

# A Novel Machine Learning Approach for Solving Optimal Transmission Switching

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# Outline

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Methodology
- 3 Computational Experience
- 4 Conclusions and Further Research

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Mathematical  
Optimization

Machine  
Learning

Combine knowledge from both worlds

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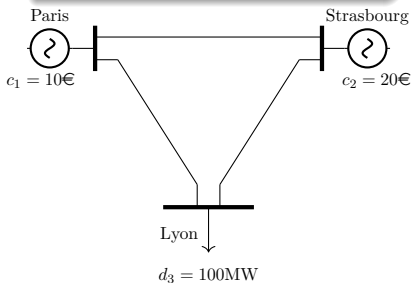
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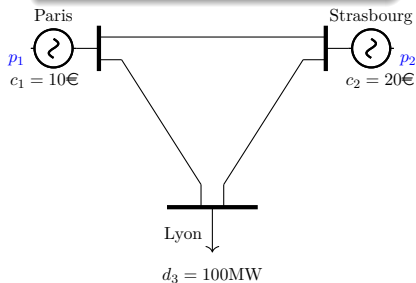
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## Optimal Power Flow (OPF)



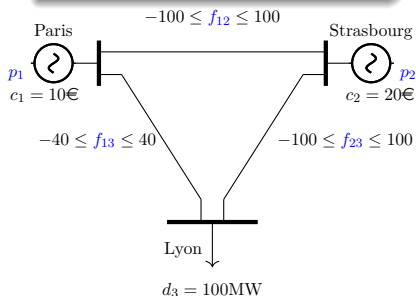
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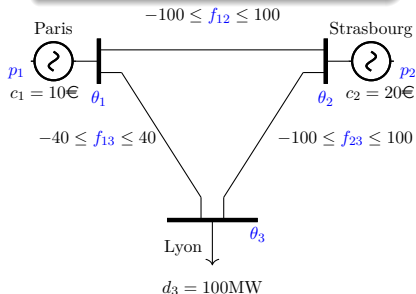
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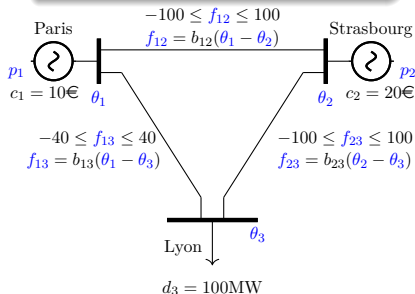
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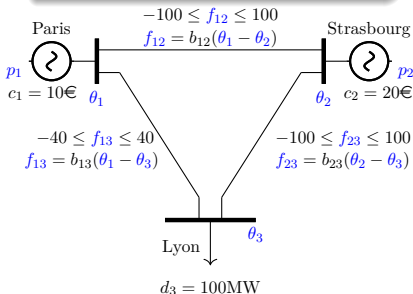
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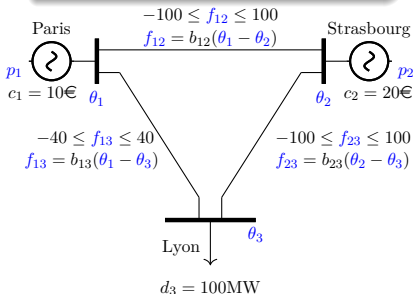
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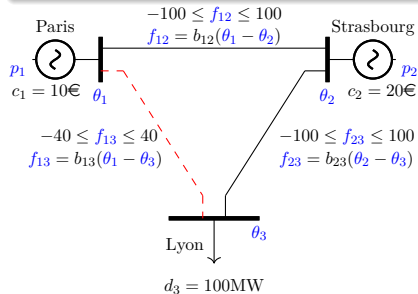
- Balance constraints.
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- $p_1^* = 20, p_2^* = 80$ .
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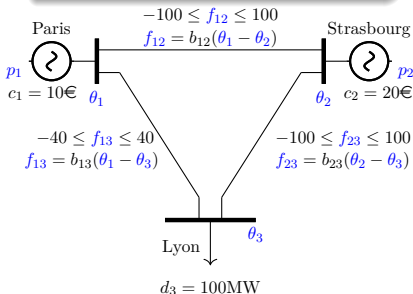
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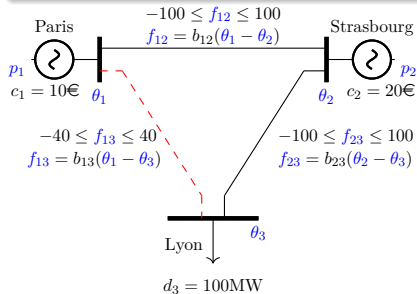
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## Optimal Transmission Switching



- Switchable lines,  $\mathcal{L}_S$ .
- Binary variables  $x_{nm}, \forall (n, m) \in \mathcal{L}_S$ .
- Minimizing costs.  $Cost^* = 1000\text{€}$ .
- $p_1^* = 100, p_2^* = 0$ .
- $\theta_1^* = 200, \theta_2^* = 100, \theta_3^* = 0$ .
- $f_{12}^* = 100, f_{13}^* = 0, f_{23}^* = 100$ .

# Optimal Transmission Switching (OTS)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min_{p_n, f_{nm}, \theta_n, x_{nm}} & \sum_n c_n p_n \\ \text{s.t.} & \underline{p}_n \leq p_n \leq \bar{p}_n, \quad \forall n \in \mathcal{N} \\ & \sum_{(n,m) \in \mathcal{L}_n^-} f_{nm} - \sum_{(n,m) \in \mathcal{L}_n^+} f_{nm} = p_n - d_n, \quad \forall n \in \mathcal{N} \\ & f_{nm} = x_{nm} b_{nm} (\theta_n - \theta_m), \quad \forall (n,m) \in \mathcal{L}_S \\ & -x_{nm} \bar{f}_{nm} \leq f_{nm} \leq x_{nm} \bar{f}_{nm}, \quad \forall (n,m) \in \mathcal{L}_S \\ & f_{nm} = b_{nm} (\theta_n - \theta_m), \quad \forall (n,m) \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \mathcal{L}_S \\ & -\bar{f}_{nm} \leq f_{nm} \leq \bar{f}_{nm}, \quad \forall (n,m) \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \mathcal{L}_S \\ & x_{nm} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall (n,m) \in \mathcal{L}_S \\ & \theta_1 = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

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- MINLP because  $x_{nm}(\theta_n - \theta_m)$ .
- NP-hard problem.



# Optimal Transmission Switching (OTS)

Original constraint

$$f_{nm} = x_{nm} b_{nm} (\theta_n - \theta_m)$$

Reformulation using big-Ms

$$b_{nm}(\theta_n - \theta_m) - \overline{M}_{nm}(1 - x_{nm}) \leq f_{nm} \leq b_{nm}(\theta_n - \theta_m) - \underline{M}_{nm}(1 - x_{nm})$$

# Optimal Transmission Switching (OTS)

How to compute bigM values?

$$\underline{M}_{nm} \leq \underline{M}_{nm}^{\text{OPT}} := b_{nm} \times \min_{x_{nm}=0} (\theta_n - \theta_m)$$
$$\overline{M}_{nm} \geq \overline{M}_{nm}^{\text{OPT}} := b_{nm} \times \max_{x_{nm}=0} (\theta_n - \theta_m)$$

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- We have to be happy with bounds.
- **Objective:** Find good bounds for bigMs.

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# Strategy 1, BEN

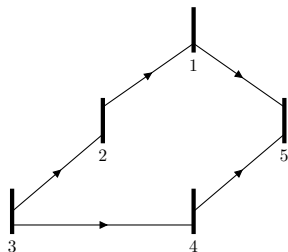
- Exact approach.
- Benchmark.
- Shortest path problem (Dijkstra).
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$$-\underline{M}_{nm} = \overline{M}_{nm} = b_{nm} \sum_{(k,l) \in \text{SP}_{nm}} \frac{\bar{f}_{kl}}{b_{kl}}, \quad \forall (n, m) \in \mathcal{L}_S$$



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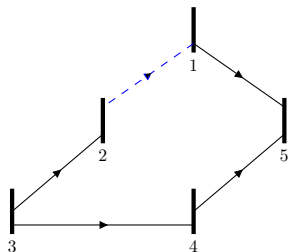
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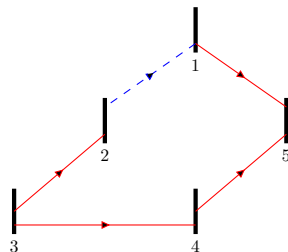


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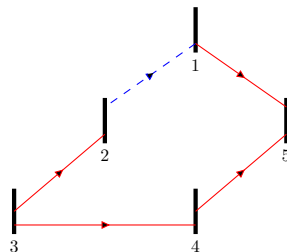
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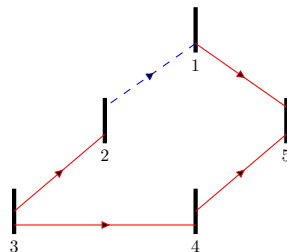
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$$f_{23} \leq \bar{f}_{23} \implies b_{23}(\theta_2 - \theta_3) \leq \bar{f}_{23} \implies (\theta_2 - \theta_3) \leq \bar{f}_{23}/b_{23}$$

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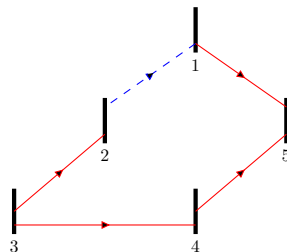
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$$(\theta_2 - \theta_1) \leq \bar{f}_{23}/b_{23} + \bar{f}_{34}/b_{34} + \bar{f}_{45}/b_{45} + \bar{f}_{51}/b_{51}$$

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- Naive approach. Learning this problem is a challenge.

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### Algorithm

- 1) Training set  $\mathcal{T} = \{(\mathbf{d}^t, \mathbf{x}^t)\}$  for  $\forall t$ .
- 2) For a given test demand  $\mathbf{d}^{\hat{t}}$ , compute  $K$  closest neighbors,  $\mathcal{T}_K$ .
- 3) Binary  $\mathbf{x}^{\hat{t}}$  as the rounded mean of the binary decision values from  $\mathcal{T}_K$  to the closest integer.
- 4) Solve an LP from the OTS by fixing variables.



## Strategy 3, $Knn$ -BM

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- 3) Fixing the binary variables if there unanimity in the value among the instances in  $\mathcal{T}_K$ .
- 4) The bigM values of the remaining variables are updated using the shortest path.
- 5) Solve the resulting MILP.

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$$\overline{M}_{nm} = b_{nm} \times \max_{t \in \mathcal{T}: x_{nm}^t = 0} (\theta_n^t - \theta_m^t)$$

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- 5) Solve the resulting MILP.

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# Experimental Setup

- Realistic network, [Blumsack, 2006].
- 118 buses - 186 lines.
- $|\mathcal{L}_S| = 69$ .
- 500 instances.
- Demand follows uniform distribution in  $[0.9d_n, 1.1d_n]$ .
- Gurobi 9.1.2.
- Gap = 0.01%.
- Time limit: 1 hour.
- Github.

# Comparison

	# opt	# sub	gap-max	time (s)
BEN	500	0	-	145.44
$K_{nn}$ -D	0	500	14.13	0.0
$K_{nn}$ -BM	500	0	-	12.33
$K_{nn}$ - $\widehat{BM}$	495	5	0.39	0.7

Table: All approaches ( $K = 50$ )

# Comparison

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## BEN vs $Knn-D$

- $Knn-D$  has no optimal instances.
- $Knn-D$  is faster.
- Max gap: 14%



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## BEN vs $K$ nn-BM

- All optimal instances
- $K$ nn-BM is faster.
- No gap.

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## BEN vs $K_{nn}$ - $\widehat{BM}$

- $K_{nn}$ - $\widehat{BM}$  has almost all optimal instances
- $K_{nn}$ - $\widehat{BM}$  is very fast.
- Small gap.

# Comparison

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## $K_{nn}$ -BM vs $K_{nn}$ - $\widehat{BM}$

- $K_{nn}$ -BM is more conservative than  $K_{nn}$ - $\widehat{BM}$  but slower.
- Trade-off decision.
- Competitive against existing approaches.

# More details

## Learning-Assisted Optimization for Transmission Switching

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Jiménez-Cordero<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1\*</sup>Dept. of Electrical Engineering, University of Málaga, Spain.

<sup>2</sup>Dept. of Applied Mathematics, University of Málaga, Spain.

<sup>3</sup>Dept. of Statistics and Operations Research, University of  
Málaga, Spain.

<sup>4</sup>OASYS Research Group, University of Málaga, Spain.

\*Corresponding author(s). E-mail(s): [spineda@uma.es](mailto:spineda@uma.es);

Contributing authors: [juan.morales@uma.es](mailto:juan.morales@uma.es); [asuncionjc@uma.es](mailto:asuncionjc@uma.es);

### Available at:

S. Pineda, J. M. Morales and A. Jiménez-Cordero,  
Learning-Assisted Optimization for Transmission Switching,  
Submitted. Link: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370058669\\_Learning-Assisted\\_Optimization\\_for\\_Transmission\\_Switching](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370058669_Learning-Assisted_Optimization_for_Transmission_Switching).



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## Conclusions

- OTS is a challenging problem.
- Useful to reduce costs.
- Find good bigM values for the reformulation.
- Learning strategies.
- Tested on a real-world network.

## Conclusions

- OTS is a challenging problem.
- Useful to reduce costs.
- Find good bigM values for the reformulation.
- Learning strategies.
- Tested on a real-world network.

## Further research

- All switchable lines.
- Other ML approaches.

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# A Novel Machine Learning Approach for Solving Optimal Transmission Switching



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**Thank you very much for your attention!**



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