



ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl

A Closed-Loop Prediction and Optimization Approach

Joaquim Dias Garcia (Soma Energy)

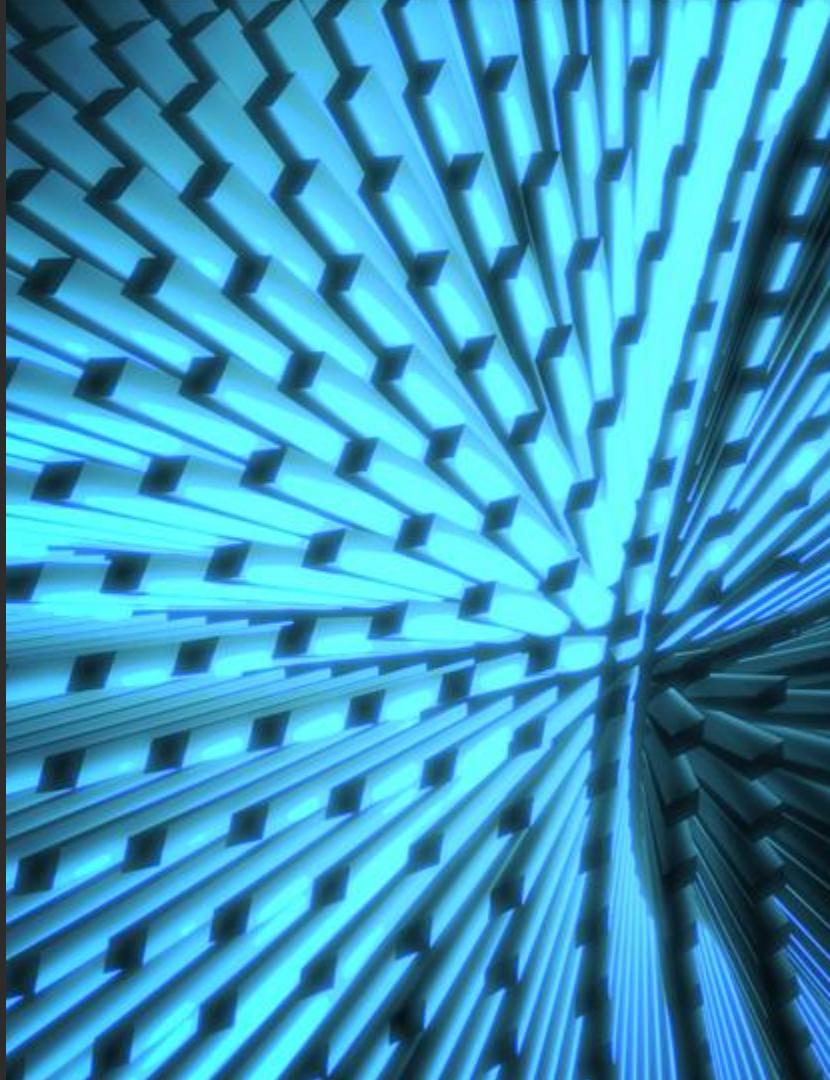
Giovanni Amorin (PUC-Rio, Brazil)

Alexandre Street (PUC-Rio, Brazil)

Package: <https://github.com/LAMPSPUC/ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl>

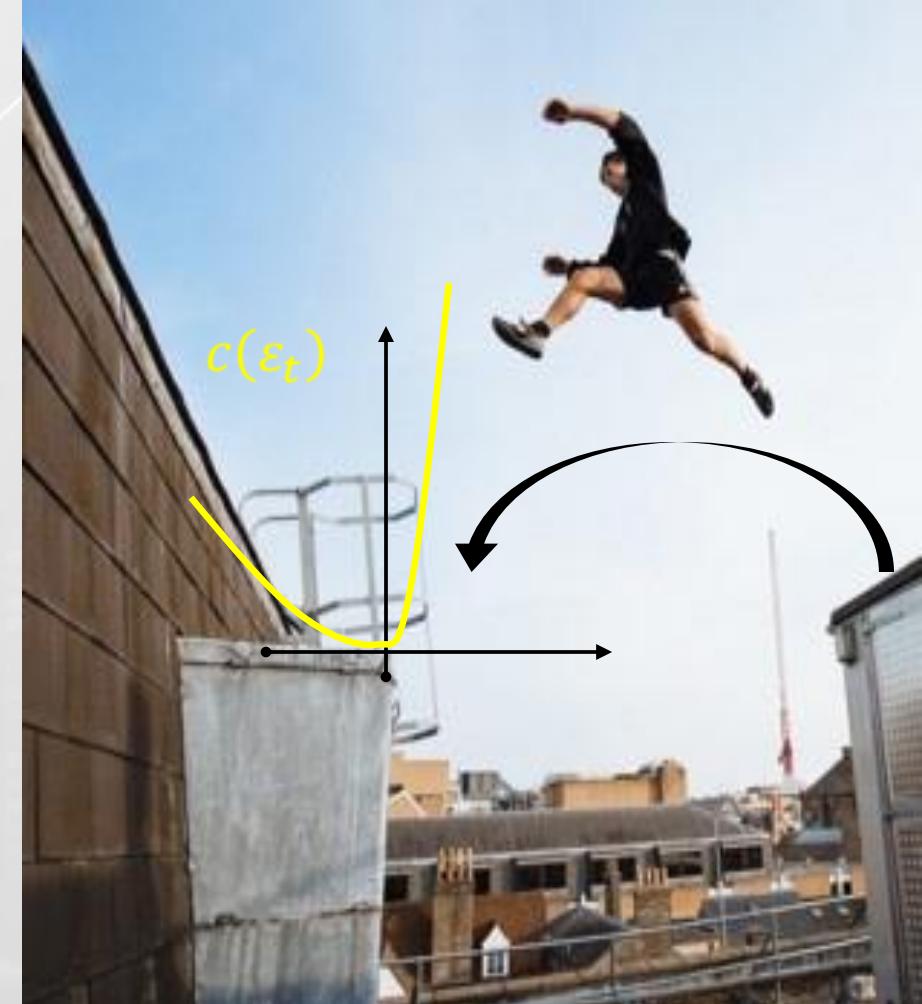
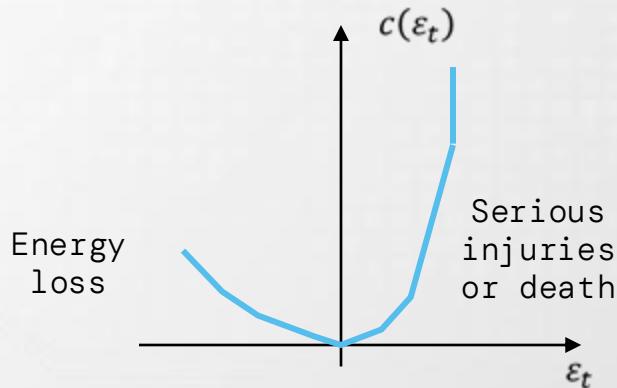
Theory paper: 10.1287/opre.2023.0565 (or <https://arxiv.org/abs/2102.13273>)

November 17th, 2025 - JuMP-dev 2025, Auckland, New Zealand



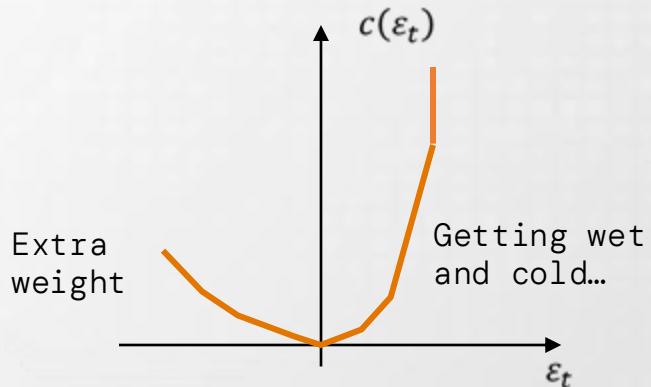
Motivation: Asymmetric costs

- **Parkour:** forecasted targets are biased

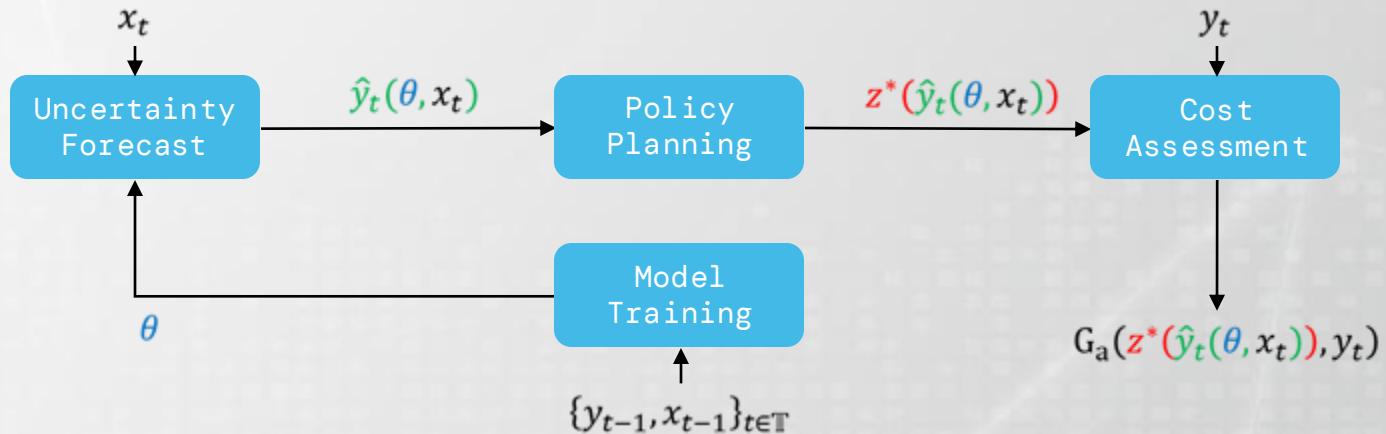


Motivation: Asymmetric costs

- **Weather:** forecasted targets are biased



The general model: Open-Loop



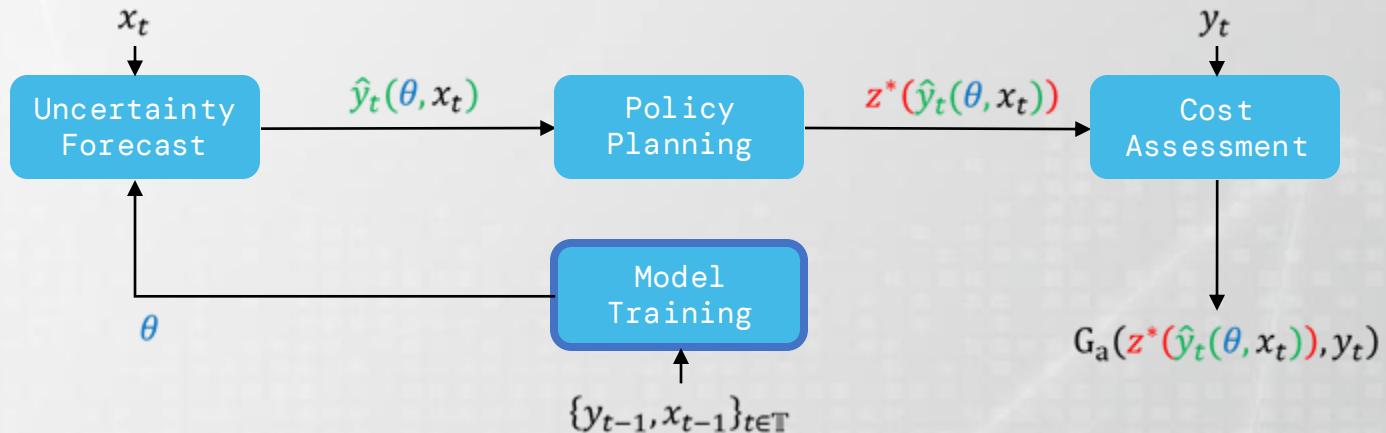
Train Load Forecast and Reserve Model

Forecast Loads and Reserve Requirements

Plan the Operation

Re-Dispatch Resources in Real Time

The general model: Open-Loop



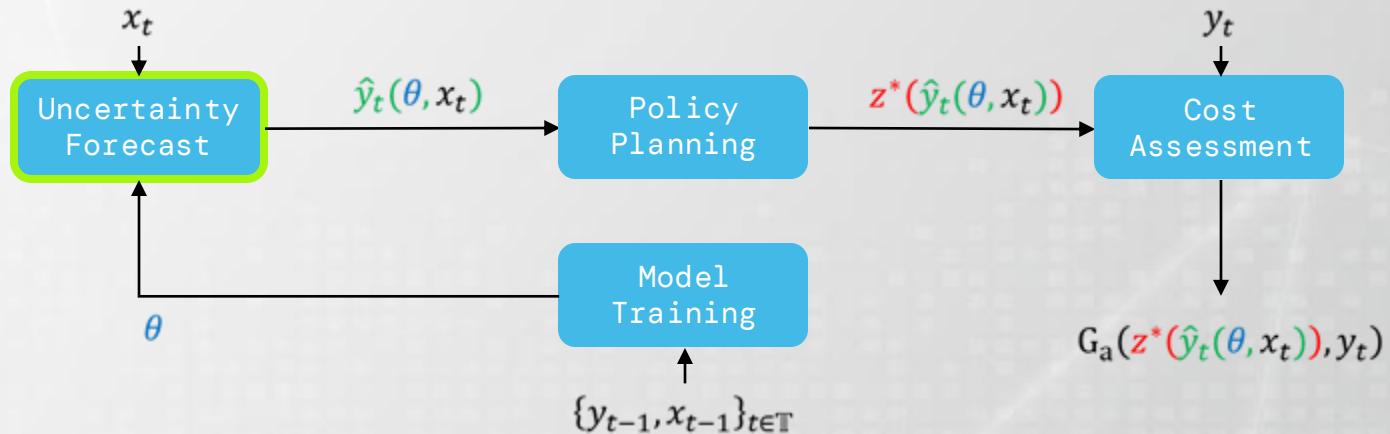
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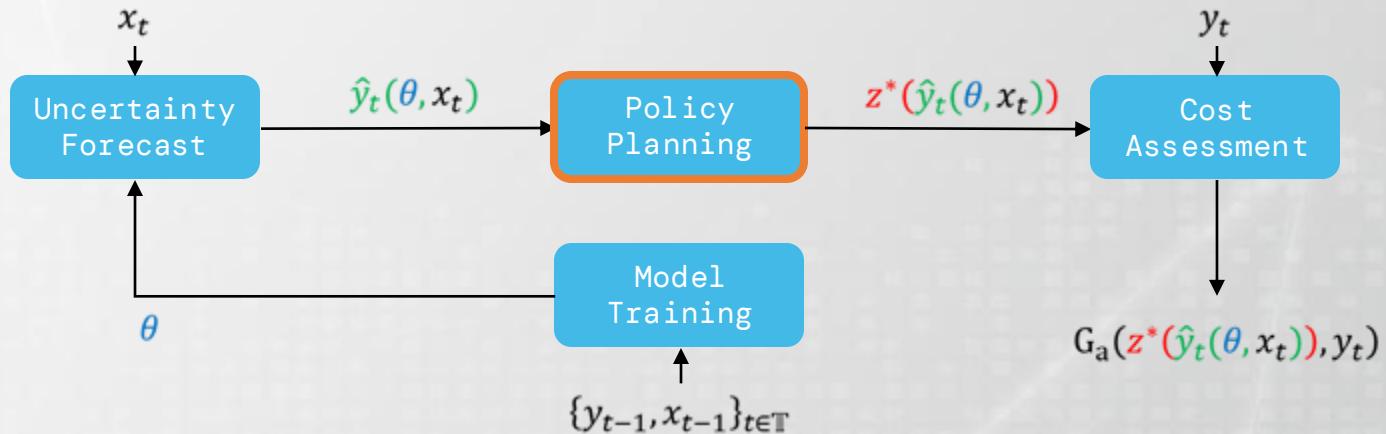
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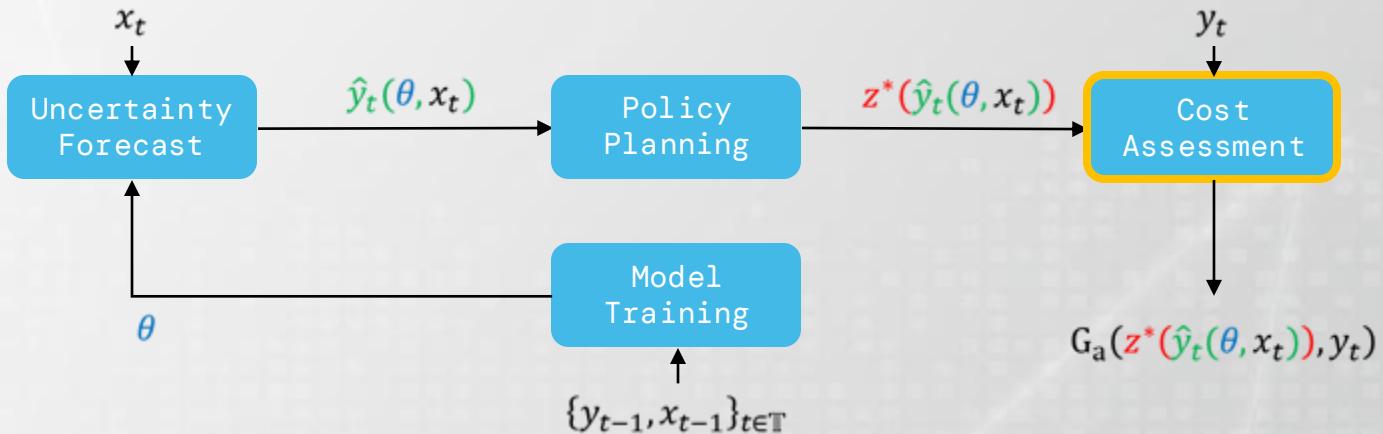
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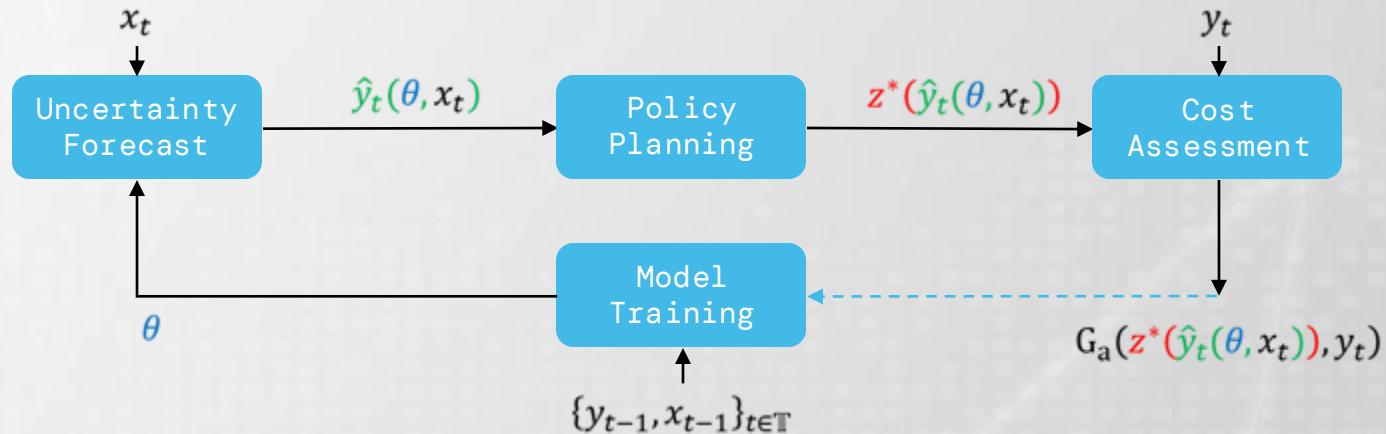
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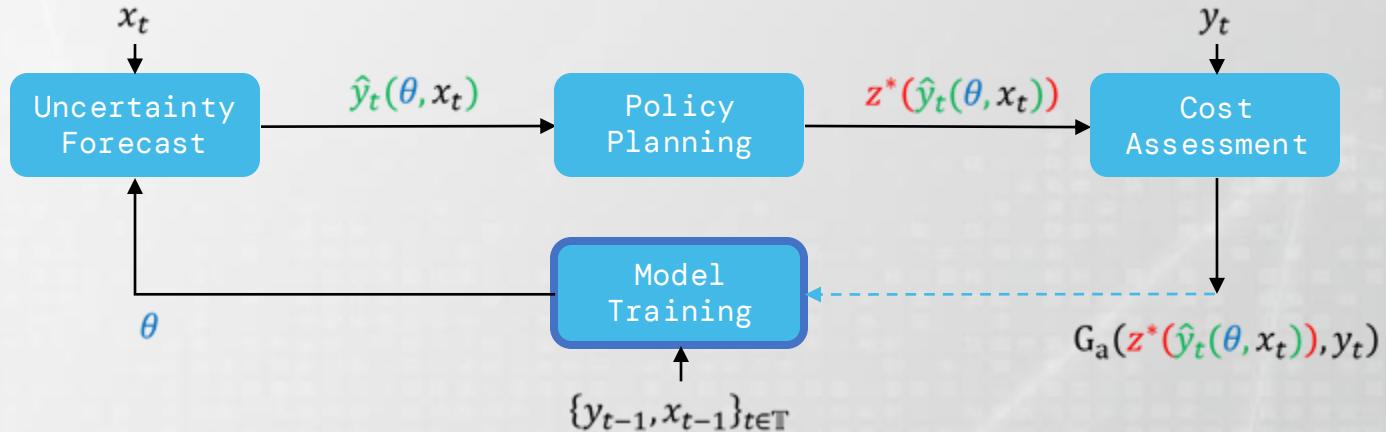
Re-Dispatch Resources in Real Time

The general model: Closing the Loop



- | |
|---|
| Train Load Forecast and Reserve Model |
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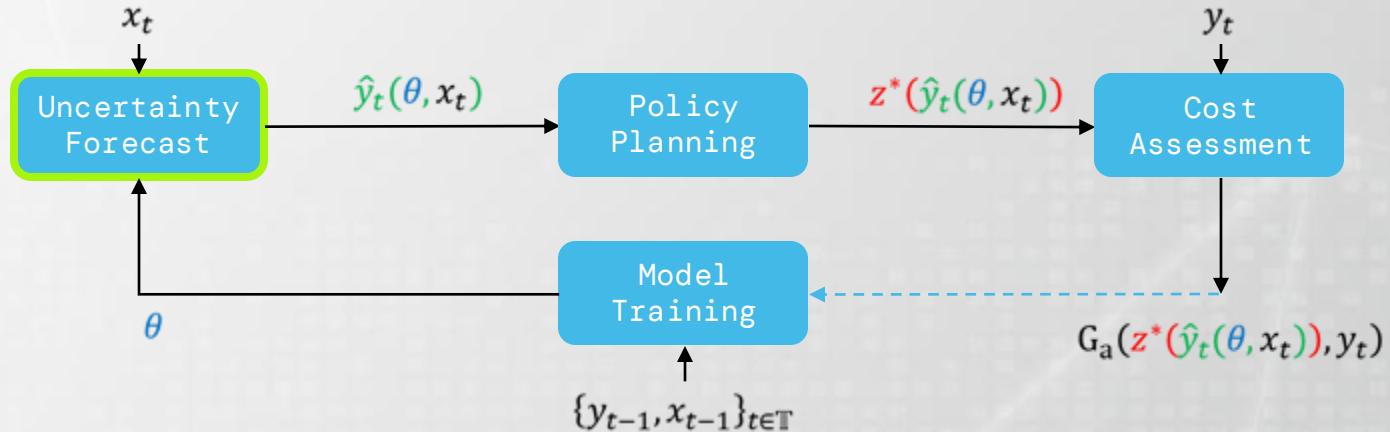
Re-Dispatch Resources in Real Time

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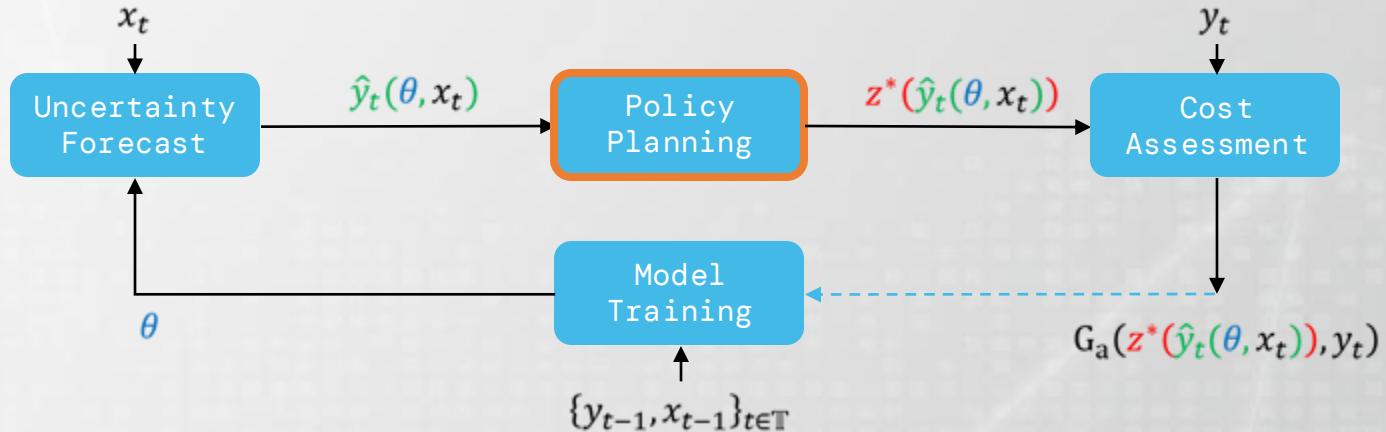
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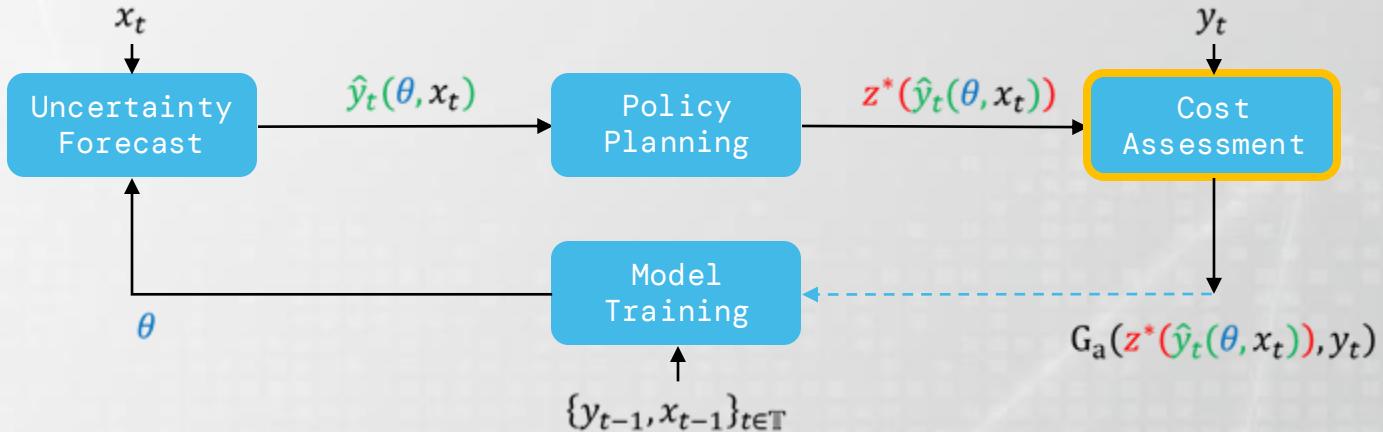
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Convergence

Assumptions

- Policy Planning has a unique solution. Define $\zeta(y) := \operatorname{argmin}_{z \in Z} G_p(z, y)$
- The set Z is non-empty and bounded
- Feasible set of the dual of Cost Assessment function is non-empty and bounded
- Forecasting function is continuous in both arguments
- Forecast parameter are in Θ , which is compact
- Forecast target Y_t which is stationary, ergodic and integrable
- Context X_t is a measurable function of Y_t

Result

Hence $\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} d(\theta_T, S^*) = 0$ wp1, for $S^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\theta \in \Theta} \mathbb{E} [G_a(\zeta(\Psi(\theta, X)), Y)]$

For more

Home > Operations Research > Vol. 73, No. 1 >

Application-Driven Learning: A Closed-Loop Prediction and Optimization Approach Applied to Dynamic Reserves and Demand Forecasting

Joaquim Dias Garcia , Alexandre Street , Tito Homem-de-Mello , Francisco D. Muñoz 

Published Online: 9 Sep 2024 | <https://doi.org/10.1287/opre.2023.0565>



Solution method: MILP

$$\theta_T \in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta, \hat{y}_t, z_t^*}$$

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{T}} G_a(z_t^*, y_t)$$

s.t.

$$\hat{y}_t = \Psi(\theta, x_t) \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T}$$

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Linear models

$$G_i(z, y) = c_i^\top z + Q_i(z, y)$$

$$Q_i(z, y) = \min_u \{q_i^\top u \mid W_i u \geq b_i - H_i z + F_i y\}$$



KKT based MPEC reformulation

$$\min_{\theta \in \Theta, \hat{y}_t, z_t^*, u_t, \pi_t}$$

$$\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{T}} [c_a^\top z_t^* + Q_a(z_t^*, y_t)]$$

s.t.

$\forall t \in \mathbb{T} :$

$$\hat{y}_t = \Psi(\theta, x_t)$$

$$W_p y_t + H_p z_t^* \geq b_p + F_p \hat{y}_t$$

$$A z_t^* \geq h$$

$$W_p^\top \pi_t = q_p$$

$$H_p^\top \pi_t + A^\top \mu_t = c_p$$

$$\pi_t, \mu_t \geq 0$$

$$\pi_t \perp W_p u_t + H_p z_t^* - b_p - F_p \hat{y}_t$$

$$\mu_t \perp A z_t^* - h$$

Solution method: MILP with BilevelJuMP.jl

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\theta, \hat{y}_t, z_t, u_t^a, u_t} \quad & \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{T}} c_a^\top z_t^* + q_a^\top u_t^a \\ \text{s.t. } \forall t \in \mathbb{T}: \quad & C\theta \geq g \\ & \hat{y}_t = \theta^\top x_t \\ & W_a u_t^a \geq b_a - H_a z_t + F_a y_t \\ & z_t \in \arg \min_{z_t, u_t} c_p^\top z_t + q_p^\top u_t \\ & \quad W_p u_t \geq b_p - H_p z_t + F_p \hat{y}_t \\ & \quad A z_t \geq h \end{aligned}$$

```
m = BilevelModel()

@variable(Upper(m), θ[1:L])
@variable(Upper(m), y[1:M,1:T])
@variable(Lower(m), u[1:N,1:T])
@variable(Lower(m), z[1:P,1:T])
@variable(Upper(m), ua[1:Q,1:T])

@objective(Upper(m),
    Min, 1/T * Σ(ca'z[:,t] + qa'ua[:,t] for t ∈ T))
@constraint(Upper(m), C*θ ≥ g)
for t ∈ T
    @constraint(Upper(m),
        y_hat[:,t] = θ'x[:,t])
    @constraint(Upper(m),
        Wa * ua[:,t] ≥ ba - Ha * z[:,t] + Fa * y[:,t])
end

@objective(Lower(m),
    Min, Σ(cp'z[:,t] + qp'u[:,t] for t ∈ T))
for t ∈ T
    @constraint(Lower(m),
        A * z[:,t] ≥ h)
    @constraint(Lower(m),
        Wp * u[:,t] ≥ bp - Hp * z[:,t] + Fp * y_hat[:,t])
end
```

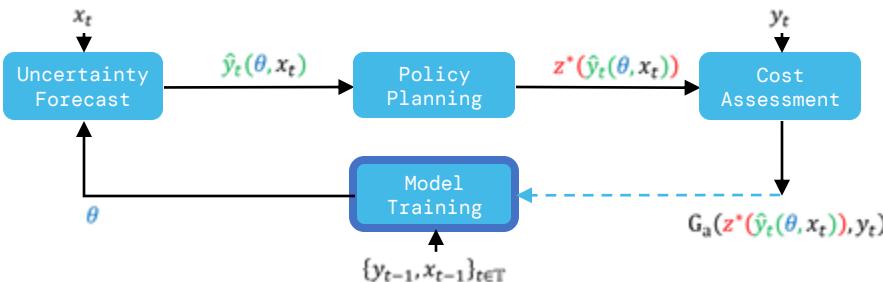


Solution method: Scalable Heuristic

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Algorithm 1: Pseudo algorithm

Result: Optimized θ

Initialize θ ;

while Not converged **do**

Update θ ;

for $t \in \mathbb{T}$ **do**

Forecast: $\hat{y}_t \leftarrow \Psi(\theta, x_t)$;

Plan Policy: $z_t^* \leftarrow \arg \min_{z \in Z} G_p(z, \hat{y}_t)$;

Cost Assessment: $cost_t \leftarrow G_a(z_t^*, y_t)$

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end

Compute cost: $cost(\theta) \leftarrow \sum_{t \in \mathbb{T}} (cost_t)$

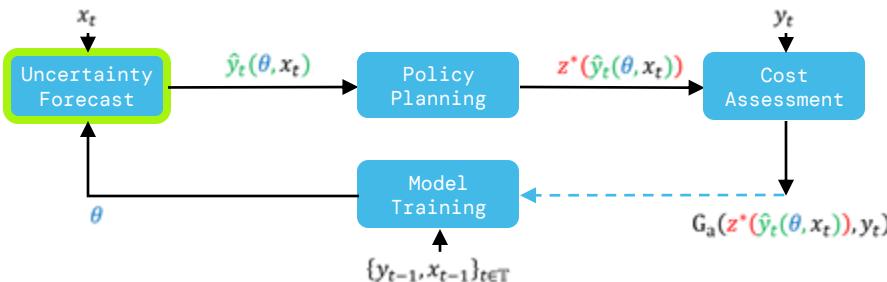
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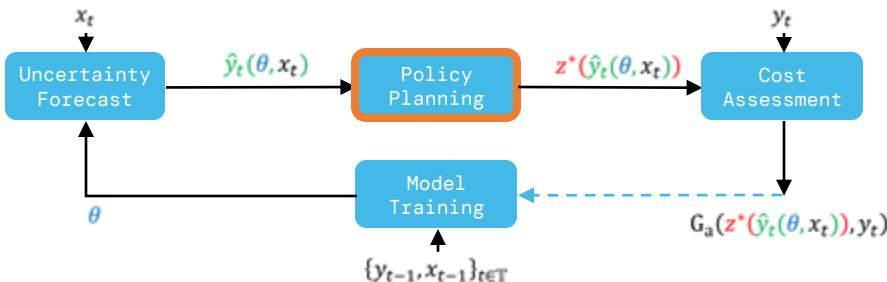
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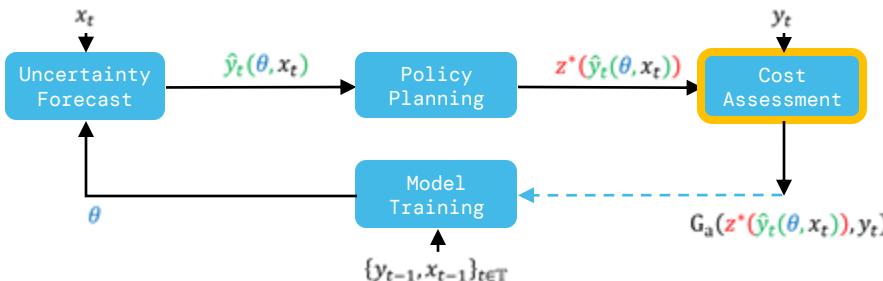
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Solution method: Scalable Heuristic

Naïve choice of “Update θ ” : zero order methods like Nelder Mead

Pros:

- Simplicity: forecast, planning and assess models can be basically anything as long as we can compute final costs efficiently.

Cons:

- Search method for cost minimization not smartly guided by problem structure and can take long time.
- For high-cardinality model parameters, can become intractable.



Solution method: Scalable Heuristic

Another choice of “Update θ ” : first order methods like Gradient Descent

$$C_t = \text{Cost}(z^*(\Psi(\theta, x_t)), y_t)$$

$$\hat{y}_t = \Psi(\theta, x_t)$$

$$\frac{\partial C_t}{\partial \theta} = \frac{\partial C_t}{\partial z^*} \cdot \frac{\partial z^*}{\partial \hat{y}_t} \cdot \frac{\partial \Psi(\theta, x_t)}{\partial \theta}$$

Solution from the
dual problem



Differentiable
Optimization



Automatic
Differentiation

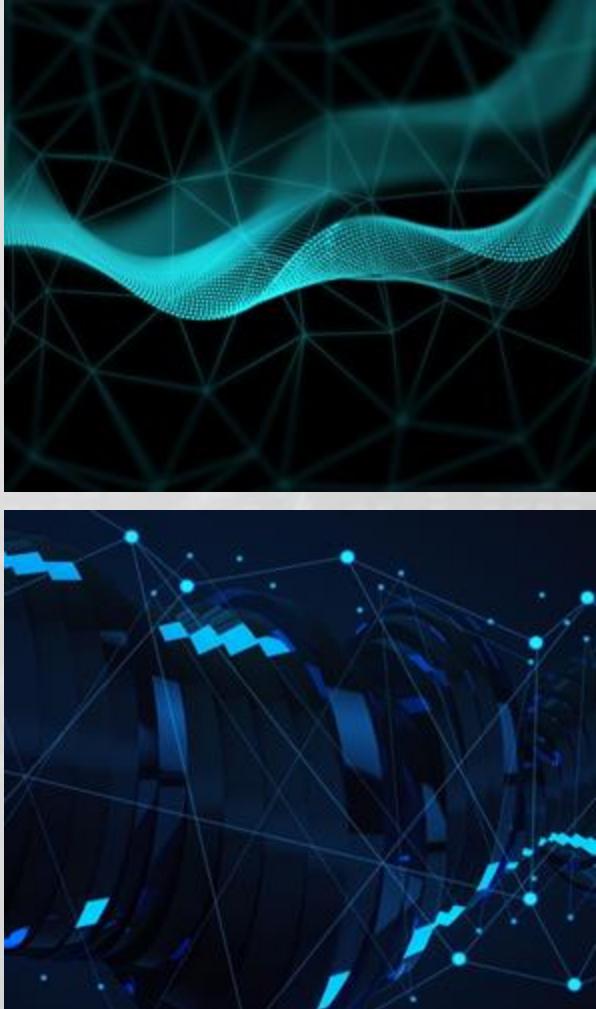


The New Package

- The ***ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl*** package presents an easy way of training models in the closed loop fashion.

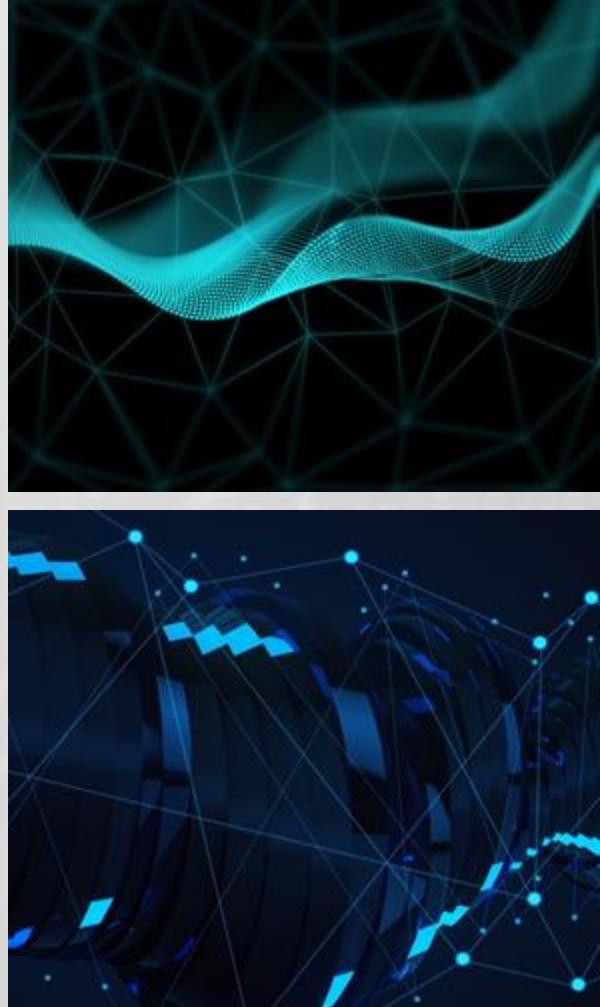
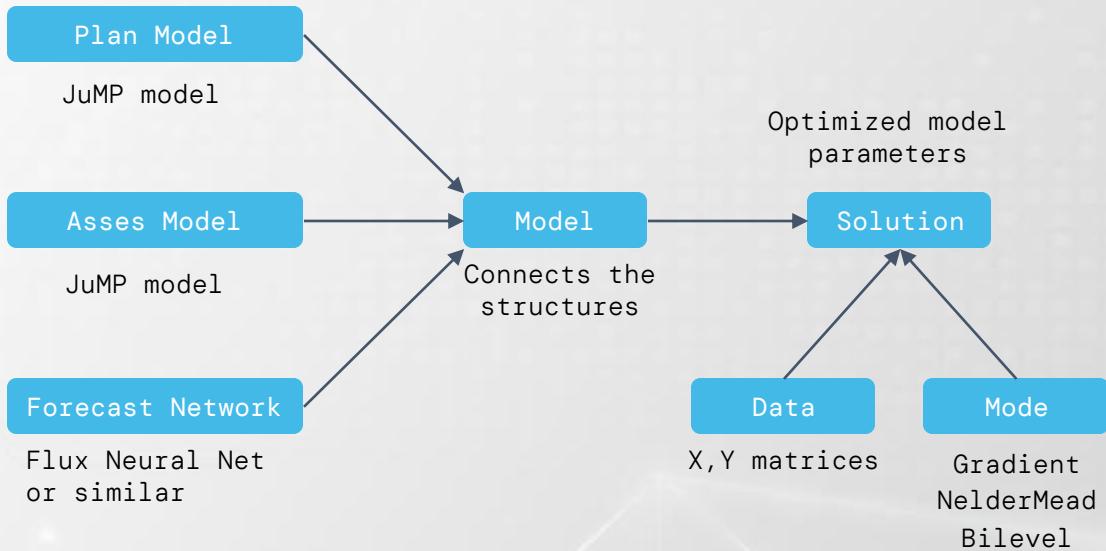
The screenshot shows the homepage of the **ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl Documentation**. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links to GitHub, a search icon, settings, and a dropdown menu. Below the header, the title "ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl Documentation" is prominently displayed. Under the title, there's a section titled "Introduction" which provides a brief overview of the package. A code block below shows how to install the package using Julia's Pkg system. The overall design is clean and modern, using a dark background with white and light blue text.

```
import Pkg  
  
Pkg.add("ApplicationDrivenLearning") # not working yet! clone the repo instead  
  
using ApplicationDrivenLearning
```



The Package

- The ***ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl*** package presents an easy way of training models in the closed loop fashion.



The Package

- **Solution methods**

- Bilevel Optimization: JuMP.jl + BilevelJuMP.jl
- Nelder Mead: JuMP.jl + Optim.jl
- Gradient Descent: JuMP.jl + DiffOpt.jl + Flux.jl

- **Problem classes**

- Linear & Quadratic
- Conic
- Non-Linear

- **Other features**

- MPI parallelism
- Solver agnostic (use your favorite)



The Package: Example

```
# data
X = ones(30, 1)
Y = rand(DiscreteUniform(0, 1), (30, 1)) .* 2

# main model and policy / forecast variables
model = ApplicationDrivenLearning.AppDrivenModel()
@variables(model, begin
    z, ApplicationDrivenLearning.Policy
    θ, ApplicationDrivenLearning.Forecast
end)

# plan model
@variables(ApplicationDrivenLearning.Plan(model), begin
    c1 ≥ 0
    c2 ≥ 0
end)
@constraints(ApplicationDrivenLearning.Plan(model), begin
    c1 ≥ 100 * (θ.plan - z.plan)
    c2 ≥ 20 * (z.plan - θ.plan)
end)
@objective(ApplicationDrivenLearning.Plan(model), Min, 10*z.plan + c1 + c2)

# assess model
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```



The Package: Example



```
# basic setting
set_optimizer(model, HiGHS.Optimizer)
set_silent(model)

# forecast model
nn = Chain(Dense(1 => 1; bias=false))
ApplicationDrivenLearning.set_forecast_model(model, nn)

# training and getting solution
sol = ApplicationDrivenLearning.train!(
    model,
    X,
    Y,
    ApplicationDrivenLearning.Options(
        ApplicationDrivenLearning.NelderMeadMode
    )
)
sol.params
sol.cost / 30 | 38.666676f0
```

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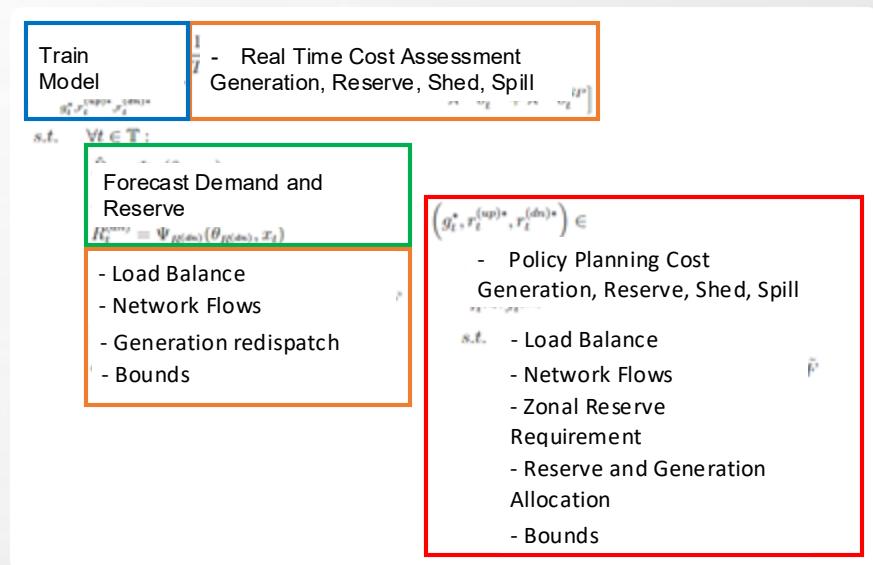
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# basic setting
set_optimizer(model, HiGHS.Optimizer)
set_silent(model)

# forecast model
nn = Chain(Dense(1 => 1; bias=false))
ApplicationDrivenLearning.set_forecast_model(model, nn)

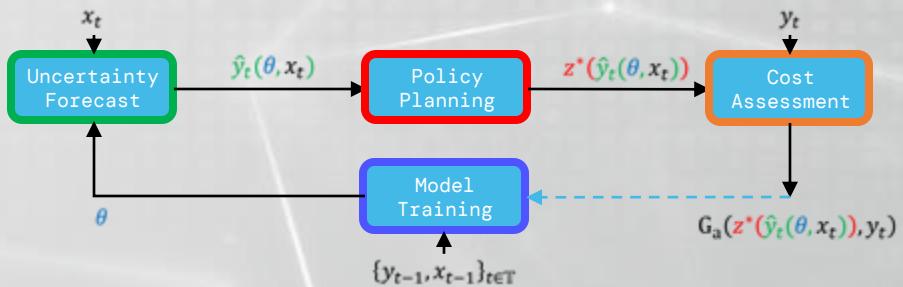
# training and getting solution
sol = ApplicationDrivenLearning.train!(
    model,
    X,
    Y,
    ApplicationDrivenLearning.Options(
        ApplicationDrivenLearning.NelderMeadMode
    )
)
sol.params
sol.cost / 30 | 38.666676f0
```



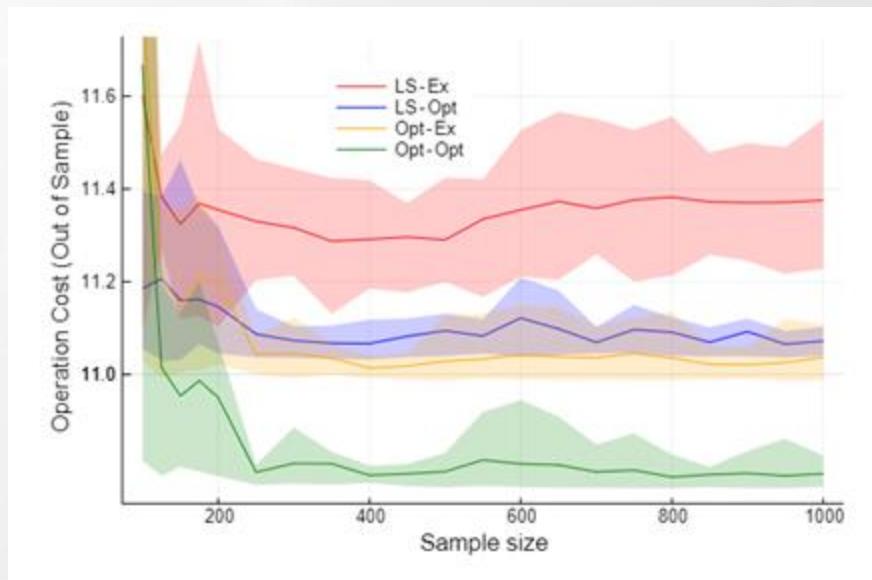
Application Driven Model for Load and Reserve



$$\begin{aligned} \theta_T &\in \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta, \hat{y}_t, z_t^*} \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t \in \mathbb{T}} G_a(z_t^*, y_t) \\ \text{s.t. } \hat{y}_t &= \Psi(\theta, x_t) \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T} \\ z_t^* &\in \arg \min_{z \in Z} G_p(z, \hat{y}_t) \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{T} \end{aligned}$$

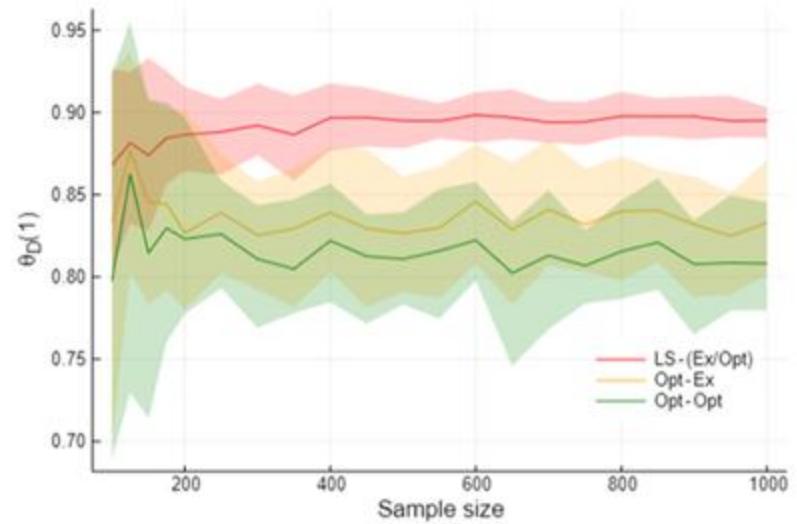
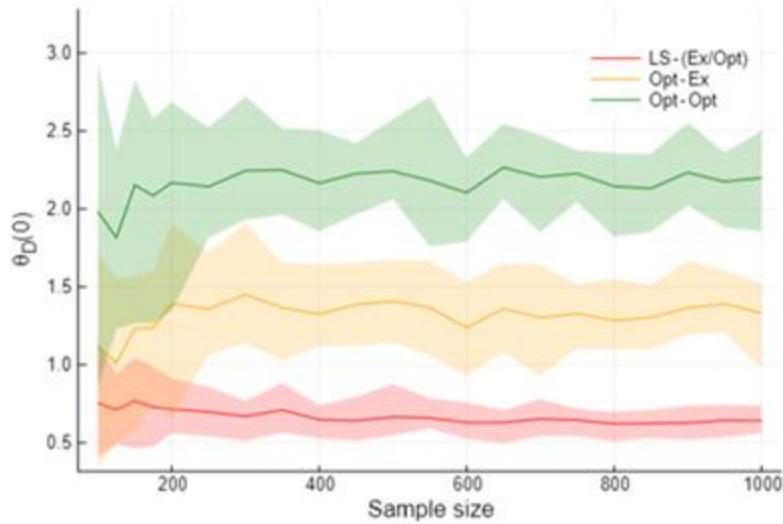


Case Study: Convergence of Objective

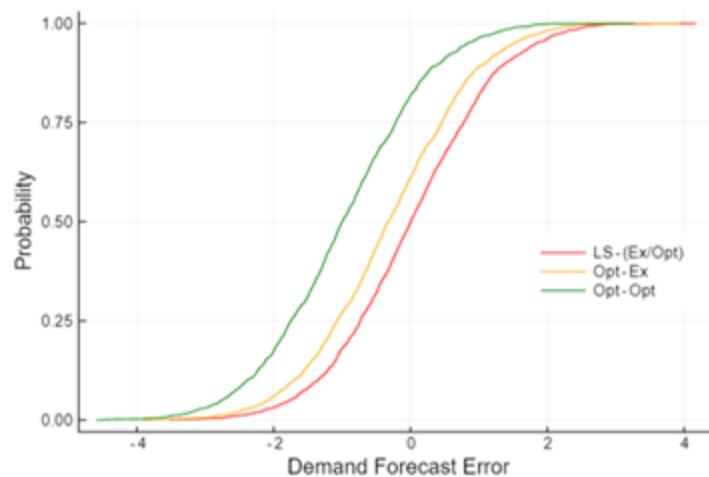
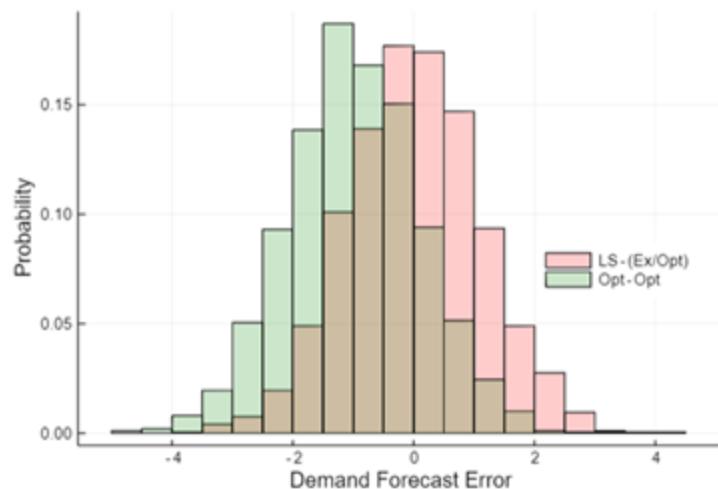


- LS-Ex (red)
Least-Squares load
Exogenous reserves
- LS-Opt (blue)
Least-Squares load
Optimized reserves
- Opt-Ex (yellow)
Optimized load
Exogenous reserves
- Opt-Opt (green)
Optimized load
Optimized reserves

Case Study: Convergence of Solution



Case Study: Biased forecast



Case Study: Multiple methods

N Buses	LS	MPI-NM	MPI-GD	GD
24	7.608,62	7.617,16 (-0,11%)	7.627,59 (-0,25%)	7.604,44 (0,05%)
118	11.515,94	11.177,89 (2,94%)	10.572,90 (8,19%)	10.579,62 (8,13%)
179	123.313,02	113.038,81 (8,33%)	82.549,92 (33,06%)	90.703,52 (26,44%)
240	801.135,26	-	760.829,71 (5,03%)	767.958,60 (4,14%)
300	82.968,84	-	76.625,42 (7,65%)	76.313,26 (8,02%)
500	29.154,24	-	29.051,50 (0,35%)	29.061,10 (0,32%)
588	33.496,56	-	29.362,07 (12,34%)	30.577,54 (8,71%)
793	48.403,34	-	37.940,31 (21,62%)	42.558,32 (12,08%)
1354	176.562,56	-	172.565,10 (2,26%)	-

The end

- **Package:**

- github.com/LAMPSPUC/ApplicationDrivenLearning.jl
- Friendly interface
- Multiple solution methods and solvers
- HPC Ready

- **Method:**

- Outperformed open-loop framework
- Optimal forecasts are BIASED
- Meaningful improvements even in very large-scale systems
- Can be used in practice

