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An Exponential Cone Programming Approach for Managing Electric Vehicle Charging



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EV Charging

- A key to the mass adoption of EVs is the ease of charging, where public charging will play an increasingly important role

Customers:

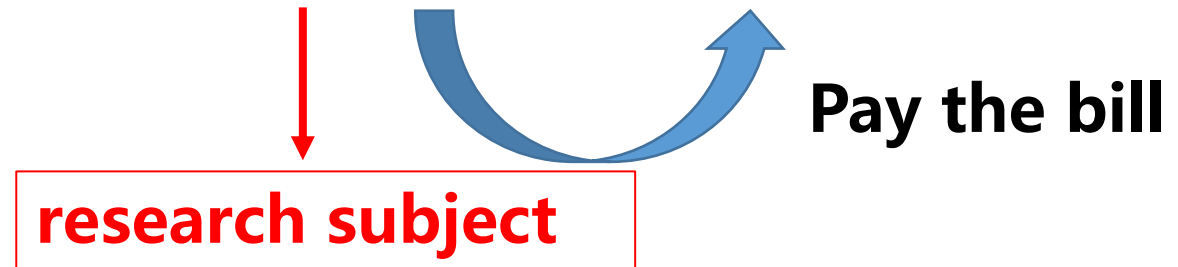
- stochastic arrivals of customers:
 - arrival time, desired departure time, charging requirements



Introduction



Company A			
Billing Element	Meter Reading	Rate	Charge
Energy Usage	60,000 kWhr	\$0.06/kWhr	\$3,600
Demand Charge	200 kW	\$13/kW	\$2,600
Total Charges			\$6,200
Company B			
Billing Element	Meter Reading	Rate	Charge
Energy Usage	60,000 kWhr	\$0.06/kWhr	\$3,600
Demand Charge	490 kW	\$13/kW	\$6,370
Total Charges			\$9,970



The tariff structure

- Demand charges
- Energy charges

EV charging service provider:

- This total demand charge for an EV charging service provider can be as high as 70% of its total electricity cost.



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- **Research Subject:** EV charging service provider
- **Goal:** minimizing the total expected cost
- **Optimization approach:** scheduling EV charging (joint pricing and scheduling)
- **Model:** model it as a stochastic program (SP) and characterize the random number of arriving customers to follow Poisson distributions



Summary of innovation

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- **Modeling fits the scene well** (Complex but solvable)
 - arrival time, desired departure time, charging requirements
 - tariff structure in electric power

 - **solving method** (80,000 random variables and 700,000 decision variables)
 - moment-generating functions (MGFs) +exponential cone programming(ECP) approximations
 - Upper (Lower) bound of SP and a performance guarantee
 - Entropic dominance constraints (ambiguity set) + ECP
- From the numerical experiment, ECP is **fast** and **good**



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➤ Differences from existing literature

- Focus on the operational level rather than infrastructure planning
- Takes into account the setup of the supplier's purchase of electricity from the utility (including its tariff structure)

➤ This research is very comprehensive, including

- Benchmark with SAA and DRO
- Uncapacitated/ Capacitated case (a limited number of chargers)
- charging scheduling /joint pricing and scheduling (optimal price)
- Poisson's estimate is inaccurate
- Time Discretization(15min/period —— 1min/period)
- All-period, on peak, and mid-peak demand charge



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➤ EV Arrivals

We classify EV customers into V types according to the triple (s_v, τ_v, u_v)

s_v : arrival time

τ_v : desired departure time ($s_v \leq \tau_v$)

u_v : charging requirement for customer type $v \in [V]$.

Note: customers are heterogeneous in all three dimensions (v is very large)

we assume the arrivals of customer types $v \in [V]$ with infinite chargers are independent Poisson random variables, and each has an arrival rate λ_v . (denoted by $\tilde{z}_v \sim \lambda_v$)

$$\mathcal{Z} \triangleq \left\{ z \geq \mathbf{0} \mid \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} z_v \leq C, \forall t \in [T] \right\}.$$

$\mathcal{V}_t \triangleq \{v \in [V] \mid s_v \leq t \leq \tau_v\}$ denote the set of customer types at the station in period t

$\tilde{z} \triangleq (\tilde{z}_v)_{v \in [V]}$ denote the vector of these truncated Poisson random variables (\mathbb{P}^C)



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Decision variable:

the menu-based charging schedule $\mathbf{x} \triangleq (x_{v,t})_{v \in [V], t \in T_v}$

where $x_{v,t}$ denotes in period $t \in T_v$ the **charging speed** for customer type v ;
 $T_v \triangleq \{s_v, \dots, \tau_v\}$ is the set of periods within the charging window of customer type v .

The feasible set of \mathbf{x} , denoted by X , is given as follows:

$$\mathcal{X} \triangleq \left\{ \mathbf{x} \left| \begin{array}{l} \sum_{t \in T_v} \eta x_{v,t} = u_v \quad \forall v \in [V] \\ 0 \leq x_{v,t} \leq K/\eta \quad \forall v \in [V], t \in T_v \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

- customer type v needs to fulfill the charging requirement u_v , $\eta \in (0,1]$ is the ratio of the quantity of electricity increased in the battery to the quantity of electricity used to charge the battery.;
- charging speed is within the limit.



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➤ Total Cost

$$c(x, \tilde{z}) \triangleq \overbrace{d \max_{t \in [T]} \{f_t(x, \tilde{z})\}}^{\text{demand charge}} + \overbrace{\sum_{s \in [T]} e_s f_s(x, \tilde{z})}^{\text{energy charge}},$$

$f_t(x, \tilde{z})$ denote the total electricity used to charge EVs of all customers in period t , that is

$$f_t(x, \tilde{z}) = \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} x_{v,t} \tilde{z}_v.$$

➤ Model Formulation

We formulate the problem of scheduling EV charging as an SP:

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^c}[c(x, \tilde{z})], \quad (3)$$

where the expectation is over \tilde{z} . We denote an optimal solution to (3) by x^* and the optimal value of (3) by π^* , that is, $\pi^* = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^c}[c(x^*, \tilde{z})]$.



ECP Approximations

Uncapacitated Case

(Method: MGF+ECP)

假设我们有一个随机变量 X ，它表示某个产品的寿命（以小时为单位），服从指数分布，参数为 λ 。

我们可以通过矩生成函数推导出 X 的各阶矩。首先，我们计算矩生成函数 $M(t)$ 。对于指数分布的随机变量 X ，其概率密度函数为 $f(x) = \lambda e^{(-\lambda x)}$ ，则矩生成函数为：

$$M(t) = E[e^{(tX)}] = \int_{(0 \text{ to } \infty)} \lambda e^{(-\lambda x)} e^{(tx)} dx$$

通过对上述积分进行计算，我们可以得到矩生成函数的表达式。具体地，对于指数分布的随机变量 X ，其矩生成函数为：

$$M(t) = \lambda / (\lambda - t)$$

通过对矩生成函数进行不同阶数的导数，我们可以得到随机变量 X 的各阶矩。例如，对于一阶矩（均值）：

$$E[X] = M'(0) = (\lambda) / (\lambda - 0) = 1/\lambda$$

对于二阶矩（方差）：

$$E[X^2] = M''(0) = 2 / (\lambda^2)$$

通过类似的计算，我们可以得到更高阶的矩。

在这个例子中，矩生成函数帮助我们推导出指数分布随机变量 X 的均值和方差，以及其他阶数的矩。这些矩是对该随机变量性质的重要描述，通过矩生成函数，我们可以方便地计算它们的准确值。



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ECP Approximations

demand charge

$$f_t(x, \tilde{z}) = \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} x_{v,t} \tilde{z}_v.$$

Let \mathbb{P}^∞ denote the joint distribution of \tilde{z} for $C = \infty$. Note that \tilde{z}_v s for $v \in [V]$ are independent Poisson random variables. Given any $\theta \triangleq (\theta_v)_{v \in [V]}$, the MGF of $\tilde{z} \sim \mathbb{P}^\infty$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\exp \left(\sum_{v \in [V]} \theta_v \tilde{z}_v \right) \right] &= \prod_{v \in [V]} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} [\exp(\theta_v \tilde{z}_v)] \\ &= \prod_{v \in [V]} \exp(\lambda_v (e^{\theta_v} - 1)), \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where the first equality is due to the independence of \tilde{z}_v 's and the second equality follows from the closed-form MGF expression of a Poisson random variable $\tilde{z} \sim$

Proof. To obtain an upper bound of π^* , we first obtain an upper bound of $\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} [\max_{t \in [T]} f_t(x, \tilde{z})]$:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\max_{t \in [T]} f_t(x, \tilde{z}) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\max_{t \in [T]} (f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda) + f_t(x, \lambda)) \right] \\ &\leq \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\max_{t \in [T]} (f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda)) + \max_{t \in [T]} f_t(x, \lambda) \right] \\ &= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\max_{t \in [T]} (f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda)) \right] + \max_{t \in [T]} f_t(x, \lambda). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We then obtain an upper bound of the first term in (6) given any $\mu > 0$ as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\max_{t \in [T]} (f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda)) \right] \\ &\leq \mu \ln \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\exp \left(\max_{t \in [T]} (f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda)) / \mu \right) \right] \\ &\leq \mu \ln \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\sum_{t \in [T]} \exp((f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda)) / \mu) \right] \\ &= \mu \ln \sum_{t \in [T]} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} [\exp((f_t(x, \tilde{z}) - f_t(x, \lambda)) / \mu)] \\ &= \mu \ln \sum_{t \in [T]} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\exp \left(\sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} \frac{x_{v,t}}{\mu} (\tilde{z}_v - \lambda_v) \right) \right] \\ &= \mu \ln \sum_{t \in [T]} \prod_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^\infty} \left[\exp \left(\frac{x_{v,t}}{\mu} \tilde{z}_v \right) \right] \exp \left(-\frac{x_{v,t}}{\mu} \lambda_v \right) \\ &= \mu \ln \sum_{t \in [T]} \exp \left(\sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} \lambda_v (e^{x_{v,t}/\mu} - 1 - x_{v,t}/\mu) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$



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ECP Approximations

Uncapacitated Case
(Method: MGF+ECP)

Proposition 1. When $C = \infty$, the optimal value of ECP-U gives an upper bound of π^* :

$$\inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}, \kappa, \gamma, \mu > 0, \xi, \zeta} d(\kappa + \gamma) + \sum_{s \in [T]} e_s f_s(x, \lambda)$$
$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} x_{v,t} \lambda_v \leq \gamma \quad \forall t \in [T], \quad (5a)$$

$$(ECP-U) \quad \mu \exp(x_{v,t}/\mu) \leq \xi_{v,t} \quad \forall t \in [T], v \in \mathcal{V}_t, \quad (5b)$$

$$\mu \exp\left(\left(-\kappa + \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} \lambda_v (\xi_{v,t} - x_{v,t} - \mu)\right) / \mu\right) \leq \zeta_t \quad (5c)$$
$$\forall t \in [T],$$

$$\sum_{t \in [T]} \zeta_t \leq \mu. \quad (5d)$$

All the constraints in this model involve either linear or exponential functions and thus can be expressed as exponential cone constraints. Hence, ECP-U is an ECP, and thus can be solved via MOSEK.



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ECP Approximations

Capacitated Case ($\tilde{z} \sim \mathbb{P}^C$ does not follow independent Poisson distributions)

(Method: Entropic dominance constraints +ECP)

We use the infinitely constrained “entropic dominance” ambiguity set, adapted from Chen et al. (2019):

$$\mathcal{F} \triangleq \left\{ \mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{P}_0(\mathbb{R}^V) \mid \begin{array}{l} \tilde{z} \sim \mathbb{P} \\ \ln \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[\exp(\boldsymbol{\theta}' \tilde{z})] \leq \sum_{v \in [V]} \lambda_v (e^{\theta_v} - 1), \\ \forall \boldsymbol{\theta} \geq 0 \\ \mathbb{P}[\tilde{z} \in \mathcal{Z}] = 1 \end{array} \right\},$$

Therefore, we can obtain an upper bound of the optimal value of (3) by considering the worst-case expected total cost over the ambiguity set \mathcal{F} :

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} \sup_{\mathbb{P} \in \mathcal{F}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}}[c(x, \tilde{z})], \quad (\text{DRO-Ent})$$

Proposition 3. When $C < \infty$, the following ECP-C gives an upper bound of π^* :

$$\inf_{\substack{x \in \mathcal{X}, a, b \geq 0, v \geq 0, y \geq 0, \mu > 0, \\ \kappa, \gamma, \alpha, \beta \geq 0, \xi, \zeta, \rho \geq 0}} d(\kappa + \gamma + \alpha + \beta' \lambda) + a + b' \lambda$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} y_{v,t} \lambda_v \leq \gamma \quad \forall t \in [T], \quad (13a)$$

$$(\xi_{v,t}, \mu, y_{v,t}) \in \mathcal{K}_{\text{exp}} \\ \forall t \in [T], v \in \mathcal{V}_t, \quad (13b)$$

$$\left(\zeta_t, \mu, -\kappa + \sum_{v \in \mathcal{V}_t} \lambda_v (\xi_{v,t} - y_{v,t} - \mu) \right) \in \mathcal{K}_{\text{exp}} \\ \forall t \in [T], \quad (13c)$$

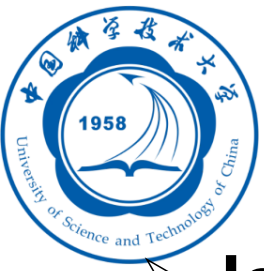
$$\sum_{t \in [T]} \zeta_t \leq \mu, \quad (13d)$$

$$C \sum_{k \in [T]} \rho_t^k \leq \alpha \quad \forall t \in [T], \quad (13e)$$

$$x_{v,t} - y_{v,t} - \beta_v \leq \sum_{k \in \mathcal{T}_v} \rho_t^k \\ \forall t \in [T], v \in \mathcal{V}_t, \quad (13f)$$

$$C \sum_{t \in [T]} v_t \leq a, \quad (13g)$$

$$\sum_{s \in \mathcal{T}_v} x_{v,s} e_s - b_v \leq \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_v} v_t \\ \forall v \in [V]. \quad (13h)$$



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➤ Joint Pricing and Scheduling

Price-Dependent Arrival Rate. For ease of exposition and computational tractability, we assume that the customer arrival rate is linearly decreasing in the price:

$$\lambda_v = \bar{\lambda}_v(1 - r_v p), \quad \forall v \in [V], \quad (16)$$

Objective Function

$$\max_{p \in [\underline{p}, \bar{p}], x \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^C} \left[\sum_{v \in [V]} p u_v \tilde{z}_v - c(x, \tilde{z}) \right]. \quad (17)$$

Problem (17) is much more **challenging** than the scheduling problem (3) **because the underlying distribution \mathbb{P}^C in (17) depends on the pricing decision p** . To solve (17) efficiently, we leverage our ECP approximations for both the uncapacitated and capacitated cases.



Approximation cost allocation algorithm

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Proposition 4. When $C = \infty$, the optimal value of JPS-U is a lower bound of (17):

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{x \in \mathcal{X}, p \in [\underline{p}, \bar{p}], \mu > 0, \lambda, \kappa, \gamma} & \sum_{v \in [V]} pu_v \lambda_v - d(\kappa + \gamma) \\ & - \sum_{s \in [T]} e_s f_s(x, \lambda) \quad (\text{JPS-U}) \\ \text{s.t.} & \quad (5a), (8), (16). \end{aligned}$$

- Unlike ECP-U, which is **convex**, JPS-U is nonconvex because p (and equivalently λ_v) is a decision variable.
- Therefore, we propose an optimization procedure to solve JSP-U efficiently by **alternating between fixing p and fixing x and μ** .

Algorithm 1 (Alternating Optimization for JPS-U)

1. **Initialization** Set initial price $p^{(0)} \in [\underline{p}, \bar{p}]$, iteration counter $i \leftarrow 1$
2. **Scheduling optimization** Solve Model (18) with input $p^{(i-1)}$ and let x^* and μ^* be the optimal solution; set $x^{(i-1)} \leftarrow x^*$ and $\mu^{(i-1)} \leftarrow \mu^*$. Store optimal value $val_1^{(i)}$;
3. **Pricing optimization** Solve Model (19) with inputs $x^{(i-1)}$ and $\mu^{(i-1)}$, and let p^* be the optimal solution; set $p^{(i)} \leftarrow p^*$. Store optimal value $val_2^{(i)}$;
4. **Termination** If $|val_2^{(i)} - val_1^{(i)}| < \delta$ (where $\delta > 0$ is a given small tolerance), set $p^* \leftarrow p^{(i)}$, solve Model (18) with input $p^{(i)}$ to obtain x^* , output p^* and x^* , and then stop. Otherwise, set $i \leftarrow i + 1$ and go back to Step 2.

Output: Pricing decision p^* and scheduling decision x^*

Proposition 5. The sequence of optimal values $\{val_1^{(i)}, val_2^{(i)}\}$ in Algorithm 1 is nondecreasing and converges to a finite value.



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➤ Settings

- $t=15\text{min}$, $T=96$
- 14,284 customer types (v)
- $U=62$ kWh;
- $K=10.75\text{kWh/period}$
- $\eta=0.9$

➤ Unit charge

$$\hat{e}_t = \begin{cases} \$0.1466/\text{kWh} & \text{if } 13 \leq \lceil t/4 \rceil \leq 18 \text{ (on-peak hours)} \\ \$0.0895/\text{kWh} & \text{if } 9 \leq \lceil t/4 \rceil \leq 12 \text{ or } 19 \leq \lceil t/4 \rceil \leq 23 \\ & \text{(mid-peak hours)} \\ \$0.0582/\text{kWh} & \text{otherwise (off-peak hours),} \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{d}_t = \begin{cases} \$0.465/\text{kW} & \forall t \in [T] \doteq [96] \text{ (all-period)} \\ \$0.540/\text{kW} & \text{if } 13 \leq \lceil t/4 \rceil \leq 18 \text{ (on-peak hours)} \\ \$0.165/\text{kW} & \text{if } 9 \leq \lceil t/4 \rceil \leq 12 \text{ or } 19 \leq \lceil t/4 \rceil \leq 23 \\ & \text{(mid-peak hours),} \end{cases}$$



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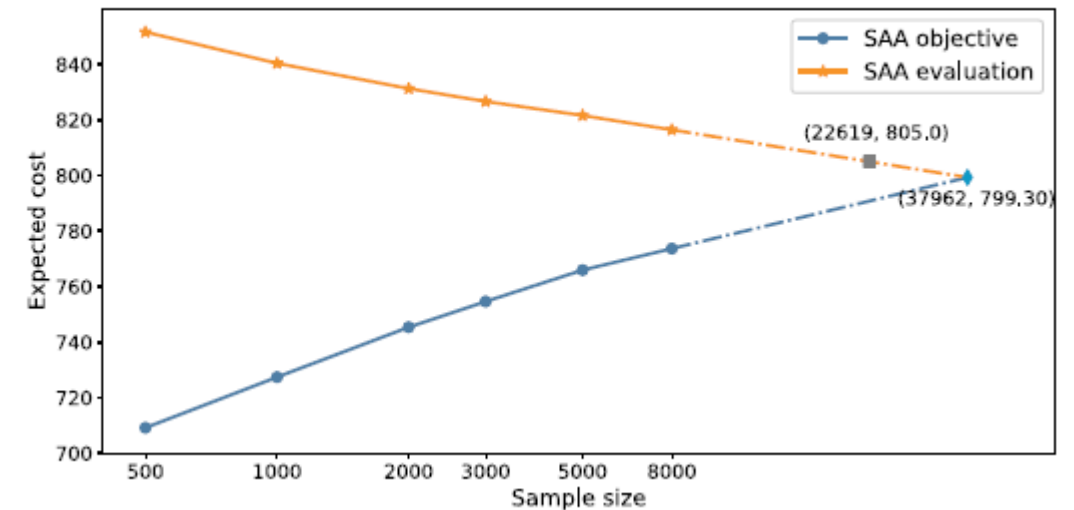
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Table 1. Performance Comparison Between ECP-C (or ECP-U) and SAA

C	Method	Total cost		CPU Time (s)
		Mean	Standard deviation	
15	ECP-C	600.40	35.20	312.33
	SAA	608.91	36.76	13,015.66
20	ECP-C	717.73	44.42	354.66
	SAA	727.38	46.22	15,806.33
25	ECP-C	783.66	57.13	445.66
	SAA	794.04	59.44	16,207.17
30	ECP-C	805.00	67.55	320.56
	SAA	816.39	69.94	16,005.50
∞	ECP-U	808.90	71.30	194.22
	SAA	819.80	73.64	17,673.80

Figure 3. (Color Online) Expected Cost Under SAA at Different Sample Sizes Given $C = 30$



SAA (8000 samples)

- ECP is faster and better than SAA, DRO and other methods;
- ECP is not limited by sample size.



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- **Opt-15 min To 1 min policy**: the 1-minute charging policy transformed via Algorithm 2 from the optimal charging policy solved on 15-minute discretization.
- **Opt-1-min policy**: the optimal charging policy solved directly on 1-minute discretization. Using the optimal policies allows

Table 3. Performance over a One-Hour Time Horizon (5 a.m. to 6 a.m.) with 1-Minute Discretization

Hour	Policy	Total cost		E[Demand charge/ total cost]
		Mean	Standard deviation	
5 a.m. to 6 a.m.	Opt-1-min	1.046	1.144	0.361
	Opt-15minTo1min	1.061	1.163	0.370

- Algorithm 2 is very efficient and greatly reduces the computation time.

Algorithm 2 (Transform a 15-Minute Charging Policy x into a 1-Minute Implementable Policy y)

Input: 15-minute charging policy $x_{v,t}$

```

1 for 1-minute customer type  $v' \in [V']$  do
2   set  $s_v \leftarrow \lceil s_{v'}/15 \rceil$ ,  $\tau_v \leftarrow \lceil \tau_{v'}/15 \rceil$ ,  $v \leftarrow (s_v, \tau_v, u_{v'})$ ;
3   for 15-minute period  $t \in \{s_v, \dots, \tau_v\}$  do
4     compute the actual 1-minute stay duration  $S_t$ 
      of EV of type  $v'$  in period  $t$ ;
5     compute  $\bar{x}_{v,t} \leftarrow K/(15\eta) \cdot S_t$ ;
6   end
7   if  $s_v < \tau_v$  then
8     compute the excess charging quantity in arrival
      period  $E \leftarrow \max\{0, x_{v,s_v} - \bar{x}_{v,s_v}\}$ ;
9     update  $x_{v,s_v} \leftarrow x_{v,s_v} - E$ ; set  $t \leftarrow s_v + 1$ ;
10    while  $E > 0$  do
11      update  $x_{v,t} \leftarrow x_{v,t} + E$ ; compute  $E \leftarrow \max$ 
         $\{0, x_{v,t} - \bar{x}_{v,t}\}$ ;
12      update  $x_{v,t} \leftarrow x_{v,t} - E$ ; set  $t \leftarrow t + 1$ ;
13    end
14    compute the excess charging quantity in departure
      period  $E \leftarrow \max\{0, x_{v,\tau_v} - \bar{x}_{v,\tau_v}\}$ ;
15    update  $x_{v,\tau_v} \leftarrow x_{v,\tau_v} - E$ ; set  $t \leftarrow \tau_v - 1$ ;
16    while  $E > 0$  do
17      update  $x_{v,t} \leftarrow x_{v,t} + E$ ; compute  $E \leftarrow \max$ 
         $\{0, x_{v,t} - \bar{x}_{v,t}\}$ ;
18      update  $x_{v,t} \leftarrow x_{v,t} - E$ ; set  $t \leftarrow t - 1$ ;
19    end
20  end
21  for 1-minute period  $t' \in \{s_{v'}, \dots, \tau_{v'}\}$  do
22    set  $t \leftarrow \lceil t'/15 \rceil$ ; set  $y_{v',t} \leftarrow x_{v,t}/S_t$ ;
23  end
24 end
Output: 15minTo1min implementable charging
policy  $y_{v',t}$ 

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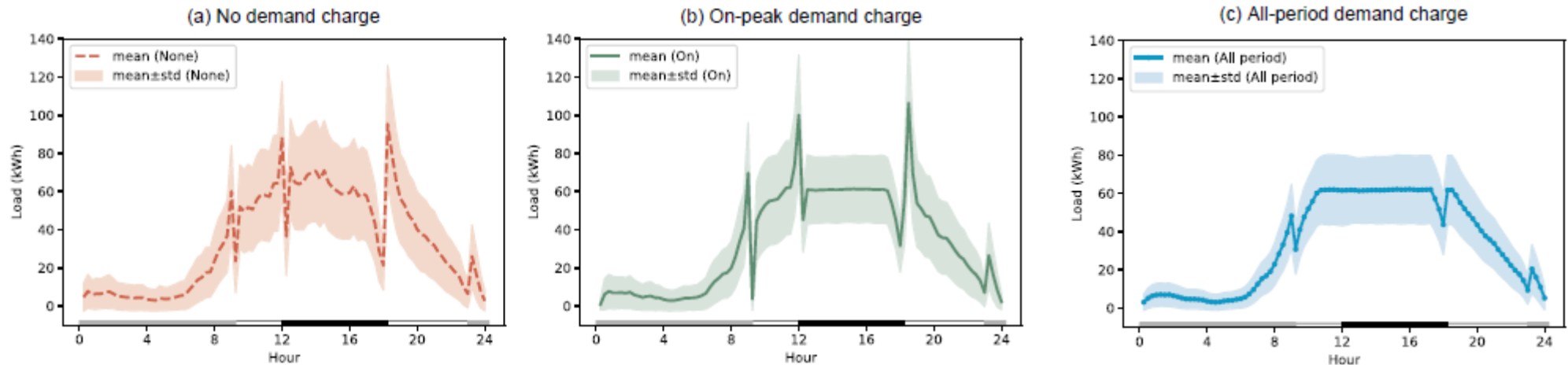
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Table 11. Performance Improvement of ECP-C over the Maximum-Speed Charging Policy

C	Total cost		Expected maximum load			
	Mean	Standard deviation	Overall	On-peak	Mid-peak	Off-peak
15	13.60%	27.87%	23.64%	23.56%	21.43%	10.33%
20	12.12%	25.49%	20.99%	20.68%	18.56%	8.41%
25	11.22%	21.80%	18.91%	19.00%	16.03%	8.70%
30	10.99%	19.02%	17.94%	18.89%	13.65%	8.59%

- Without making decisions about charging speed, the cost increases a lot.
- The charging load of the ECP is smoother, which is conducive to the battery maintenance of the EV.

Figure 5. (Color Online) Electricity Load Under ECP-C for Different Compositions of the Demand Charge Given $C = 30$



- Electricity load becomes smooth when consider all-period demand charge.



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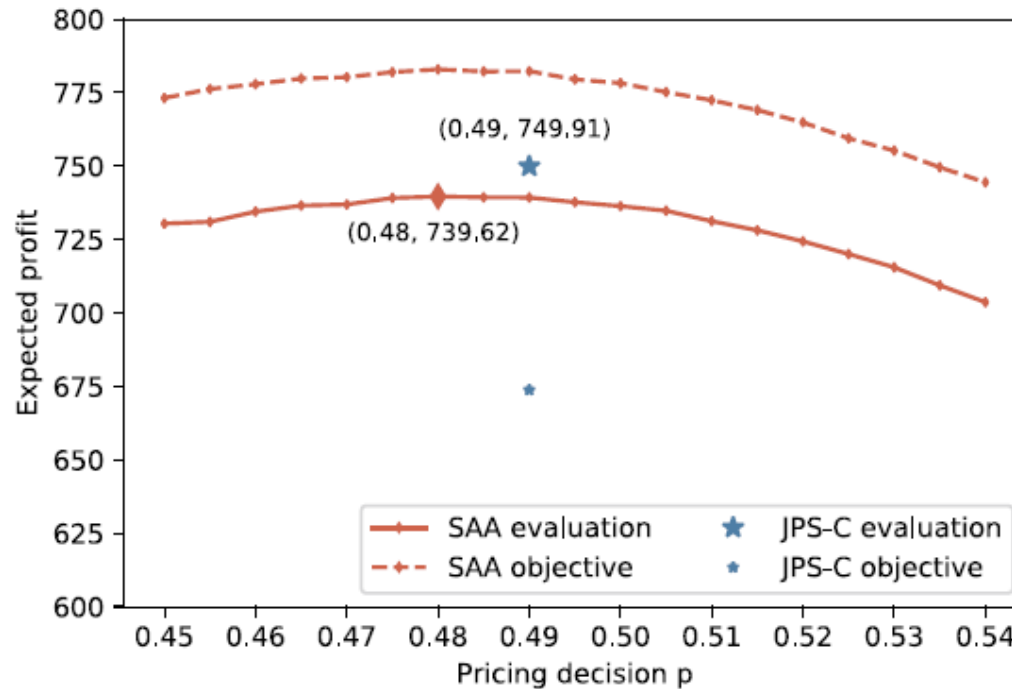
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Figure 7. (Color Online) Expected Profits Under SAA and JPS-C



- The optimal price $p = 0.48$ under SAA leads to an evaluation of the expected profits under SAA to be 739.62, lower than the expected profits under JPSC, which is 749.91.



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◆ Main Contribution

- Model fits well
- ECP performs well
- Extension studies well



Thanks for

Your Listening
