

$$\sum_{i \in I_r} \rho_i GH_i^t + \sum_{\ell \in L} GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} GD_k^t - \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r r'}^t + \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r' r}^t = D_{tr} \quad \forall r \in R$$

$$+ \sum_{v \in N_r} GW_v^t$$

All Simple  
Bounds from previous HTSP

Set of wind  
plants

Maximum

wind power generation  
(transformation of wind  
speed into energy output)

$$GW_v^t \leq \frac{1}{2} \sigma A_v V_{v,t,\omega}^3 C_P^v$$

$$\forall v \in N$$

Air density

Efficiency  
(max 0.59)

Wind speed will depend  
on scenario

Area swept by wind turbine

Wind speed

# HTSP + Solar

Present Cost

Future Cost Function

$$h_t(x^{t-1}, b_t^\omega) = \min \sum_{\ell \in L} c_\ell^t GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} u_k^t GD_k^t + \frac{1}{(1 + \beta)} \mathbb{E}_{b_{t+1}|b_1, \dots, b_t} h_{t+1}(x^t, b_{t+1})$$

Water  
Balance

$$\text{s.t. } x_i^t + GH_i^t + S_i^t - \sum_{j \in M_i} (GH_j^t + S_j^t) = x_i^{t-1} + b_t^\omega \quad \forall i \in I$$

Demand  
Satisfaction

$$\sum_{i \in I_r} \rho_i GH_i^t + \sum_{\ell \in L} GT_\ell^t + \sum_{k \in K} GD_k^t - \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r r'}^t + \sum_{\substack{r' \in R \\ r' \neq r}} F_{r' r}^t = D_{tr} \quad \forall r \in R$$

$$+ \sum_{pv \in Q_r} GS_{pv}^t$$

All Simple  
Bounds from previous HTSP

$$GS_{pv}^t \leq I_{T,\omega} \eta_{pv} A_{pv} \quad \forall pv \in Q$$

Solar radiation

System efficiency

Array

surface area

Set of solar  
plants

Maximum  
solar power generation  
(transformation of solar  
radiation into energy  
output)

Solar radiation will  
depend on scenario



# THANK YOU !

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