

Lecture 1: Balancing Renewable Generation

DTU Course 46770: Integrated Energy Grids

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Problem 1.1. Analysing solar and wind generation time series.

Note: It's recommended to get familiar with the pandas and matplotlib packages; these are Python packages commonly used for data science and plotting. The following tutorials can be helpful as an introduction or refresher: <https://aleks-g.github.io/integrated-energy-grids/intro-pandas.html>

In this exercise, you investigate the variability of wind and solar generation at different time scales. Select one country of your choice and plot the different representations described below.

Accessing the data

Time series for onshore wind capacity factors in European countries in the period 1979-2017 can be downloaded from <https://zenodo.org/record/3253876#.XSiV0EdS8l0>

Time series for solar PV capacity factors in European countries in the period 1979-2017 can be downloaded from <https://zenodo.org/record/2613651#.X0kbhDVS-uV> (select the file 'pvoptimal.csv')

If you want to model another country or region, you can get access to solar generation data using PVGIS. Select your location in the map, choose "hourly data", and turn on the option "PV power". For the database PVGIS-SARAH (satellite image data), you will be able to download data for the period 2005-2023. https://re.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pvg_tools/en/tools.html#HR

You can also get access to wind generation time series through the web application renewables.ninja which is based on reanalysis data (MERRA-2). After registering, you will be able to download data for the period 2000-2018. <https://www.renewables.ninja/>.

Electricity and heating demand time series are available at

<https://github.com/aleks-g/integrated-energy-grids/tree/main/integrated-energy-grids/Problems/data>

Plotting and analysing the data

1. Start by plotting the capacity factors for wind and solar throughout the first two weeks in January and the first two weeks in July. Do this for the most recent year for which you have available data.
2. Calculate the average daily capacity factor and plot them for the entire year. Do the same for weekly and monthly capacity factors. Based on steps 1 and 2, what are the dominant frequencies for every technology?
3. One useful way of investigating the previous question is to calculate the Fast Fourier Transform (FTT) power spectra of the time series. Do so and plot the power spectra for wind and solar capacity factor time series. Are these results in agreement with steps 1 and 2?
4. Plot the duration curve (sorted capacity factors values) for every technology. What percentage of the potential wind and solar energy will be lost if the potential generation is curtailed for the 10 hours with the highest capacity factors? What if curtailment affects the 100 hours with the highest capacity factors?

5. Calculate the ramps for every technology for every hour of the year. We define the **ramp in hour t** as the *difference between the capacity factor in hour t and the capacity factor in the previous hour $t - 1$* . Plot the distribution of ramps for wind and solar. Which technology has the higher variability?
6. Let us now look at the interannual variability. For every technology, calculate the annual capacity factor for the most recent year for which you have data. Then, calculate the annual capacity factor for every year for which you have data. Estimate the average value for all the years and the year-to-year variance.
7. Repeat steps 1 to 5 for the electricity and heating demand time series.

Problem 1.2. The solar and wind generation in a country can be represented, respectively, by the sinusoidal waves $g_S(t)$ and $g_W(t)$.

$$g_S(t) = C_S \cdot CF_S (1 + \sin(\frac{2\pi}{24}t)) \text{ GW} \quad (1)$$

$$g_W(t) = C_W \cdot CF_W (1 + 0.9 \sin(\frac{2\pi}{168}t)) \text{ GW}, \quad (2)$$

where C_S and C_W represent the installed capacity of solar and wind energy, respectively. Assume that $CF_S=0.15$ and $CF_W=0.25$ represent the annual capacity factors for solar and wind and t the hour throughout the year, i.e., t takes values from 0 to 8759. The country has a constant electricity load of 1 GW.

- a) Calculate the installed solar capacity that would be necessary to cover the electricity load, on average.
- b) Calculate the installed wind capacity that would be necessary to cover the electricity load, on average.
- c) Calculate the main characteristics of the ideal storage (power capacity, energy capacity, and charge time) that balances the mismatch between solar generation and load in a).
- d) Calculate the main characteristics of the ideal storage (power capacity, energy capacity, and charge time) that balances the mismatch between wind generation and load in b).

Problem 1.3.

Using the sinusoidal waves defined in Equations (1)-(2) in Problem 1.2, we want to investigate the impact of the wind and solar capacities on the balancing needs of a power system. To that end, we define the following parameters:

The parameter γ is defined as the ratio between annual renewable generation (sum of wind and solar) and the annual electricity demand

$$\gamma = \frac{\sum_t g_t^S + \sum_t g_t^W}{\sum_t d_t}. \quad (3)$$

The parameter α is defined as the average share of wind in renewable energy generation:

$$\alpha = \frac{\sum_t g_t^W}{\sum_t g_t^S + \sum_t g_t^W} \quad (4)$$

We define the mismatch Δ_t as the difference in every hour, between the renewable generation and the load, that is:

$$\Delta_t = g_t^S + g_t^W - d_t. \quad (5)$$

[Later, $-\Delta_t$ will be called *net load* (or residual load), a common measure on how much demand needs to be covered after variable renewables.]

The total backup energy E_B that needs to be produced to ensure that demand is supplied every hour can be calculated as the sum of negative mismatch values:

$$E_B = \sum_0^{8759} \Delta_t^-. \quad (6)$$

The capacity of the backup generation C_B that is needed to ensure that demand is supplied every hour can be calculated as the maximum of the absolute value of the negative mismatch values:

$$C_B = \max(|\Delta_t^-|). \quad (7)$$

The total curtailed energy can be calculated as the sum of positive mismatch values.

$$E_C = \sum_0^{8759} \Delta_t^+. \quad (8)$$

- a) Assume that the installed capacities for solar PV and wind power are those required to produce, on average, 50% of the annual electricity demand with every technology (i.e., the capacities are 0.5 times the values calculated in sections (a) and (b) in Problem 1.2). Calculate total backup energy E_B , backup capacity C_B and curtailed energy E_C .
- b) Assuming $\gamma=1$, calculate and plot the total backup energy E_B , backup capacity C_B and curtailed energy E_C for α values ranging from 0 to 1. Which combination of solar and wind generation (i.e., which α value) minimises the required backup energy? Which combination of solar and wind generation minimises the required backup capacity?
- c) Calculate and plot the backup energy E_B , backup capacity C_B and curtailed energy E_C for α values ranging from 0 to 1 and γ values ranging from 0 to 1 and discuss the results.

This problem is based on the paper by Heide *et al.*, *Seasonal optimal mix of wind and solar power in a future, highly renewable Europe*, *Renewable Energy* 35 (2010). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2010.03.012>

Problem 1.4. Select a country and one city within this country. Plot the duration curve of capacity factor time series for solar PV and wind power in both cases and discuss the results. You can download solar PV and wind time series from <https://model.energy/>.

Problem 1.5 (Optional). The objective of this problem is to calculate the local correlation length for wind velocity and solar irradiation. We will use the climate reanalysis dataset ERA5 and weather data corresponding to 2013 that can be downloaded from <https://zenodo.org/records/15349674>

- a) Select one location in Europe, identify in which grid cell it is located and calculate its distance from the other grid cells.
- b) Calculate the Pearson correlation coefficient from the wind time series and plot the coefficients versus the distance.
- c) Fit the data to an exponential curve and determine the correlation length.
- d) Repeat (b) and (c) for the solar irradiation time series.