



# *Boosting Power System Operation Economics via Closed-Loop Predict-and-Optimize*

Ph.D. Thesis Defense

Ph.D. Candidate: Xianbang Chen

Advisor: Professor Lei Wu



December 04, 2024

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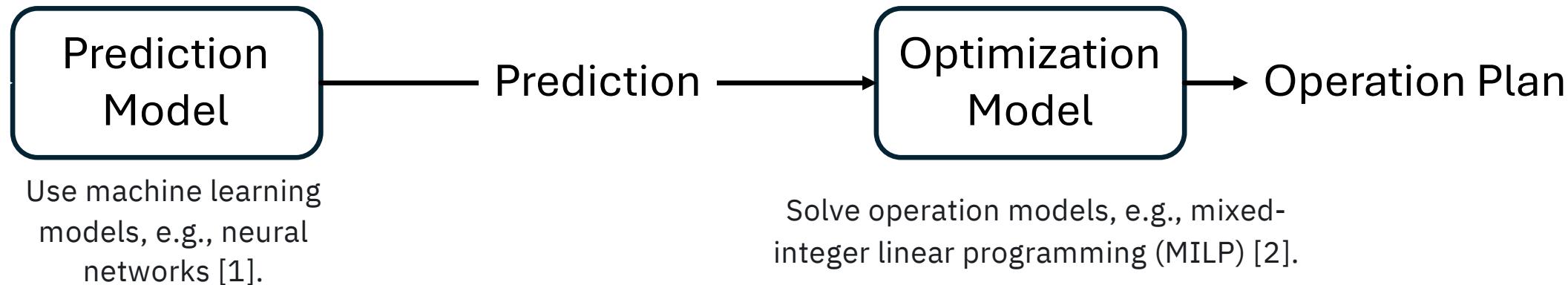
December 04, 2024

# Content

1. Background
2. Proposal Recap
3. An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower
4. A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower
5. Summary

# Background: Power System Operation

- **Open-loop predict-then-optimize (OPO) process**



- **Operation goal**

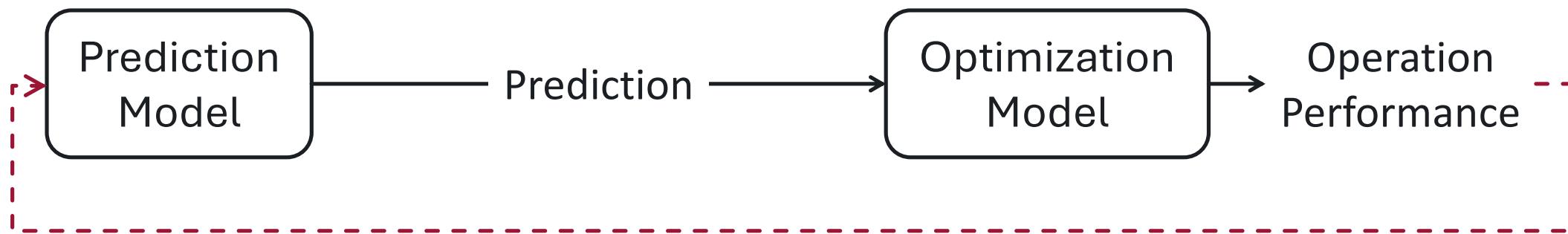
Minimum operation cost or maximum operation revenue, i.e., optimal operation economics.

[1]. S. Fang and H. -D. Chiang, "A High-Accuracy Wind Power Forecasting Model," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, 2017.

[2]. L. Wu, M. Shahidehpour and T. Li, "Stochastic Security-Constrained Unit Commitment," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, 2007.

# Background: Open-Loop Idea vs Closed-Loop Idea

*We challenge the traditional OPO framework:*



*Closed-loop predict-and-optimize<sup>[3, 4]</sup> (CPO) idea:  
To improve operation performance, the prediction model  
should consider its impact on the operation performance.*

[3]. A. N. Elmachtoub, P. Grigas, "Smart ‘Predict, then Optimize’," in *Management Science*, 2022.

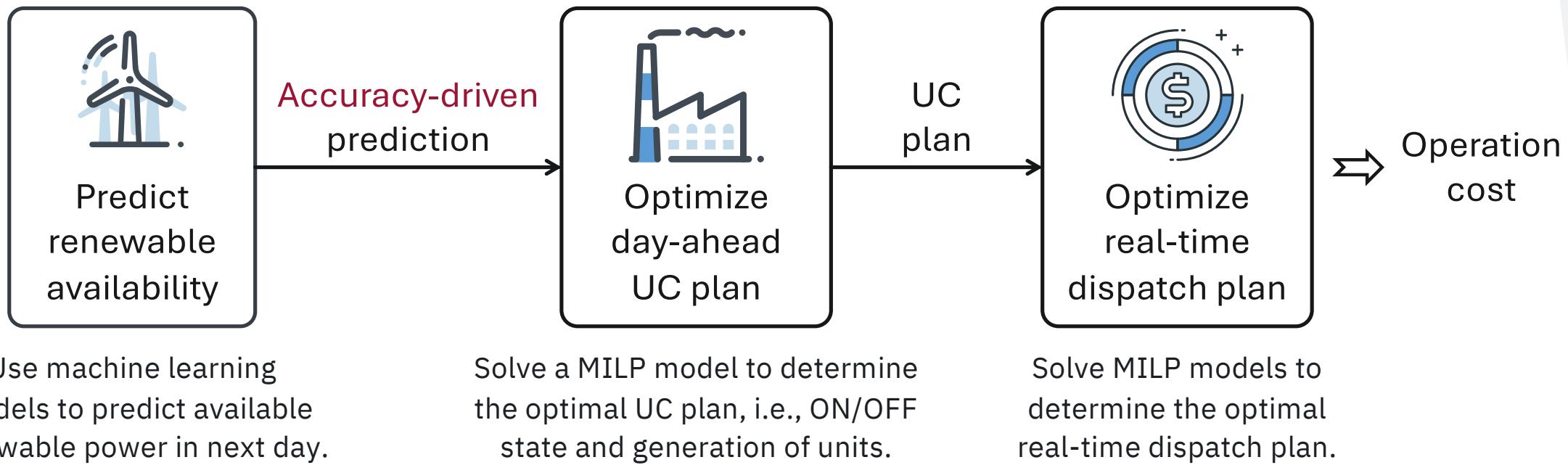
[4]. G. Y. Ban, C. Rudin, "The Big Data Newsvendor: Practical Insights from Machine Learning," in *Operations Research*, 2018.

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# Proposal Recap

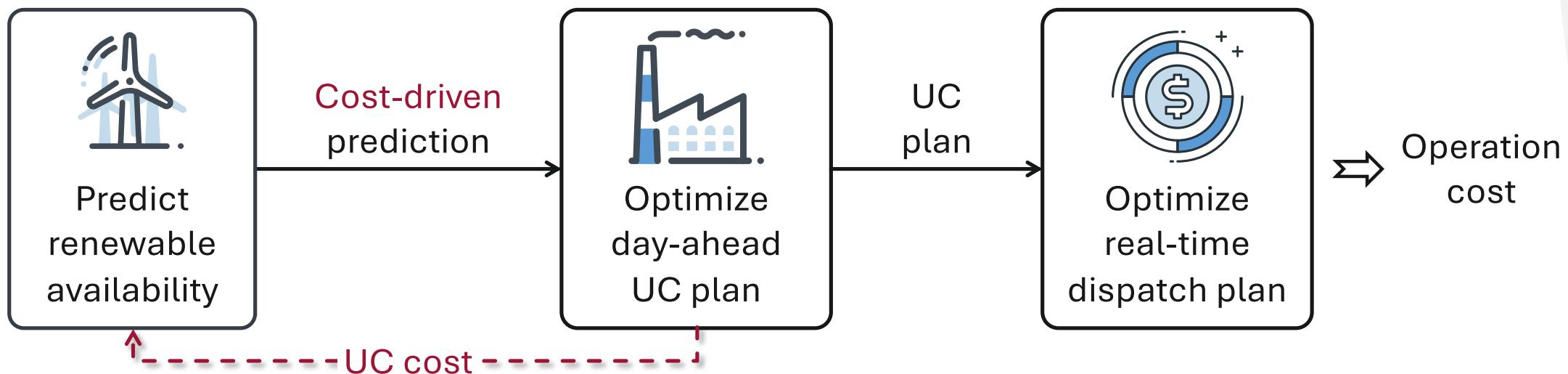
- **Operation problem: Unit commitment (UC) in OPO**



- **Proposal goal: Reduce operation cost**
- **Research gap: Few CPO methods for MILP problems**

# Proposal Recap

- Training cost-driven prediction model for UC

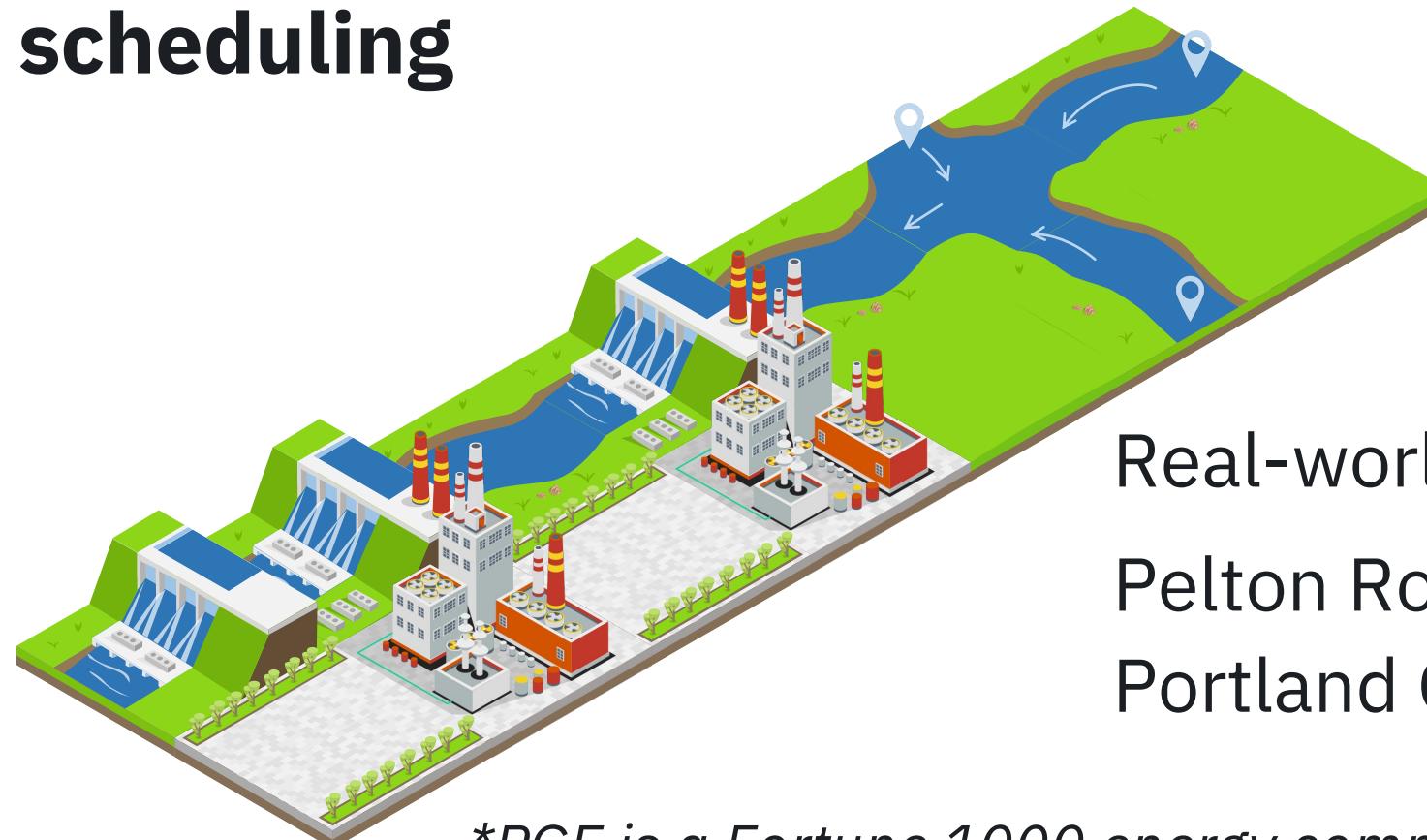


- Key methodologies

- 1) Empirical risk minimization and bilevel programming
- 2) Lagrangian decomposition and parallel computing

# Subsequent Research

- Engineering problem: Cascaded hydropower (CHP) scheduling

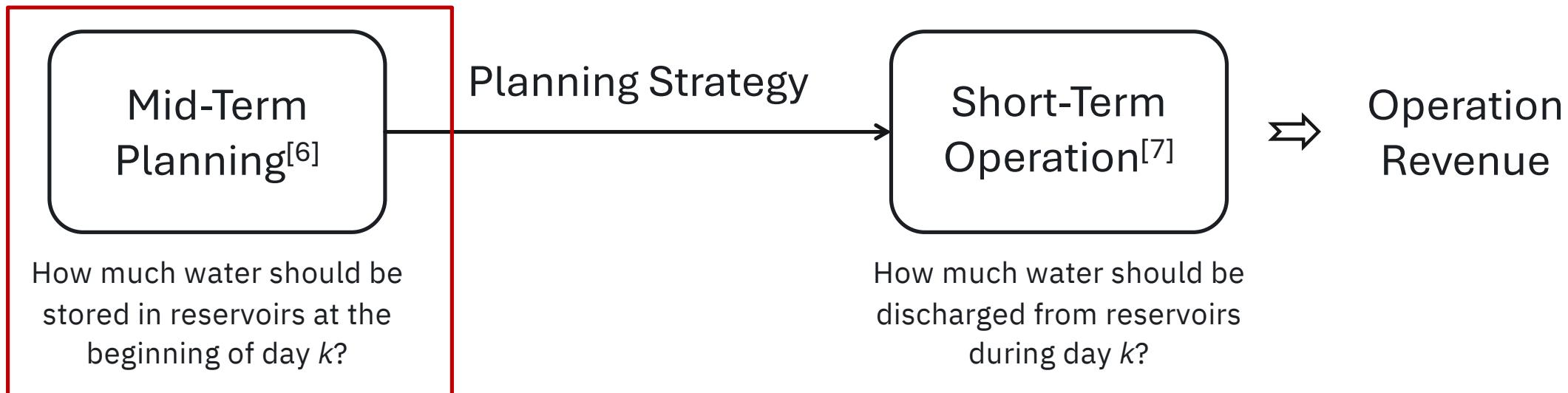


Real-world case:  
Pelton Round Butte System of  
Portland General Electric (PGE)

\*PGE is a Fortune 1000 energy company in Portland, OR

## Subsequent Research

- Open-loop relationship between mid-term planning and short-term operations



- Research goal: Assist PGE in improving revenue

[6]. A. Helseth, M. Fodstad and B. Mo, "Optimal Medium-Term Hydropower Scheduling Considering Energy and Reserve Capacity Markets," in *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, 2016.

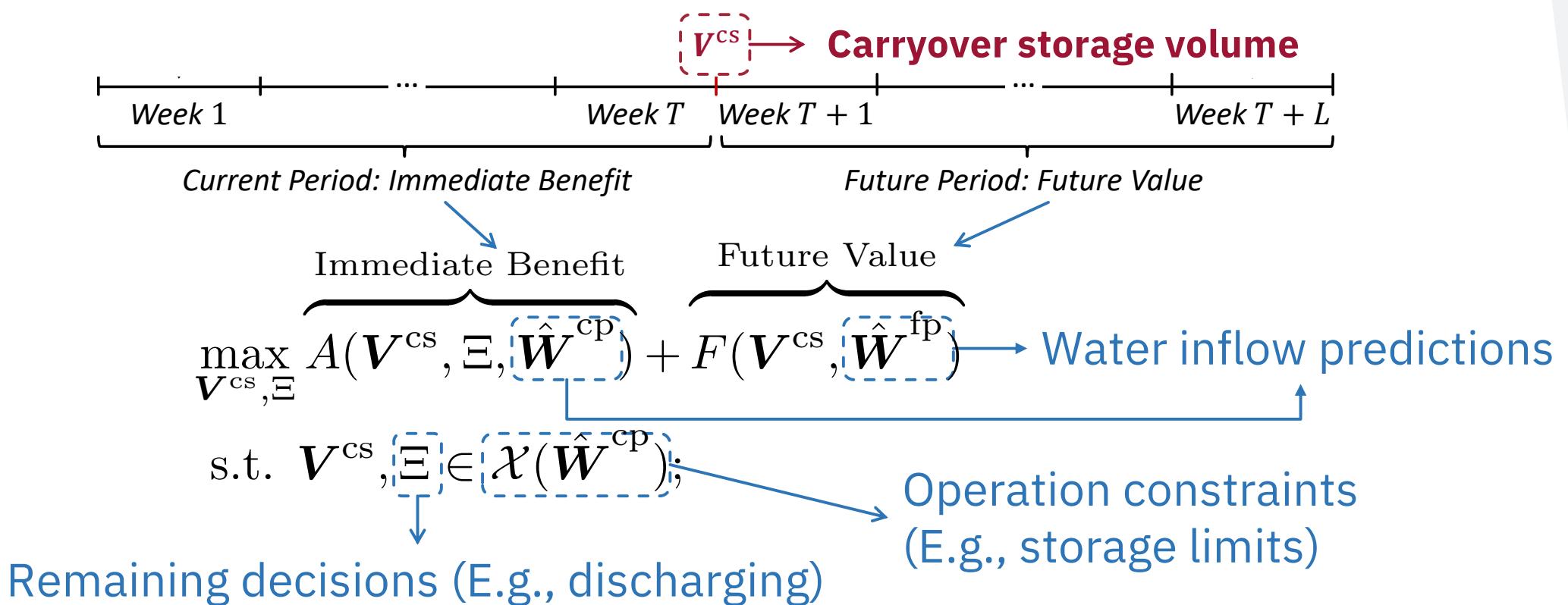
[7]. A. Helseth, S. Jaehnert and A. L. Diniz, "Convex Relaxations of the Short-Term Hydrothermal Scheduling Problem," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, 2021.

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# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- What is mid-term hydropower planning?

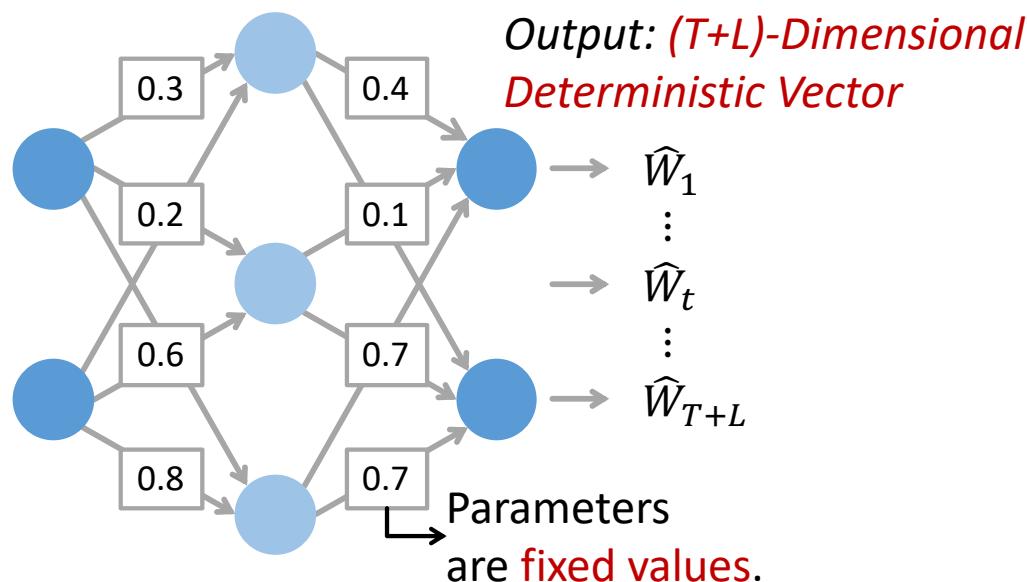


# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

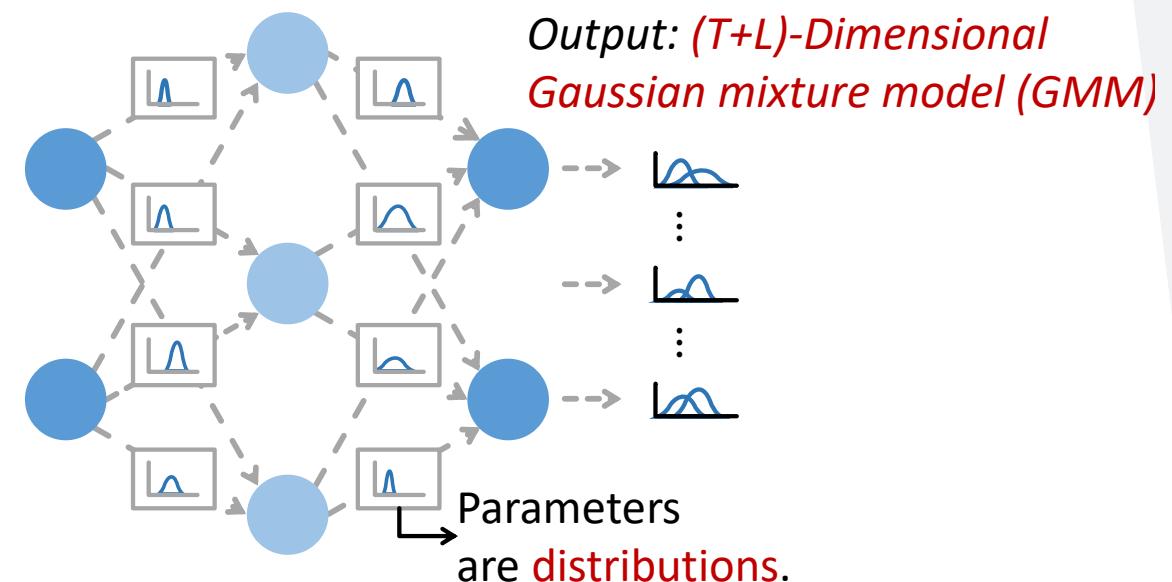
- **Questions to be addressed**
  - 1) How to predict water inflow and capture uncertainties associated with these predictions?

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- Bayesian neural network (BNN) for WI predictions



**Deep neural network:** Cannot capture uncertainty.



**Bayesian neural network:** Can capture uncertainties, i.e., uncertainty-aware.

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- Mid-term planning model with GMM-based WI predictions

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \max_{\Xi, V^{\text{cs}}} \underbrace{\sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_n} \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}} \lambda P_{nit}^\diamond}_{\text{Immediate Benefit}} + \underbrace{F(V^{\text{cs}})}_{\text{Future Value}} \\
 & \text{where } \Xi = \{D_{nit}^\diamond, I_{nit}^\diamond, P_{nit}^\diamond, S_{nt}^\diamond, V_n^\diamond, W_{nt}^\Delta, Z_r\} \\
 & \text{s.t. } \underbrace{\mathbb{P}\left\{ \begin{array}{l} V_{n,1}^\diamond + \sum_{\tau=1}^t (\hat{W}_{n\tau}^{\text{cp}} + W_{n\tau}^\Delta) \leq V_n^M, \forall n; \\ V_{n,1}^\diamond + \sum_{\tau=1}^t (\hat{W}_{n\tau}^{\text{cp}} + W_{n\tau}^\Delta) \geq V_n^m, \forall n; \end{array} \right\} \geq 1 - \epsilon_t,}_{\text{Joint chance constraint}} \quad \forall t; \\
 & W_{nt}^\Delta = \sum_{m \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n} \left( \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_m} \alpha D_{m,i,t-\delta}^\diamond + S_{m,t-\delta}^\diamond \right) \\
 & \quad - \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_n} \alpha D_{nit}^\diamond - S_{nt}^\diamond, \quad S_{nt}^\diamond \geq 0, \quad \forall n, \forall t; \\
 & V_{n,t+1}^\diamond = V_{n,1}^\diamond + \sum_{\tau=1}^t (\hat{W}_{n\tau}^{\text{cp},\mu} + W_{n\tau}^\Delta), \quad \forall n, \forall t; \\
 & V_n^m \leq V_{nt}^\diamond \leq V_n^M, \quad \forall n, \forall t; \\
 & V_n^{\text{cs}} = V_{n,T+1}^\diamond, \quad \forall n; \\
 & P_{nit}^\diamond = \mathcal{P}^{\text{RtP}}(D_{nit}^\diamond, I_{nit}^\diamond), I_{nit}^\diamond \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall n, \forall i, \forall t; \\
 & P_{ni}^m I_{nit} \leq P_{nit}^\diamond \leq P_{ni}^M I_{nit}, D_{ni}^m I_{nit} \leq D_{nit}^\diamond \leq D_{ni}^M I_{nit}, \quad \forall n, \forall i, \forall t;
 \end{aligned}$$

**Joint chance constraint**  
 (Under uncertain WI, the probability of satisfying the storage limit is at least  $1 - \epsilon_t$ )

By Boole's inequality

By affine invariance of GMM

By Newton method

**Deterministic linear constraints**

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- **Questions to be addressed**
  - 1) How to quantify the future value in an easy-to-understand and easy-to-use way?

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- Quantifying model of future value

$$\max_{\Psi} \sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_n} \lambda L_n^{\text{dis}} P_{ni} - \sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}} C_n^{\text{ws}} S_n$$

where  $\Psi = \{L^{\text{n-dis/dis}}, \mathbf{L}^\Delta, \mathbf{D}, \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{I}, \mathbf{W}^{\Delta/\text{i/o}}\}$

s.t.  $L_n^{\text{n-dis}} + L_n^{\text{dis}} = L$ ,  $L_n^{\text{n-dis}} \geq 0$ ,  $L_n^{\text{dis}} \geq 0$ ,

$$\begin{cases} V_n^m \leq V_n^{\text{cs},\theta} + \frac{L_v^{\text{n-dis}} \hat{W}_n^{\text{fp}}}{L} + W_{vn}^i - W_{vn}^o \leq V_n^M, \forall v \in \{n, \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n\}; \\ W_{vn}^i = \sum_{m \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n} (\alpha L_{vm}^\Delta \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_m} D_{mi}), \quad \forall v \in \{n, \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n\}; \\ W_{vn}^o = \alpha L_{vn}^\Delta \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_n} D_{ni}, \quad \forall v \in \{n, \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n\}; \\ L_{vu}^\Delta = \max\{0, L_v^{\text{n-dis}} - L_u^{\text{n-dis}}\}, \quad \forall v, u \in \{n, \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n\}; \end{cases}$$

$$V_n^m \leq V_n^{\text{cs},\theta} + \hat{W}_n^{\text{fp}} + W_n^\Delta + \sum_{m \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n} S_m - S_n, \quad \forall n;$$

$$V_n^M \geq V_n^{\text{cs},\theta} + \hat{W}_n^{\text{fp}} + W_n^\Delta + \sum_{m \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n} S_m - S_n, \quad \forall n;$$

$$W_n^\Delta = \sum_{m \in \bar{\mathcal{N}}_n} (\alpha L_m^{\text{dis}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_m} D_{mi}) - \alpha L_n^{\text{dis}} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}_n} D_{ni}, S_n \geq 0, \quad \forall n;$$

$$P_{ni} = \mathcal{P}^{\text{RtP}}(D_{ni}, I_{ni}), I_{ni} \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall n, \forall i;$$

$$P_{ni}^m I_{ni} \leq P_{ni} \leq P_{ni}^M I_{ni}, D_{ni}^m I_{ni} \leq D_{ni} \leq D_{ni}^M I_{ni}, \quad \forall n, \forall i;$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}^\top \mathbf{y} \\ \Rightarrow & \text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{E}\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{F}V^{\text{cs},\theta}; \\ & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^p, \mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^q; \end{aligned}$$

Carryover storage is a parameter

**Goal:** Given a carryover storage volume, maximize revenue over the future period.

**Idea:** Derive water values.

**Water values:** Amount of revenue that a reservoir can generate with one incremental unit of stored water.

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- Get water values

$$\max_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{d}^\top \mathbf{y}$$

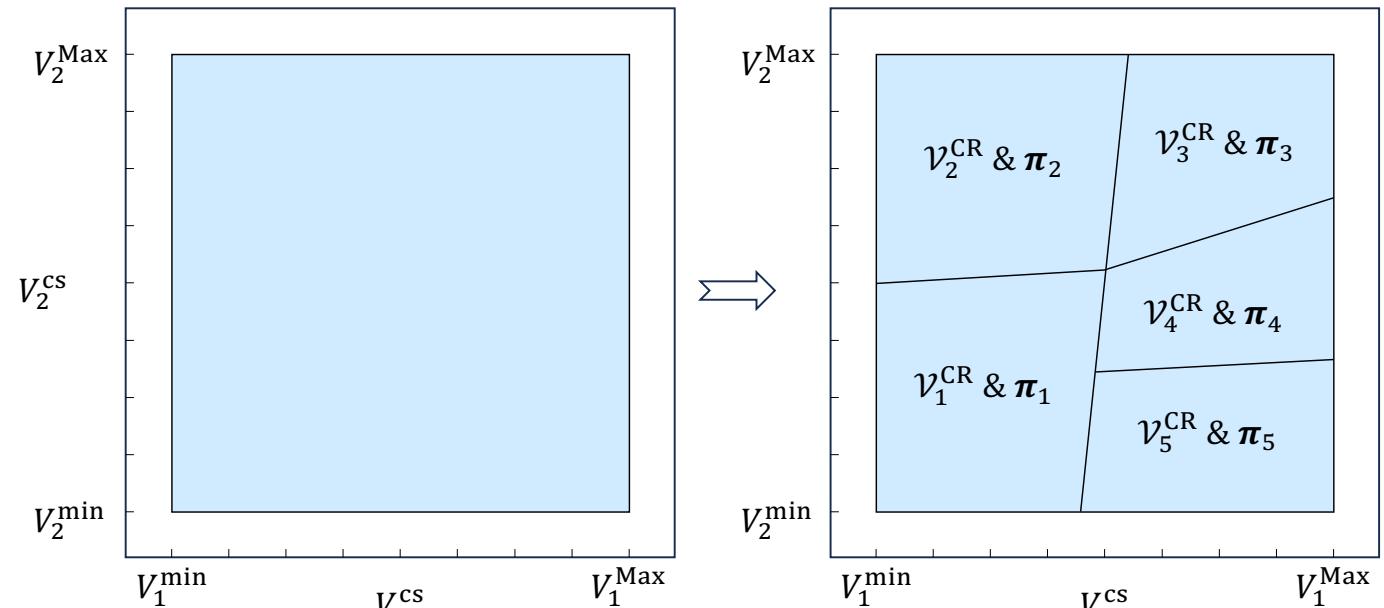
s.t.  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{E}\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{F}\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}, \theta};$

$\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}_+^p, \mathbf{y} \in \{0, 1\}^q;$

Use a **partition-then-extract** algorithm to calculate water values

Deterministic linear constraints

A two-reservoir example



“If-then” rules

$$\Leftrightarrow F(\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}}) = \begin{cases} \pi_{1,1}(V_1^{\text{cs}} - V_1^{\min}) + \pi_{1,2}(V_2^{\text{cs}} - V_2^{\min}) & \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}} \in \mathcal{V}_1^{\text{CR}} \\ \pi_{2,1}(V_1^{\text{cs}} - V_1^{\min}) + \pi_{2,2}(V_2^{\text{cs}} - V_2^{\min}) & \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}} \in \mathcal{V}_2^{\text{CR}} \\ \pi_{3,1}(V_1^{\text{cs}} - V_1^{\min}) + \pi_{3,2}(V_2^{\text{cs}} - V_2^{\min}) & \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}} \in \mathcal{V}_3^{\text{CR}} \\ \pi_{4,1}(V_1^{\text{cs}} - V_1^{\min}) + \pi_{4,2}(V_2^{\text{cs}} - V_2^{\min}) & \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}} \in \mathcal{V}_4^{\text{CR}} \\ \pi_{5,1}(V_1^{\text{cs}} - V_1^{\min}) + \pi_{5,2}(V_2^{\text{cs}} - V_2^{\min}) & \text{if } \mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}} \in \mathcal{V}_5^{\text{CR}} \end{cases}$$

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower (CHP)

- Final mid-term CHP planning model

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Immediate Benefit} \\ & \max_{V^{\text{cs}}, \Xi} A(V^{\text{cs}}, \Xi, \hat{W}^{\text{cp}}) + F(V^{\text{cs}}, \hat{W}^{\text{fp}}) \rightarrow \text{BNN} \\ & \text{s.t. } V^{\text{cs}}, \Xi \in \mathcal{X}(\hat{W}^{\text{cp}}); \rightarrow \text{Chance constraints} \end{aligned}$$

Future Value → “If-then” rules

“If-then” rules

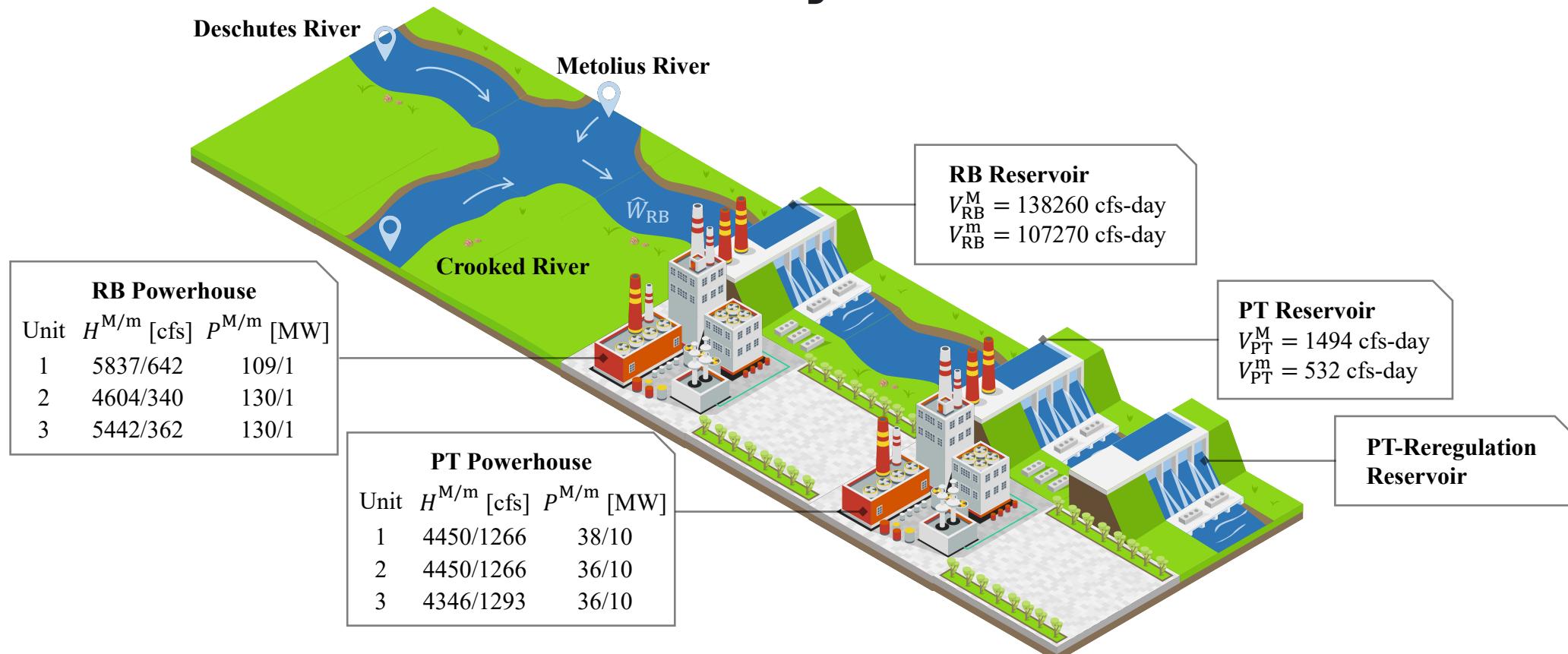
BNN

Chance constraints

- Mixed-integer linear programming
- Solving this model to determine optimal  $V^{\text{cs}}$

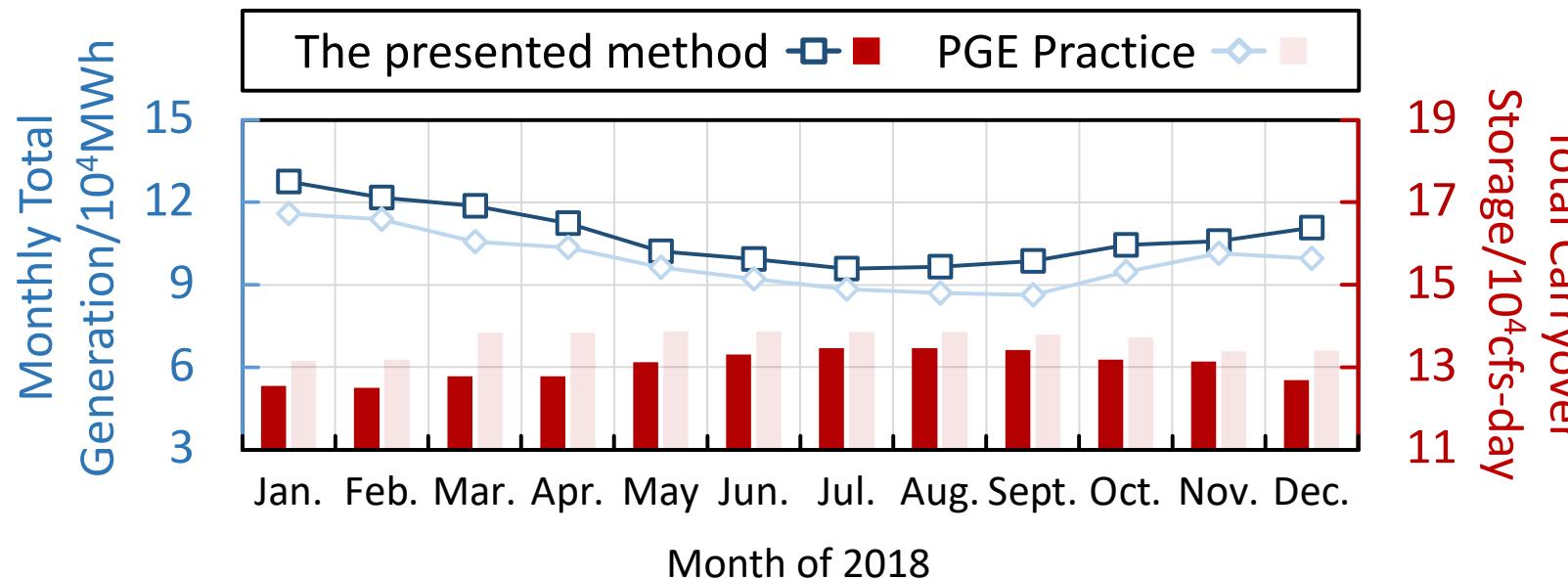
# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- PGE's Pelton Round Butte System



# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

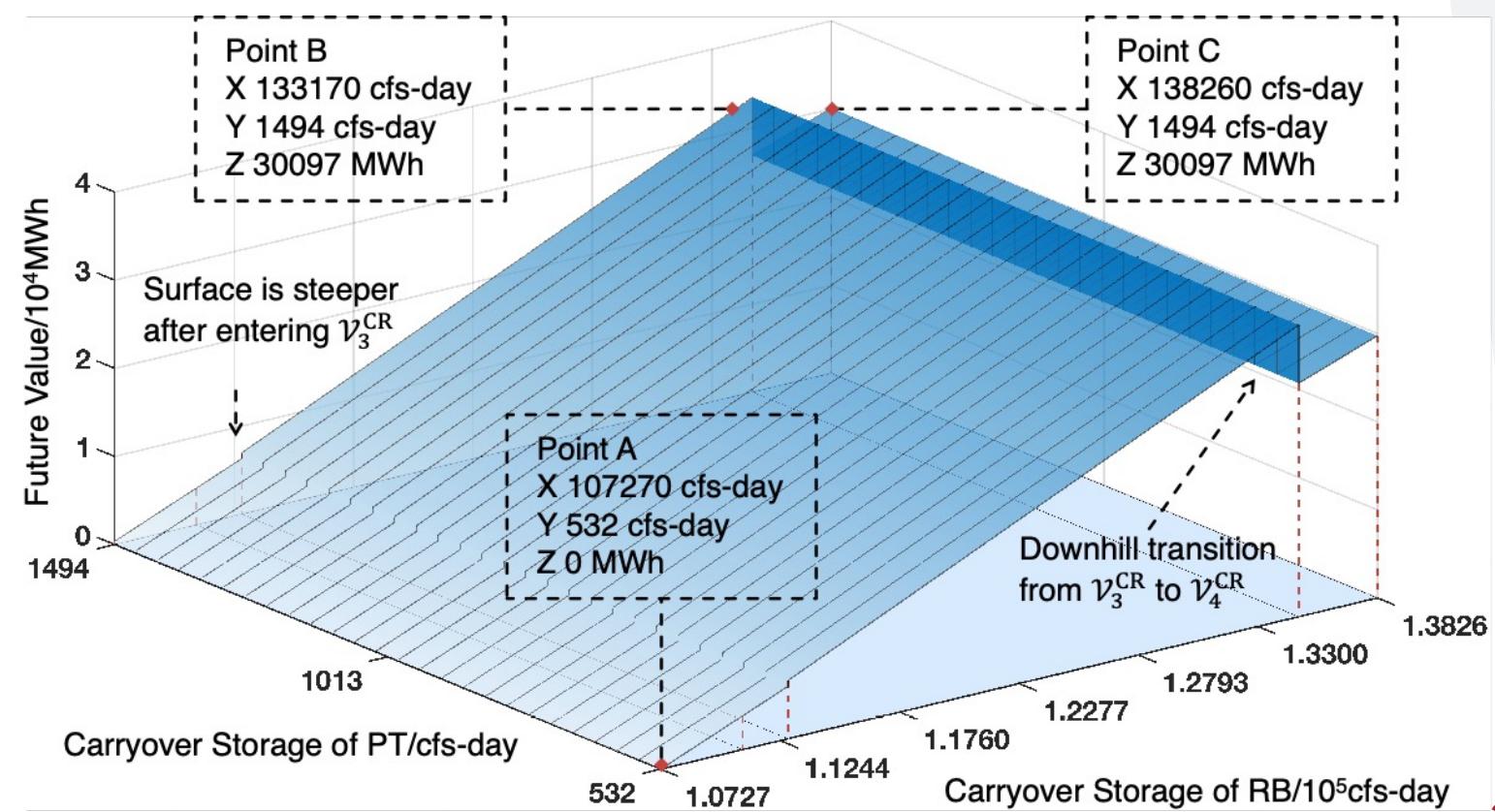
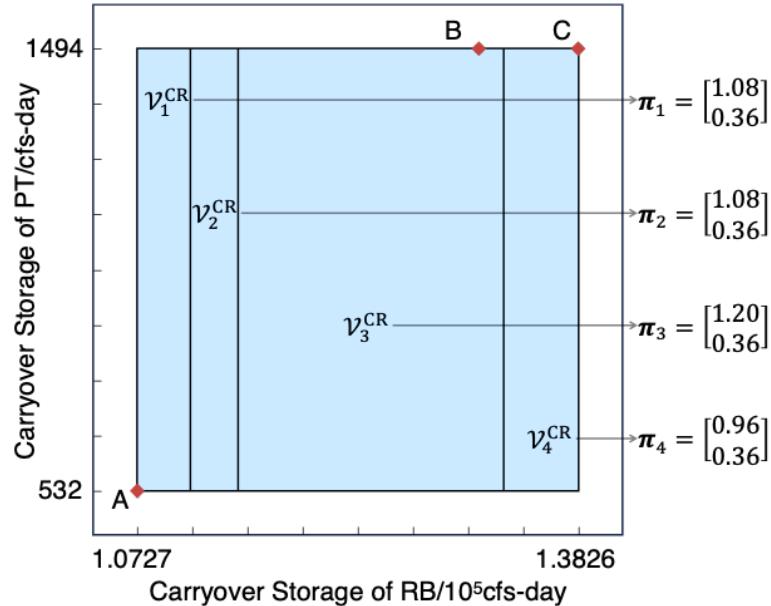
- Main numerical results



- The annual generation is 9.21% higher than PGE's practice.
- The carryover storage is slightly lower than PGE's practice. No violations of operation constraints.

# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- Easy-to-understand “if-then” rules



# An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- **Summary**

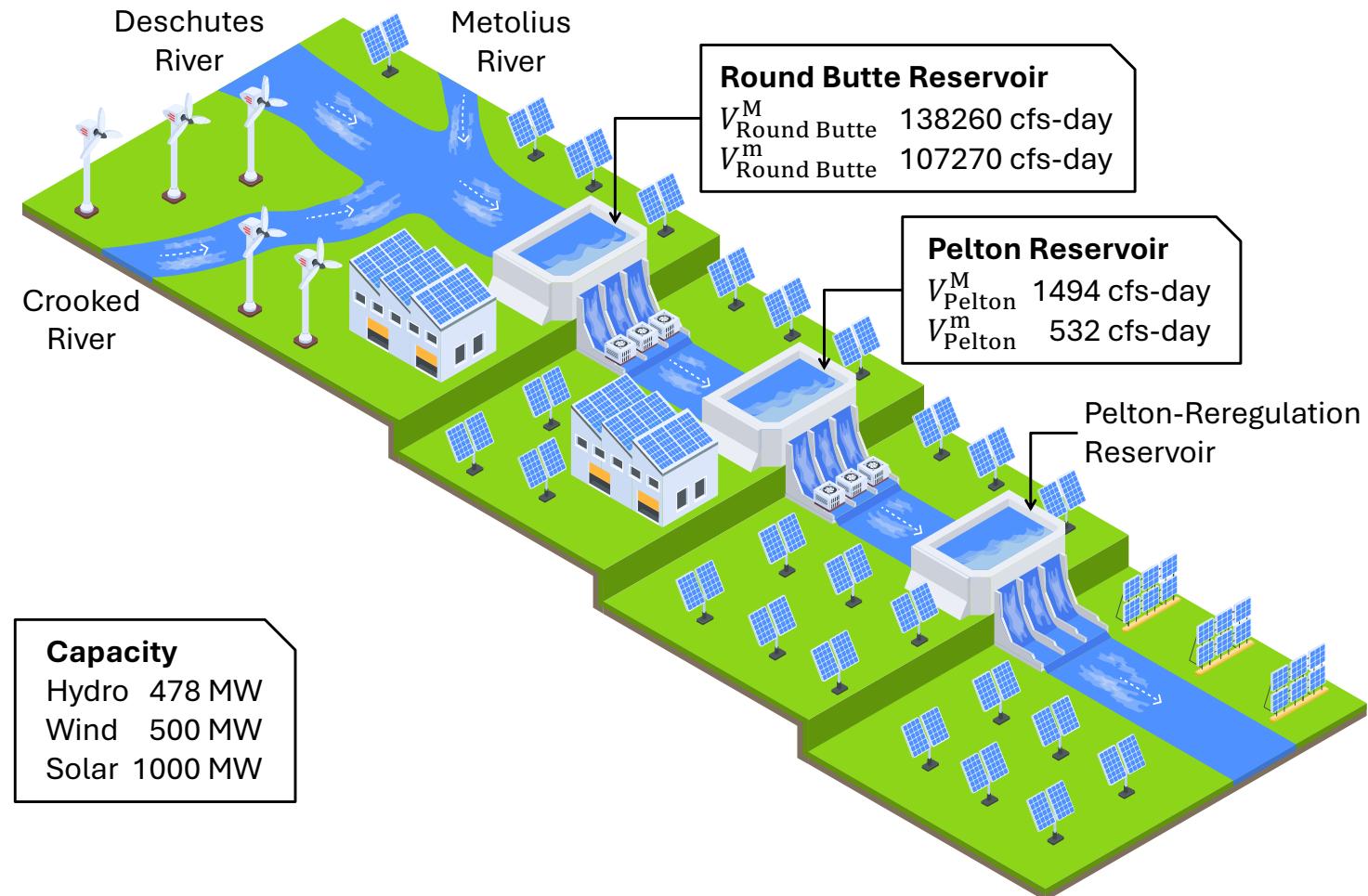
- 1) Target improving total generation by enhancing mid-term planning strategies
- 2) BNN-based water inflow predictor
- 3) Chance constraints for the current period
- 4) “If-then” rules to quantify the future value
- 5) Outperform PGE’s practice by 9.21%

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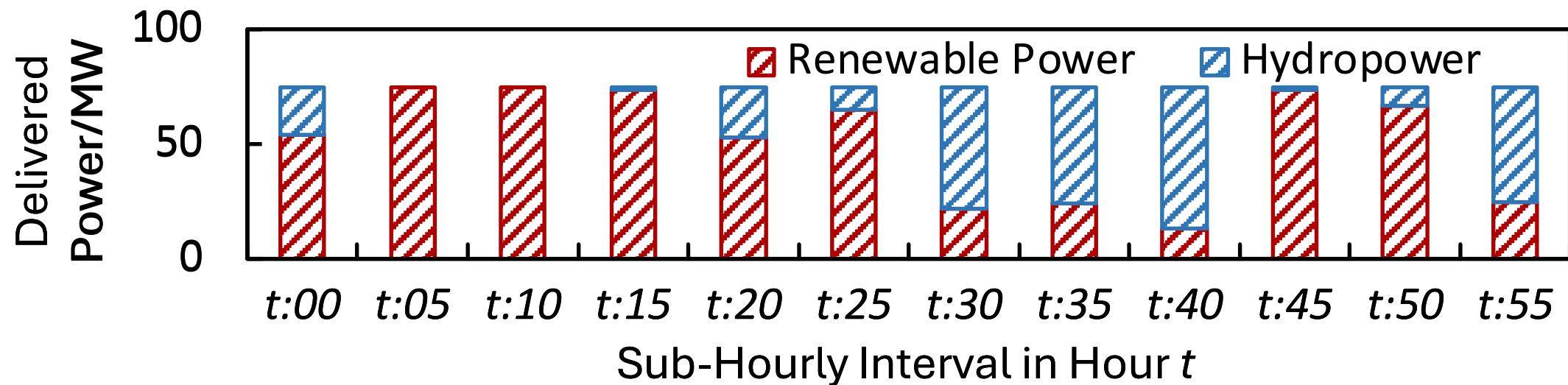
# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- PGE's Pelton Round Butte System with renewable integration



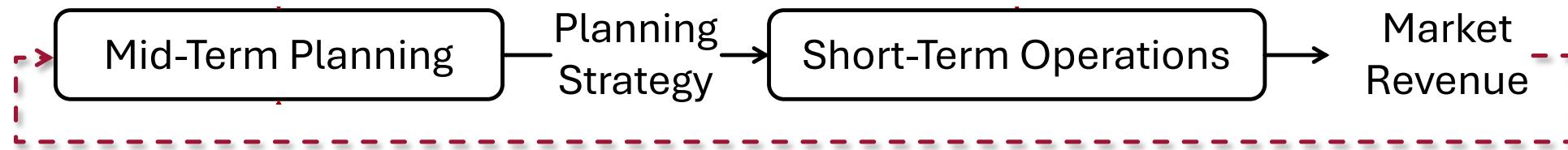
# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- Power-mix of renewable-integrated hydropower



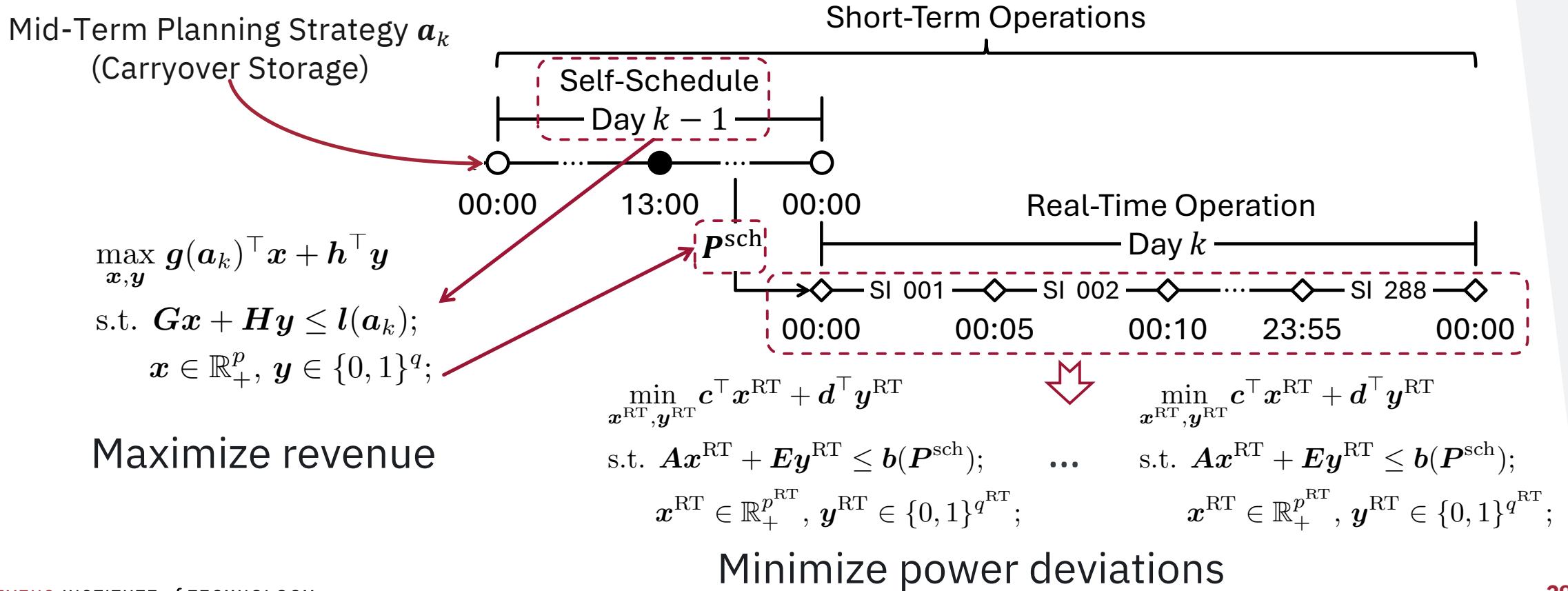
# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- Goal: Improve PGE's revenue in the context of renewable integration via CPO-based planning



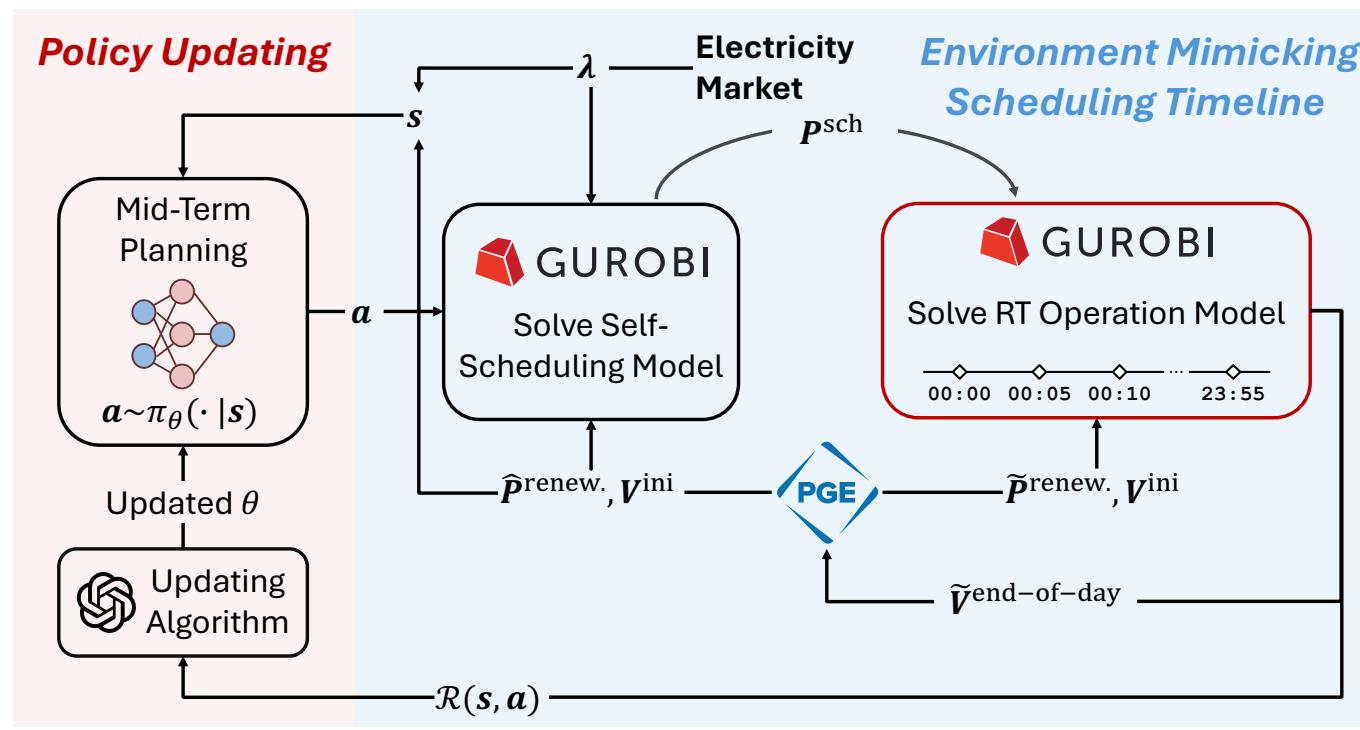
# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- From mid-term planning to short-term operations



# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

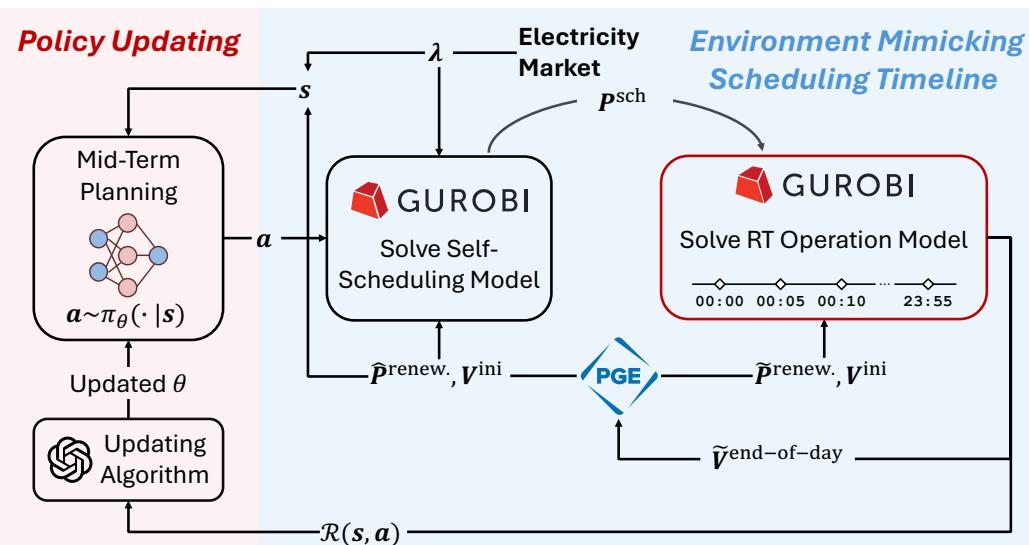
- Deep reinforcement learning-based framework



# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- Questions to be addressed

- 1) How to make the training process computationally affordable?



→ Each step solves 288 RT models  
Each step takes about 3 minutes  
Need 100,000+ training steps

# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- Training process accelerating via multi-parametric programming

$$v^*(\vartheta) = \min_{\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} + \mathbf{d}^\top \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} + \mathbf{E}\mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}} \leq \mathbf{F}\vartheta + \mathbf{b};$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{p^{\text{RT}}}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}} \in \{0, 1\}^{q^{\text{RT}}};$$

$$\vartheta \in \Theta, \vartheta \in \mathbb{R}_+^{2+3N};$$



$$v^*(\vartheta) = \min_{\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} + \mathbf{d}^\top \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} + \mathbf{E}\mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}} \leq \mathbf{F}\vartheta + \mathbf{b};$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{p^{\text{RT}}}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}} \in \{0, 1\}^{q^{\text{RT}}};$$

$$\vartheta \in \Theta, \vartheta \in \mathbb{R}_+^{2+3N};$$



$$v^*(\vartheta) = \min_{\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}}} \mathbf{c}^\top \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} + \mathbf{d}^\top \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}}$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} + \mathbf{E}\mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}} \leq \mathbf{F}\vartheta + \mathbf{b};$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}} \in \mathbb{R}_+^{p^{\text{RT}}}, \mathbf{y}^{\text{RT}} \in \{0, 1\}^{q^{\text{RT}}};$$

$$\vartheta \in \Theta, \vartheta \in \mathbb{R}_+^{2+3N};$$

About 3 minutes per step



About 2 seconds per step

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}*} = \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{F}_1^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{b}_1^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_1^{\text{CR}}; \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}*} = \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{F}_R^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{b}_R^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_R^{\text{CR}}; \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}*} = \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{F}_1^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{b}_1^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_1^{\text{CR}}; \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}*} = \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{F}_R^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{b}_R^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_R^{\text{CR}}; \end{cases}$$

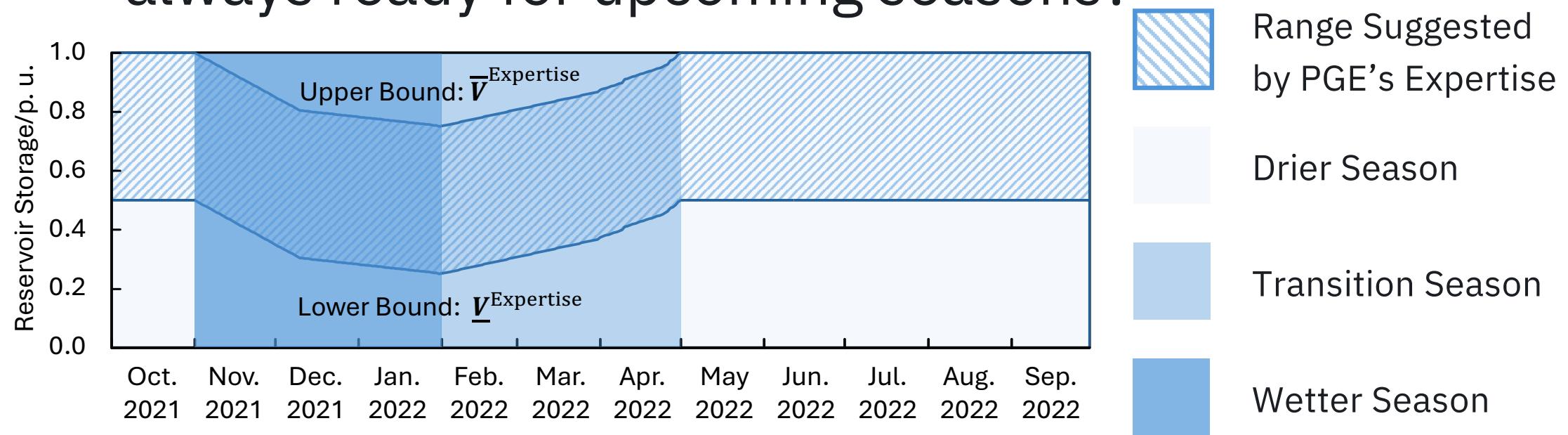


$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}*} = \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{F}_1^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{b}_1^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_1^{\text{CR}}; \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}*} = \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{F}_R^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}} \mathbf{b}_R^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_R^{\text{CR}}; \end{cases}$$

# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- **Questions to be addressed**

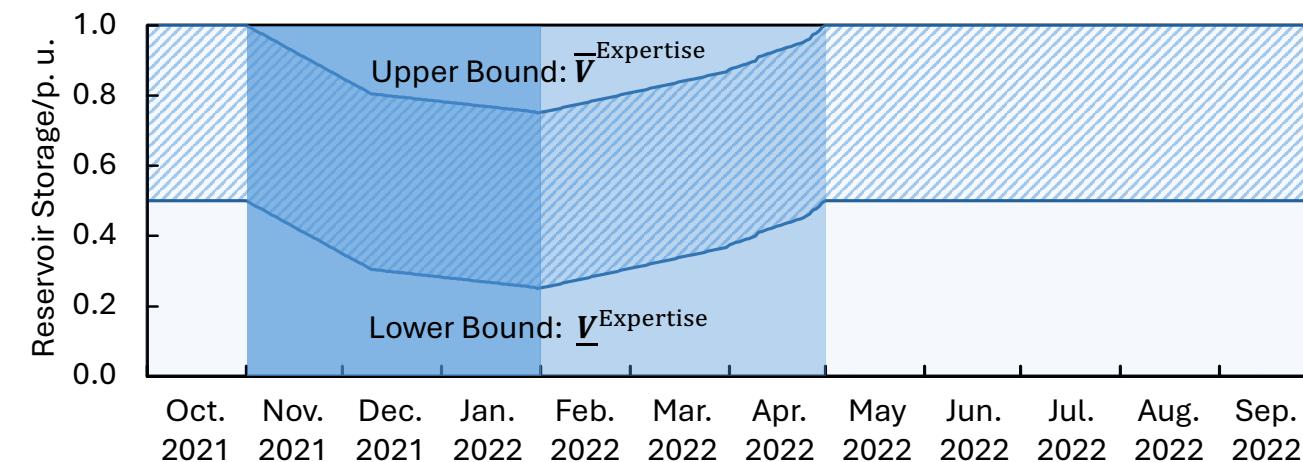
- 2) How can reservoir storage be ensured that it is always ready for upcoming seasons?



# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- Expertise-based mechanism

*The game Space Impact*

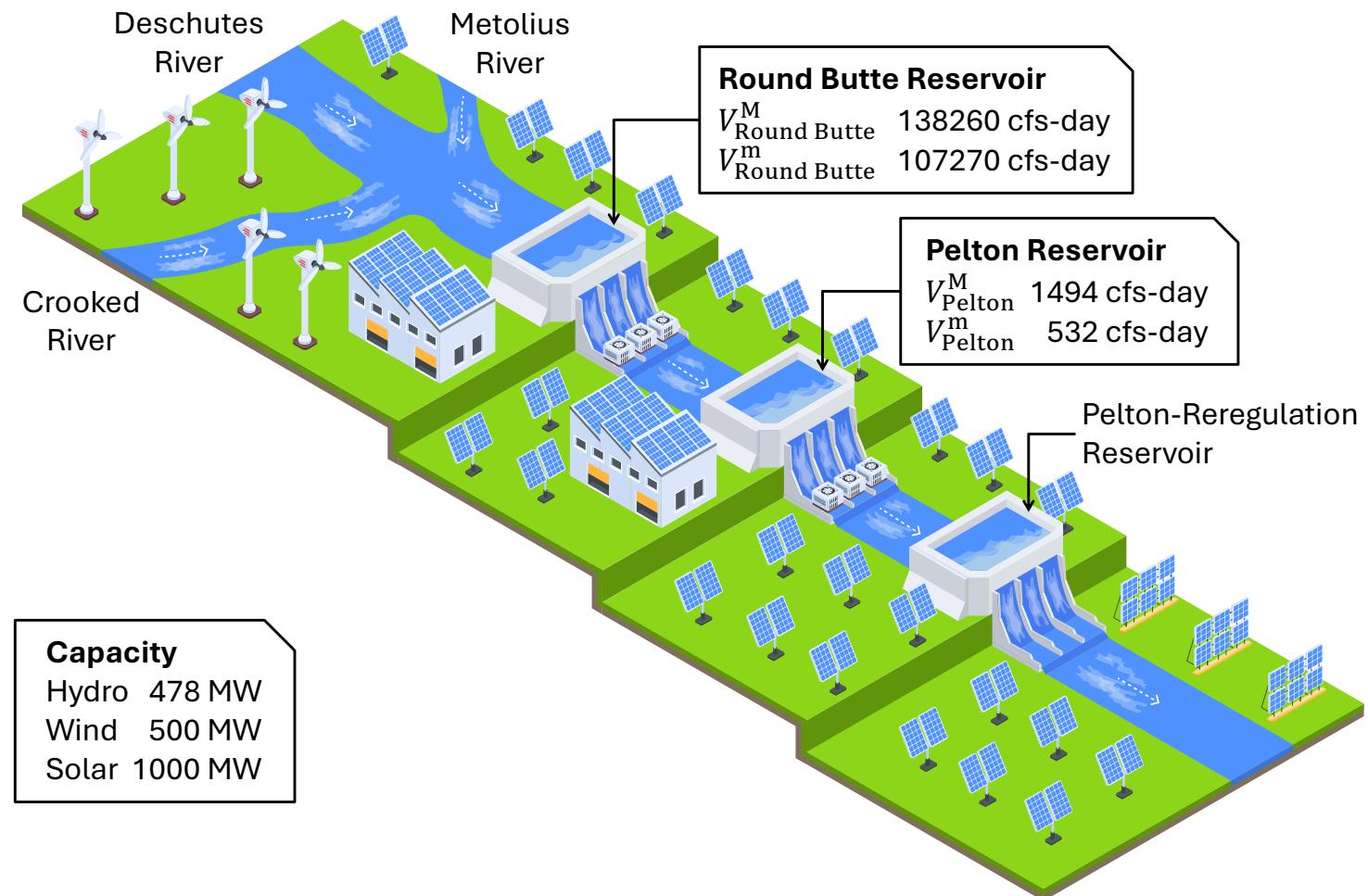


Avoid crashes into the ceiling ( $\bar{V}^{\text{Expertise}}$ )  
and floor ( $\underline{V}^{\text{Expertise}}$ ) of the tunnel

\*Image source: <https://giphy.com/>

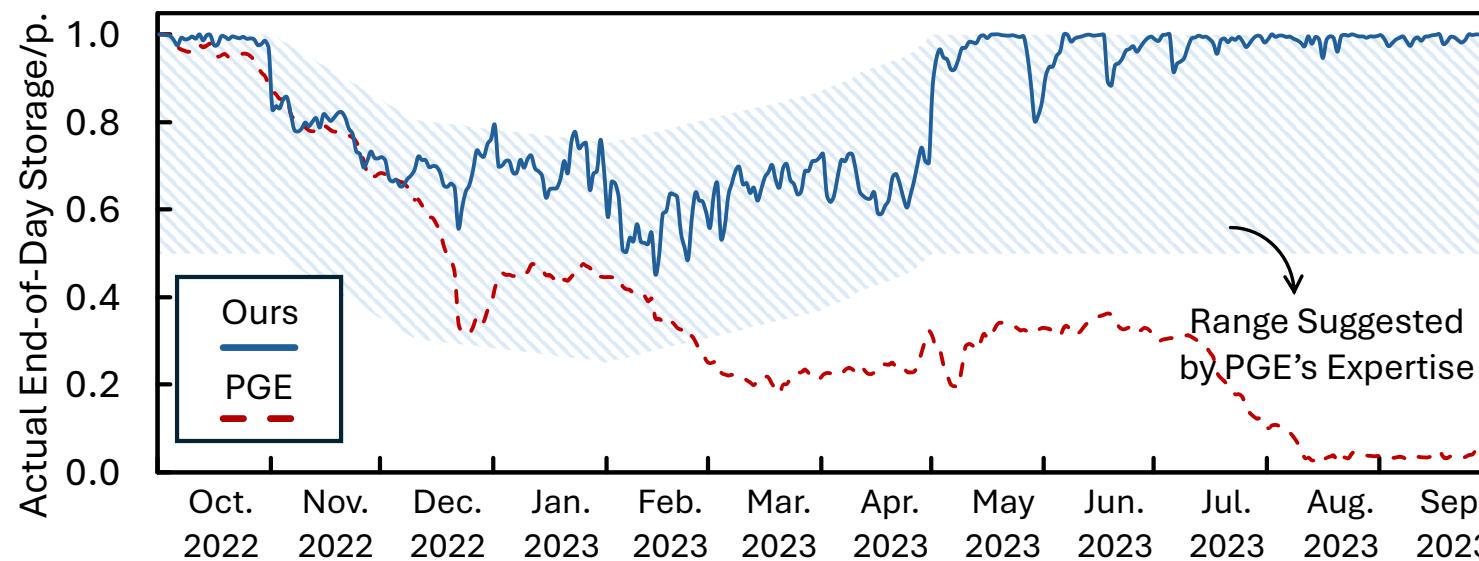
# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- PGE's Pelton Round Butte System with renewable integration



# A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- Comparison to PGE's practice (2023 water year)



- Not “crashes”  
(always be ready for  
the upcoming  
seasons)

Method	Net Revenue/\$10 <sup>6</sup>
Presented Method	325.8
PGE's Practice	323.3

- Improvement of  
0.8% ( $\$2.5 \times 10^6$ )

# DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Self-Scheduling Cascaded Hydropower

- **Summary**

- 1) Target improving revenue by enhancing mid-term planning strategies
- 2) Mid-term planning and short-term operations are integrated in a closed-loop manner via DRL
- 3) Expertise-based mechanism for ensuring seasonal adaptivity
- 4) Multi-parametric programming for accelerating training
- 5) Annual revenue improvement of 0.8% ( $\$2.5 \times 10^6$ )

# Summary

1. Closed-loop predict-and-optimize (CPO) is an idea against open-loop predict-then-optimize
2. CPO-based prediction model for unit commitment:  
Lower operating cost
3. CPO-based mid-term planning approaches for cascaded hydropower: Higher operating revenue

# Papers

- **CPO for UC**

- [1] **X. Chen**, Y. Yang, Y. Liu, and L. Wu, "Feature-Driven Economic Improvement for Network-Constrained Unit Commitment: A Closed-Loop Predict-and-Optimize Framework," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, 2022.
- [2] **X. Chen**, Y. Liu, and L. Wu, "Towards Improving Unit Commitment Economics: An Add-On Tailor for Renewable Energy and Reserve Predictions," in *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, 2024.

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- [3] **X. Chen**, Y. Liu, Z. Zhong, N. Fan, Z. Zhao, and L. Wu, "A Carryover Storage Quantification Framework for Mid-Term Cascaded Hydropower Planning: A Portland General Electric System Study," under review of *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, 2024.
- [4] **X. Chen**, Y. Liu, N. Fan, Z. Zhao, and L. Wu, "DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning of Renewable-Integrated Self-Scheduling Cascaded Hydropower for Short-Term Wholesale Market Participation," under review of *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, 2024.
- [5] Y. Liu, **X. Chen**, N. Fan, Z. Zhao, and L. Wu, "Stochastic Day-Ahead Operation of Cascaded Hydropower Systems with Bayesian Neural Network-based Scenario Generation: A Portland General Electric System Study," in *International Journal of Electrical Power & Energy Systems*, 2023.

# Presentations

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- 1) Operation Research Live Talk, China, 2021
- 2) IEEE PES Grid Edge Technologies Conference & Exposition, San Diego, California, 2023
- 3) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Fourteenth Annual Software Conference, Washington, DC, 2023
- 4) IEEE PES General Meeting, Orlando, Florida, 2023
- 5) Stevens Institute of Technology ECE Ph.D. Research Exposition, 2024
- 6) Sichuan University, Chengdu, China, 2024

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- 7) INFORMS Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona, 2023



**Thank You**