



Two classical problems of Centralized Energy Production Management

Problem formulation and practical algorithms

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Antoine BAMBADE– EDF LAB/OSIRIS/R36

Alex Fauduet– EDF LAB/OSIRIS/R36



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- Context: what and how is it used for?
- Problem formulation
- Current algorithms used
- Some algorithmic improvements
- Experimental results
- Conclusion

2. Unit Commitment Problem

- Problem formulation
- Current algorithm used
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3. Conclusions and suggestions



1.1 Context

- **Horizon:** « mid term » (i.e., ~years);
- **Setup:**
 - We consider a fleet of nuclear power plants (of different categories);
 - Their refueling shutdowns are already scheduled (for a few years);
- **Question:** how to consume their nuclear stock fuels between shutdowns ?

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How is it used ?

- **Energy production management;**
 - **Horizon:** « short term » (i.e., ~intra day to a few days);
 - **Merit order principle:** (« smaller usage value is better for production »);
- **Coverage options for trading;**



1.2 Problem formulation

N nuclear power plants labelled by i characterized by

- s_i^t : stock at discrete time t
- p_i^t : power at discrete time t (discretized values, different régimes)

$\omega \in \Omega$: a possible scenario for the power plants (finite number, M , of them).

- Random prices
- Random outages

$v_{i,\omega}^t$: marginal valorisation of the electric power for i at t .

$g_{i,\omega}^t(s)$: gains for the power plant i , starting from a given stock s at t .

We use at t , as usage value signal, an element of $\partial_s \mathbb{E}[g_{i,\omega}^t(s)]$

1.3 Current algorithms used

- Principle
 - Stock discretization for some range
 - For each plant i at t , compute for each scenario $g_{i,\omega}^t(s)$
 - Using finite difference, compute an element of $\partial_s g_{i,\omega}^t(s)$
 - Assemble an average over scenarii for estimating $\partial_s \mathbb{E}[g_{i,\omega}^t(s)]$

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- How computing each gains ?

1.3 Current algorithms used

- American option valuation detour

Algorithm 1: Longstaff-Schwartz algorithm (exact version)

Inputs: M (number of simulations), T (number of time steps), r (unrisky rate), K (strike price),

Initialization:

1) simulate M price trajectories $\{v_\omega^t\}_{\omega,t}$ with T time steps,

2) starting points: $g^T(v_\omega^T) = e^{-rT} \max\{0, K - v_\omega^T\}, \forall \omega,$

for $\omega \in \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_M\}$ **do**

for $t = T, \dots, 1$ **do**

$h^t(v) = e^{-rt} \max\{0, K - v\}$ (current payoff);

$C^t(v) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}_\omega(g^{t+1}(v) | v^t = v)$ (continuation value);

$g^t(v_\omega^t) = \begin{cases} h^t(v_\omega^t), & \text{(Exercise the option) if } h^t(v_\omega^t) \geq C^t(v_\omega^t), \\ g^{t+1}(v_\omega^t), & \text{(Do not exercise) otherwise,} \end{cases}$

end

end

Return: $\mathbb{E}_\omega(g^1(v_\omega^1))$

1.3 Current algorithms used

- American option valuation detour

Algorithm 2: Longstaff-Schwartz algorithm (numerical version)

Inputs: M (number of simulations), T (number of time steps), r (unrisky rate), K (strike price), p (number of polynomials of OLS basis expansion chosen)

Initialization:

1) simulate M price trajectories $\{v_\omega^t\}_{\omega,t}$ with T time steps,

2) starting points: $g^T(v_\omega^T) = e^{-rT} \max\{0, K - v_\omega^T\}, \forall \omega,$

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$C^t(v) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}_\omega(g^{t+1}(v_\omega^{t+1}) | v_\omega^t = v)$ (continuation value);

$\hat{C}^t(v) = \sum_{k=1}^p \beta_k \phi_k(v)$ (OLS estimate);

$g^t(v_\omega^t) = \begin{cases} h^t(v_\omega^t), & \text{(Exercise the option) if } h^t(v_\omega^t) \geq \hat{C}^t(v_\omega^t), \\ g^{t+1}(v_\omega^t), & \text{(Do not exercise) otherwise,} \end{cases}$

end

end

Return: $\frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M (g^1(v_{\omega_j}^1))$

1.3 Current algorithms used

- Backward pass details

Algorithm 3: MOON backward pass (numerical version)

Inputs: M (number of simulations), T (number of time steps), K (number of polynomials of OLS basis expansion chosen), discretized stock $\{s_j\}_j$ (number J), power plant production structure $p(s)$,

- 1) M price trajectories $\{v_\omega^t\}_{\omega,t}$ with T time steps and power plant outage scenarii,
- 2) starting points: $g^T(v_\omega^T, s_j), \forall \omega, s_j$,

for $t = T, \dots, 1$ **do**

for $s \in \{s_1, \dots, s_J\}$ **do**

for $\omega \in \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_M\}$ **do**

$C^t(v, s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{E}_\omega(g^{t+1}(v_\omega^{t+1}, s) | v_\omega^t = v)$ (continuation value);

$\hat{C}^t(v, s) = \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k \phi_k(v, s)$ (OLS estimate);

$h^t(v, p, s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\tau} p^{t+\tau}(s^{t+\tau}) v^{t+\tau} + \hat{C}^t(v, s) + J(\{p^{t+\tau}(s^{t+\tau})\}_\tau)$ (payoff function);

$\{p_\star^{t+\tau}(s, v_\omega^t)\}_\tau \in \arg \max_p h^t(v_\omega^t, p, s)$ (production profile)

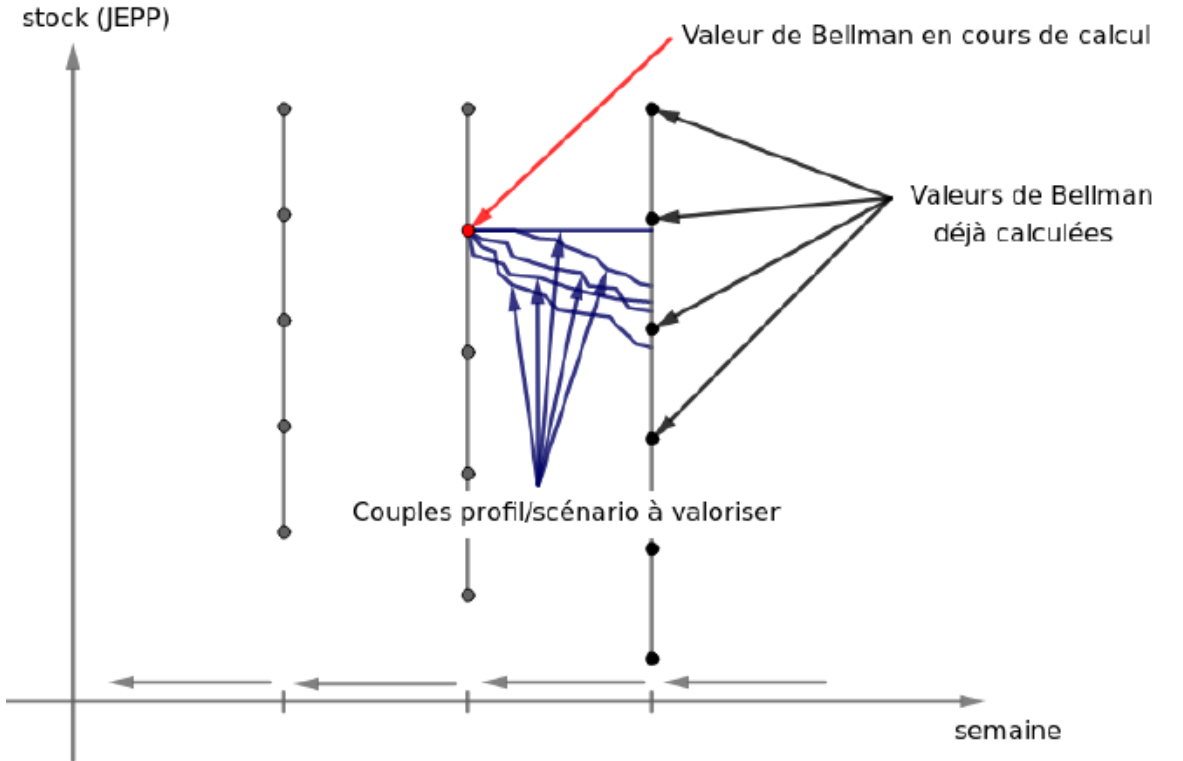
$g^t(v_\omega^t, s) = \sum_{\tau} p_\star^{t+\tau} v_\omega^{t+\tau} + g^{t+1}(v_\omega^t, s) + J(\{p_\star^{t+\tau}(s^{t+\tau})\}_\tau)$;

end

end

end

Return: $\{g^t(v_\omega^t, s)\}_{t,\omega,s}$



1.3 Current algorithms used

- Forward pass details

Algorithm 4: MOON forward pass (numerical version)

Inputs: M (number of simulations), T (number of time steps), K (number of polynomials of OLS basis expansion chosen), discretized stock $\{s_j\}_j$ (number J), power plant production structure $p(s)$,

- 1) M price trajectories $\{v_\omega^t\}_{\omega,t}$ with T time steps and power plant outage scenarii,
- 2) Bellman values on the grid: $\{g^t(v_\omega^t, s)\}_{t,\omega,s}$

Desired output

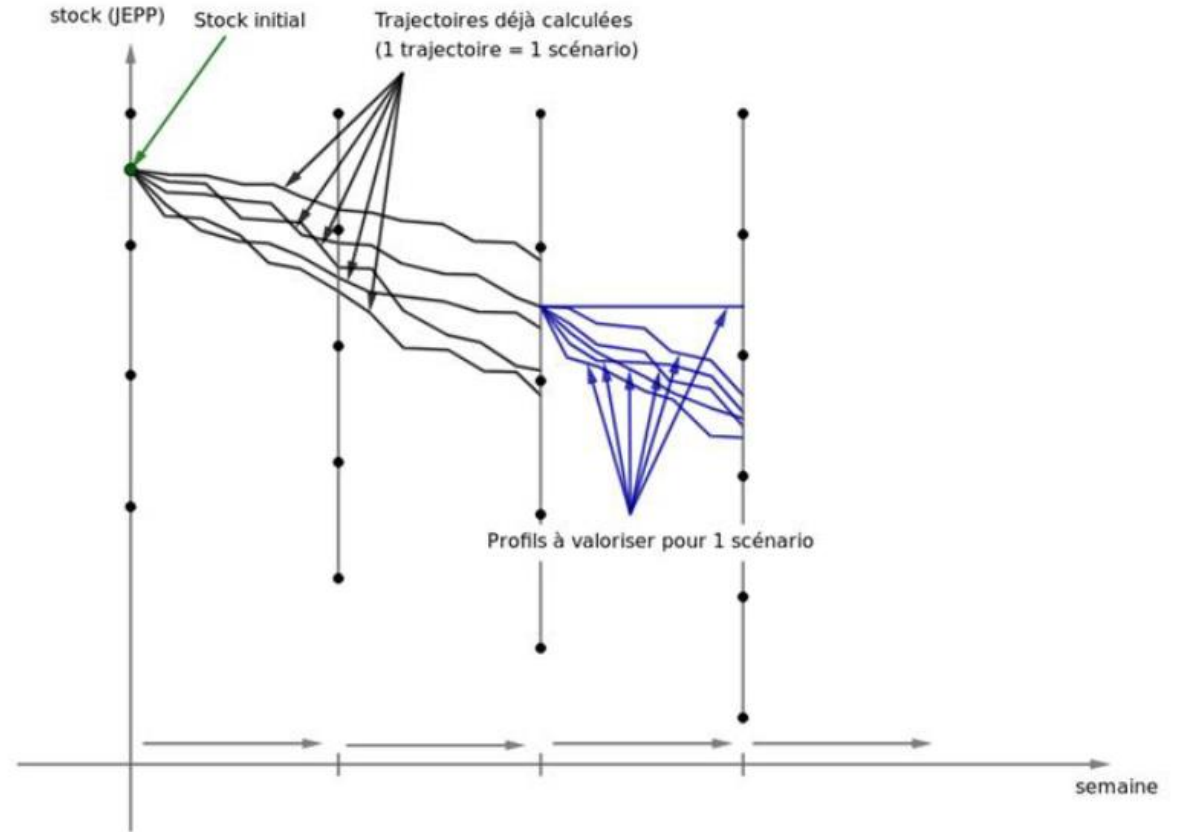
- 1) $g_\omega(s)$: payoff per scenario,
- 2) $p_\omega(s)$: best production plans for each scenarii (starting from some stock);

```

for  $s \in \{s_1, \dots, s_J\}$  do
  for  $\omega \in \{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_M\}$  do
    for  $t = 1, \dots, T$  do
       $\hat{h}^t(v, p, s) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{\tau} p^{t+\tau}(s^{t+\tau})v^{t+\tau} + g^t(v, s) + J(\{p^{t+\tau}(s^{t+\tau})\}_\tau)$  (payoff
      function);
       $\{p_\star^{t+\tau}(s, v_\omega^t)\}_\tau \in \arg \max_p \hat{h}^t(v, p, s)$  (production profile);
      update  $g_\omega(s)$  and stack  $p_\omega(s)$ ;
    end
  end
end

```

Return: $\{g_\omega(s)\}_{\omega,s}, \{p_\omega(s)\}_{s,\omega}$



1.3 Current algorithms used

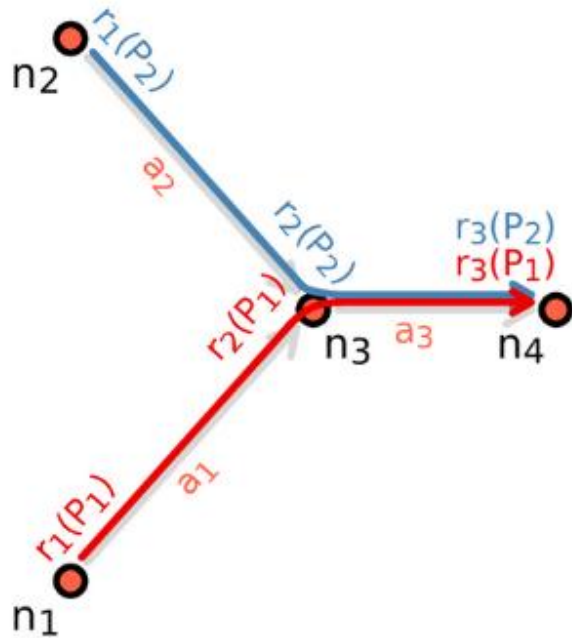
- Main limitations
 - Not exact calculations of « argmax »;
- Practitioners' impact
 - Some « strange » decisions impacting placement of modulations, stock coverage calculation;
 - Mid-term / short-term visions not aligned;

1.3 Current algorithms used

- Main limitations
 - Not exact calculations of « argmax »;
- Practitioners' impact
 - Some « strange » decisions impacting placement of modulations, stock coverage calculation;
 - Mid-term / short-term visions not aligned;
- Other attempts
 - DP calculations for sub-problems

1.4 OSAK solver : general principles

Fonctionnement d'OSAK



Evolving resources along two paths

- Notation

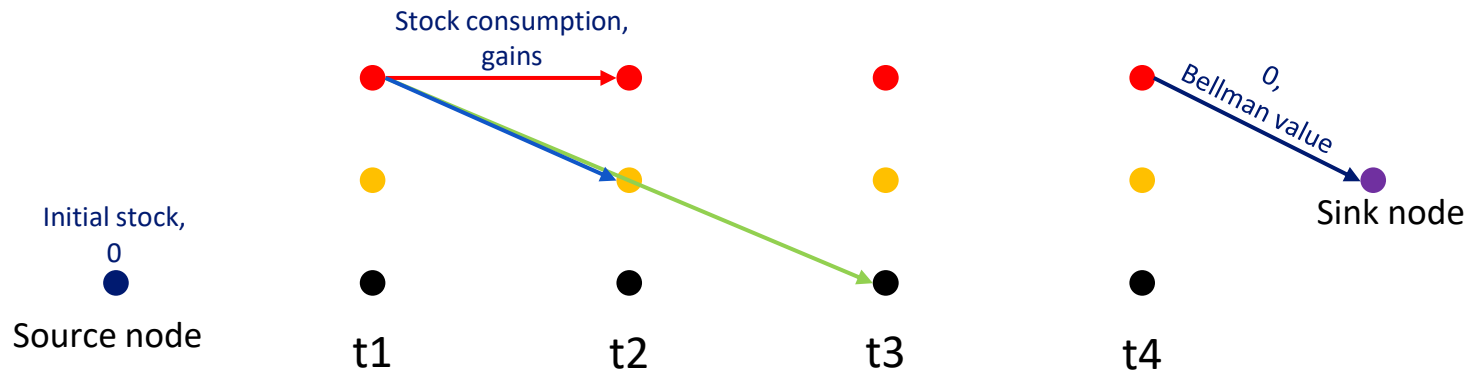
- OSAK solves

$$\arg \min_{P \in \mathcal{F}} \text{cost}(r(P)).$$

For P a path in an acyclic digraph, with feasible resource $r(P)$, and final cost $\text{cost}(r(P))$

- OSAK uses a dominance rule between the resources partial paths to create a « **Pareto front** » of paths at each node and eliminate dominate paths
- Hypothesis:
 - Feasibility and final cost are decreasing with respect to the resource; i.e. if sub-path $r(P)$ dominates $r(Q)$ then
 - $\text{Cost}(r(P)) < \text{cost}(r(Q))$
 - If $r(P)$ is infeasible then so is $r(Q)$

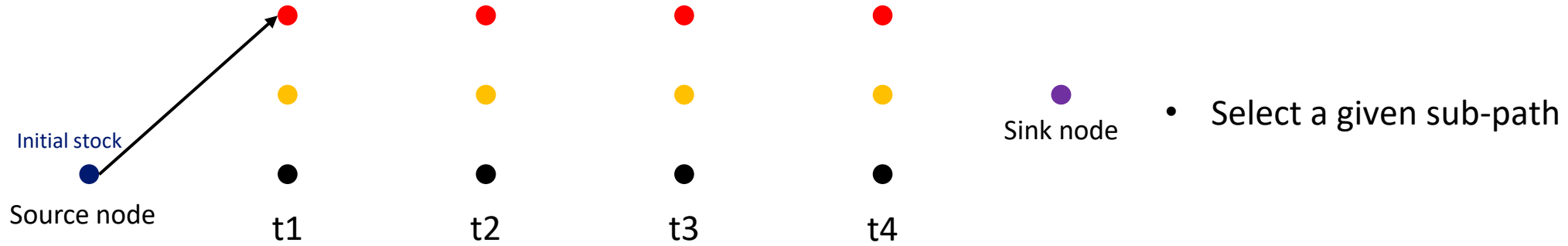
Representing a nuclear plant with OSAK



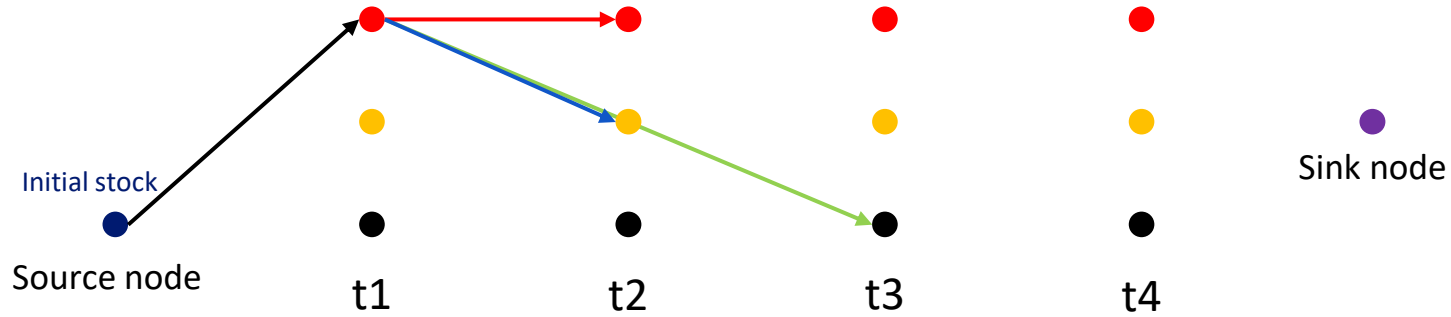
Representing the problem as a graph:

- We start from a given initial stock
- Each node represents a *functioning point* (max power, min power, off) at a given time
- Edges represent a transition of the power plant production state
 - An edge going to a « higher production » node earns more, but consumes more stock
 - Long edges to off:
 - when the plant turns off, it has to remain so for a minimum duration
- A path represents a feasible production profile for the plant, with its resource (cost, stock) evolving with each edge

Representing a nuclear plant with OSAK

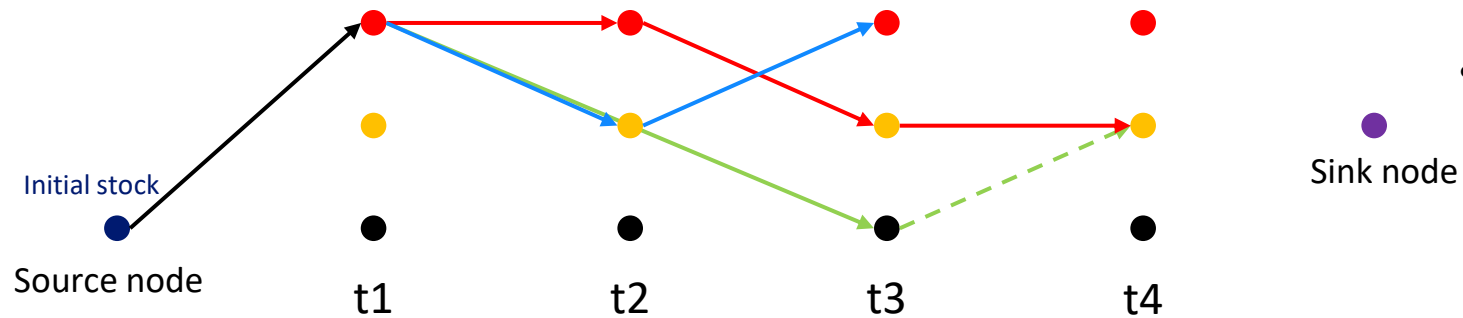


Representing a nuclear plant with OSAK



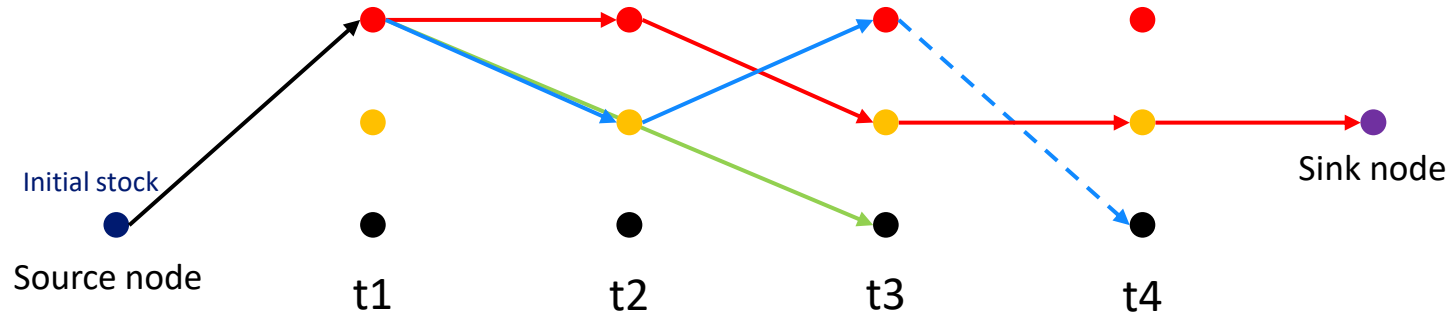
- Select an already constructed sub-path
- Extend it with all possible edges from its ending node
 - Check resource feasibility here
- Add extended sub-paths to the queue

Pruning: dominance



- When two sub-paths end at the same node, compare their resources
- If one *dominates* the other (ex: current gains are higher and current stock is higher)
 - remove the dominated path
 - Otherwise keep both, building a pareto front at that node

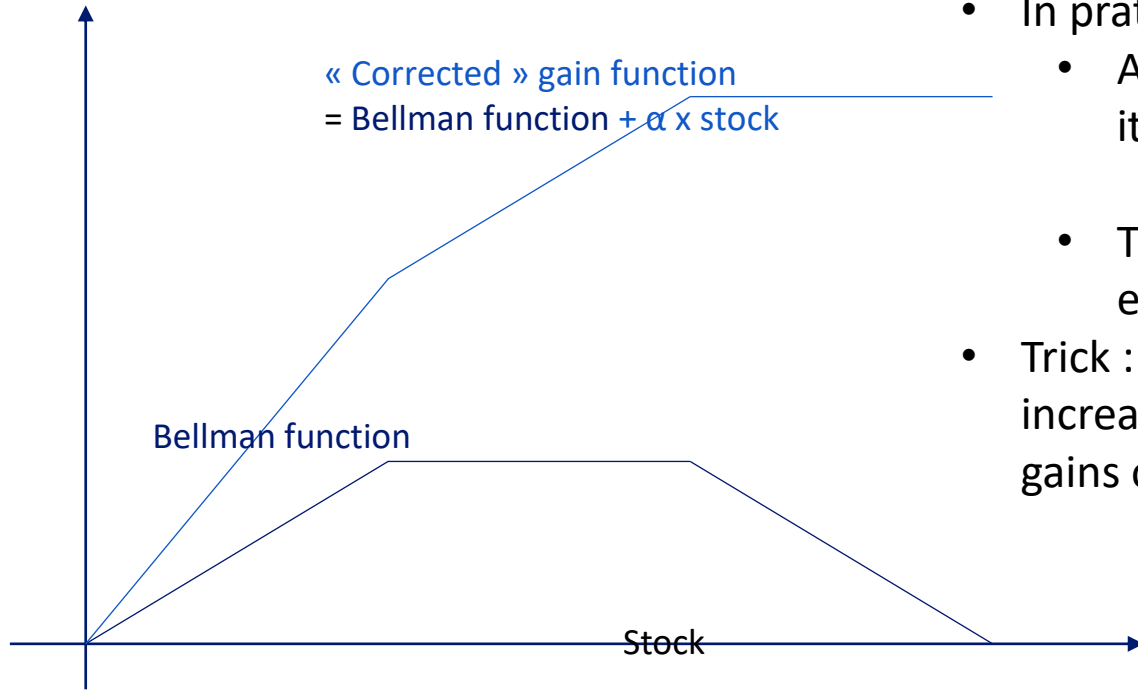
Pruning: bounding



- A path that reached the sink node provides a lower bound to the optimal value
- If we have a relaxed way to extend a sub-path, we can compare it to the lower bound and prune paths that can't beat it
 - Solution : do dynamic programming with poor discretization in pre-processing

A trick for the dominance rule

Final gain



- In practice, a higher stock is not always better
 - At the end of the production campaign, a nuclear plant needs its stock to be lower than a threshold
 - Prohibitive penalty added to the final stock
 - That means we lose the domination rule previously explained
- Trick : one can « correct » the final gain function to make it increasing with the stock, and « compensate » in the production gains of edges so that the sum remains the same

Stock consumption,
gains + α x stock consumption



Sink node

Initial stock,
initial gain = $-\alpha$ x initial stock



Source node



t1

t2

t3

t4

Full constraints in the real problem

- We have limited power decreases per day
 - Needs an additional resource, i.e. 3 dimensions : current gains, current stock, and remaining allowed power decreases
- Minimum up time after powering on
 - Needs an additional resource, i.e. 4 dimensions : current gains, current stock, remaining allowed power decreases, and remaining time before the plant can turn back off
- Minimum down time after powering off
 - « Long » edges
- When the stock goes below a certain threshold, only maximum power is possible
- Minimum power and maximum power depend on stock
 - minimum power increases after a point, maximum power decreases afterwards

1.5 Experimental results

What do we compare?

Estimated payoffs (Bellman values) for a nuclear plant,
Usage values and production plans behaviors,
Time calculations,

Settings and inputs

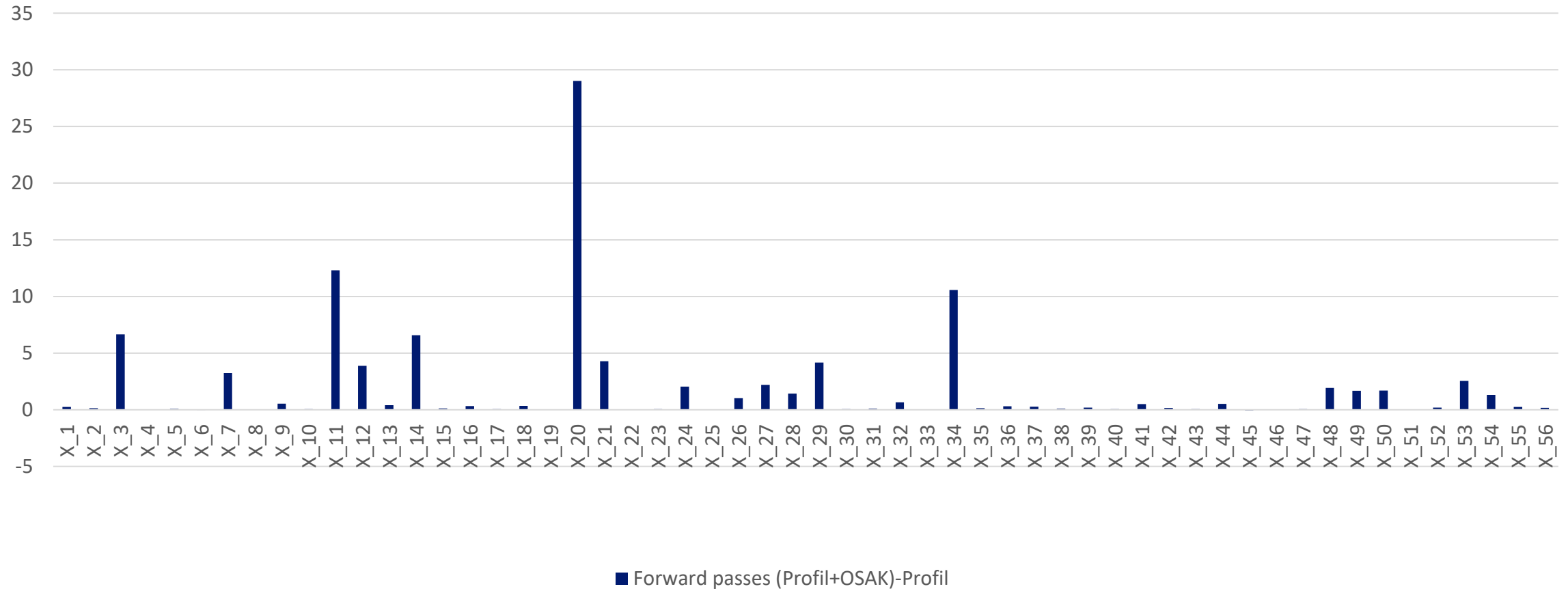
- all nuclear plants;
- Stock discretisation: 1 JEPP;
- real production data;

Methods compared

- **Reference:** « Profil » (backward and forward passes using hardcoded production profiles)
- **Variant:** « Profil+OSAK »: (backward using hard coded profiles; forward pass using OSAK warm started with hard coded production profiles)

1.5 Experimental results

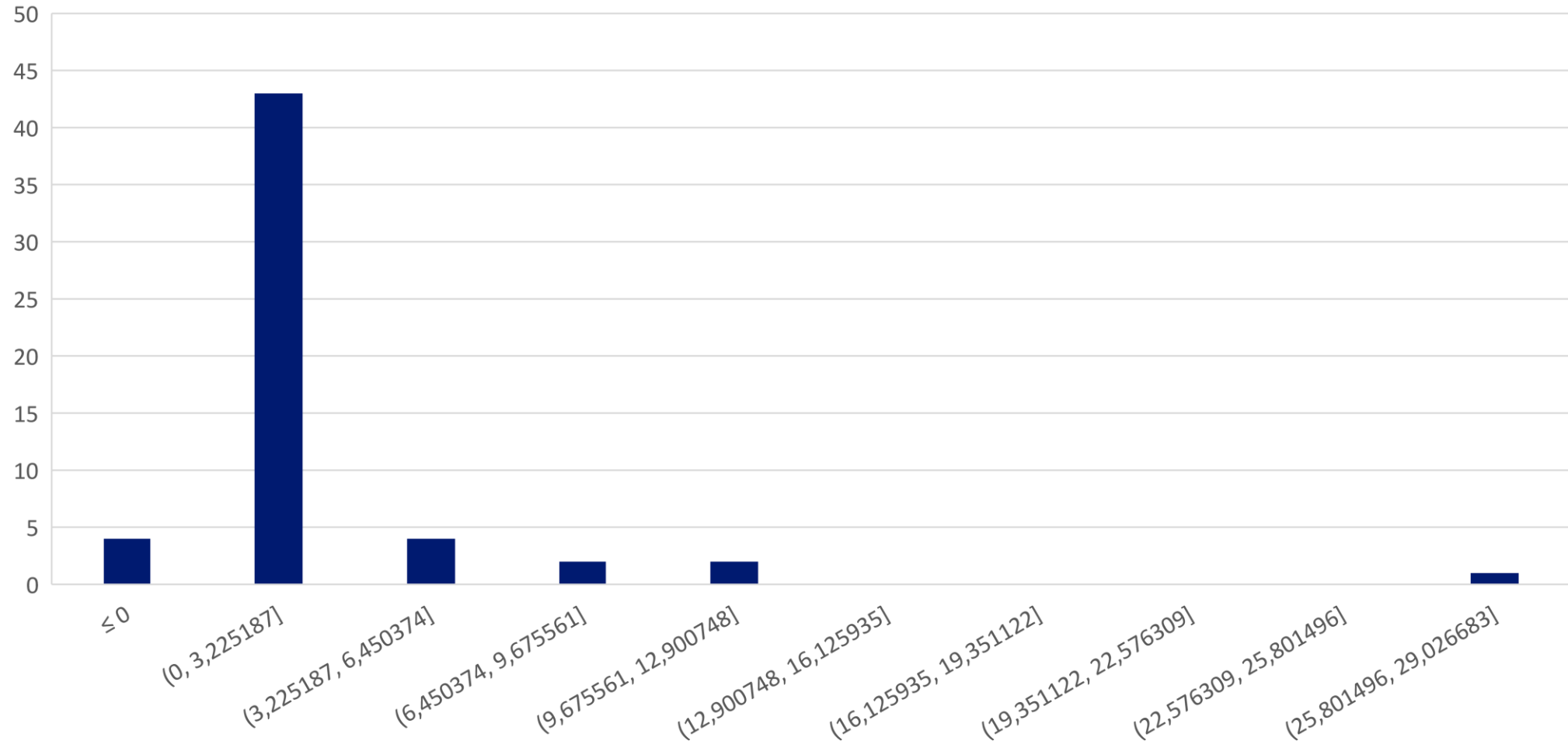
Forward pass gains (in M€) for (Profil+OSAK)-Profil



1.5 Experimental results

Principal Mode (78% of gains) : [0, 3M€]
Right hand side distribution (16% of gains) : [3M€, 29M€]
Left hand side distribution (7% of cases): [-0.06M€, 0M€]

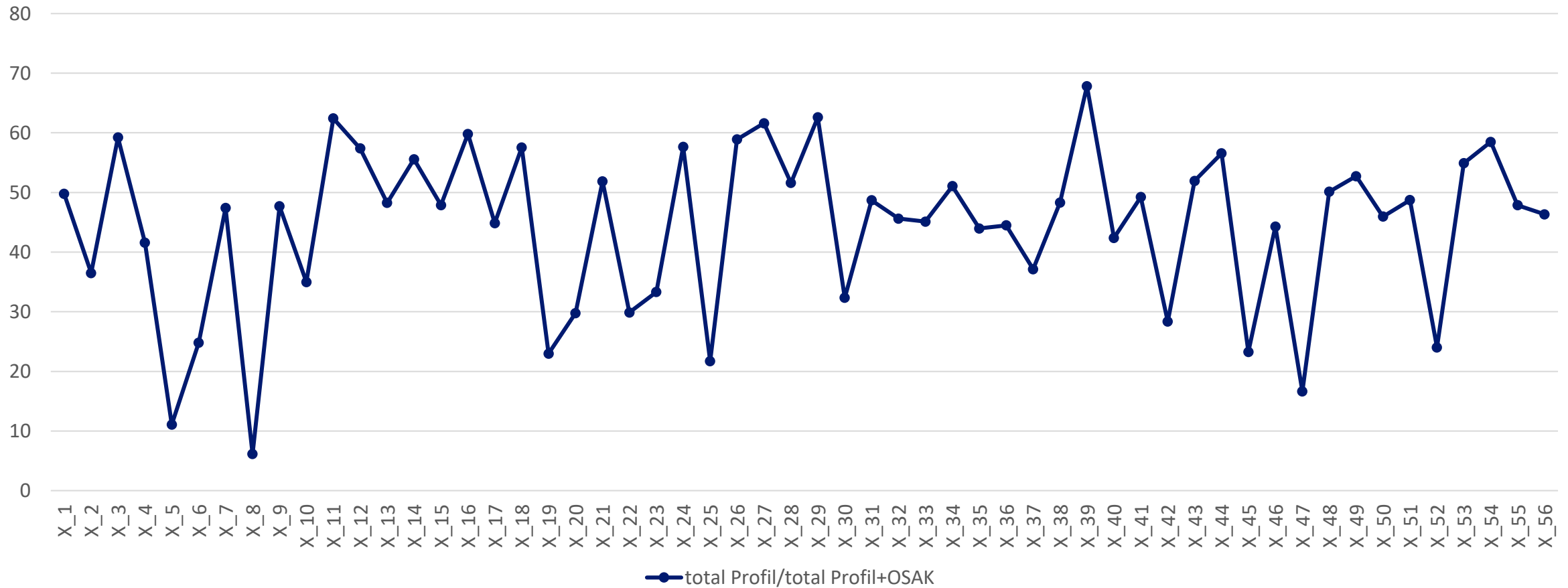
Distribution in M€ (Profil+OSAK)- Profil



1.5 Experimental results

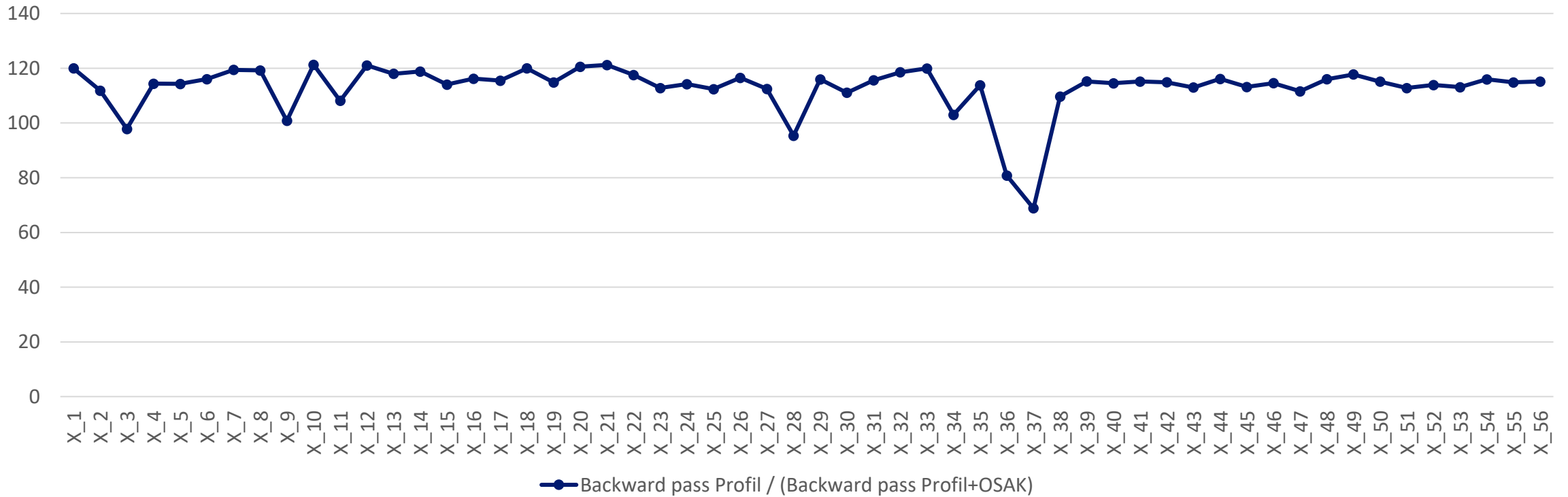
Total time Profil+OSAK : ~6h30
Total time Profil : ~2h00

Timings: total Profil / (total Profil+OSAK)



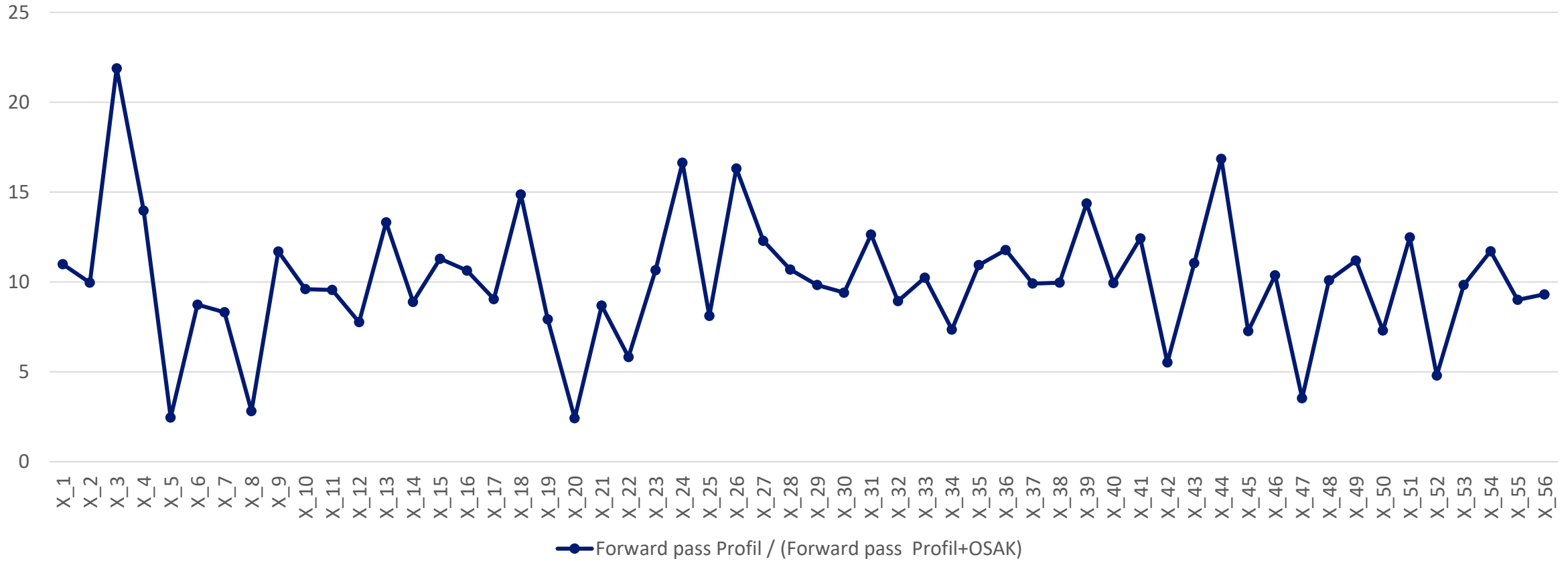
1.5 Experimental results

Timings (Backward pass Profil)/(Backward pass Profil+OSAK)



1.5 Experimental results

Timings (Forward pass Profil)/(Forward pass Profil+OSAK)



1.6 Conclusions and next steps

Key results

- Better sub-problem resolution provides better decision signals for negligible supplementary time (about 100M€ for extra 4h compute)
- Results can be explained and production profiles generated can be used;
- Trade-off between timing and gains (ongoing calibration)

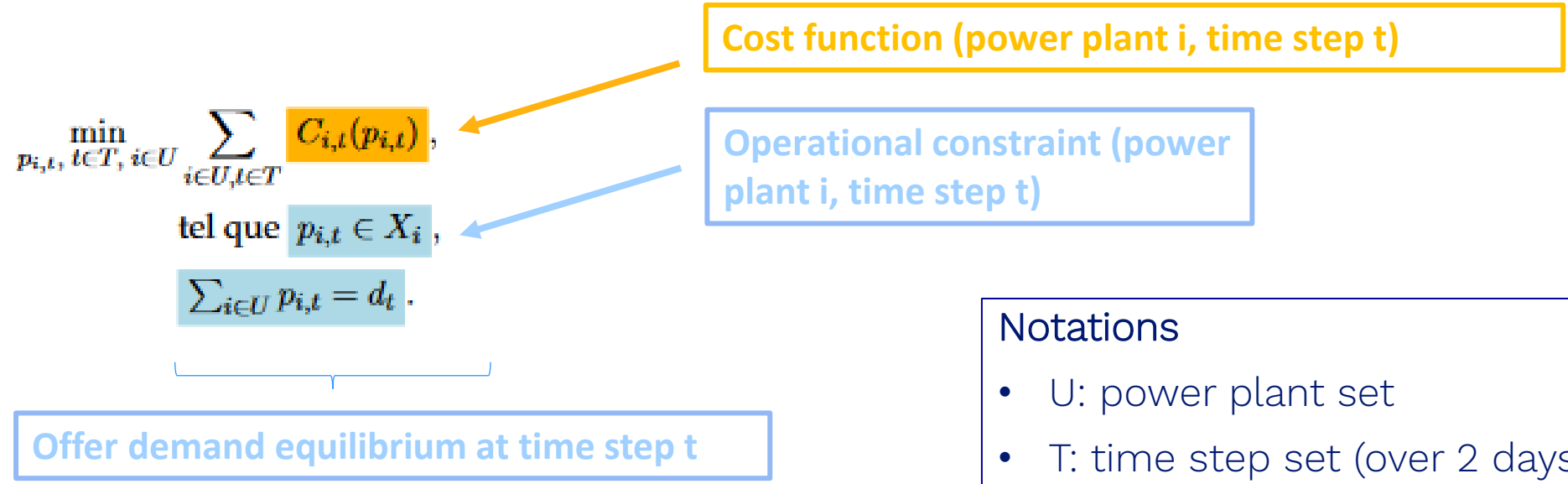
Next steps

- Ongoing industrialization
- Solution to be presented to « Grand Trophée de la R&D »
- Optimize the backward pass
- Other formulations ?

2.1 Problem formulation

Unit commitment problem

We wish to solve



- Notations**
- U: power plant set
 - T: time step set (over 2 days)
 - p: power vector (dimension 5)
 - d: demand

2.1 Problem formulation

Unit commitment problem

We wish to solve

$$\min_{p_{i,t}, t \in T, i \in U} \sum_{t \in T} \hat{C}_t(d_t - \sum_{i \in U} p_{i,t}) + \sum_{i \in U, t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}),$$

tel que $p_{i,t} \in X_i,$

Failure cost at time step t

Operational cost (power plant i, time step t)

Operational constraint (power plant i, time step t)

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Algorithm « Apogène »

1. Phase 1
 1. Bundle method
 2. price signal
2. Phase 2
 1. Augmented Lagrangian
 2. First solutions
3. Phase 3
 1. Genetic algorithms
 2. Solution polishing

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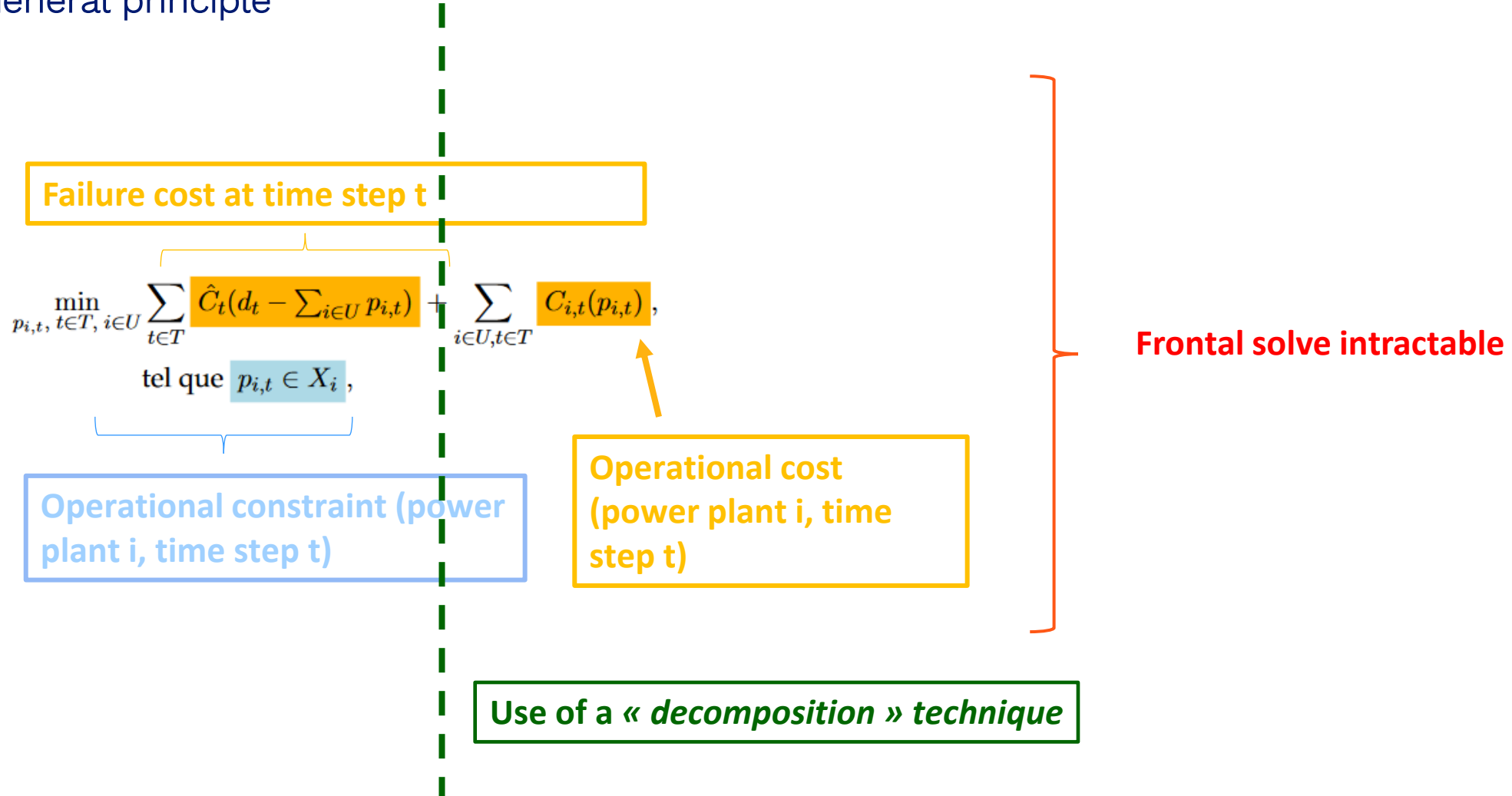
Operational constraint (power plant i, time step t)

Operational cost (power plant i, time step t)

Frontal solve intractable

2.1 Problem formulation

General principle



2.2 Current algorithm used

Phase 2 algorithm

$$\hat{p} \in \arg \min_{\hat{p}_{i,t} \in \hat{X}_i} \sum_{t \in T} \hat{C}_t(d_t - \sum_{i \in U} \hat{p}_{i,t}),$$
$$p \in \arg \min_{p_{i,t} \in X_i} \sum_{i \in U, t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}).$$

We would like to find solution such that
 $p = \hat{p}$

Notations

- \hat{X}_i : a *split* of constraint X_i
- X_i : *complementary split* of X_i

2.2 Current algorithm used

Phase 2 algorithm

Proximal Jacobian ADMM

$$\hat{p}^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{\hat{p}_{i,t} \in \hat{X}_i} \sum_{t \in T} \hat{C}_t(d_t - \sum_{i \in U} \hat{p}_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - p_t^k - \frac{\mu_t^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - \hat{p}_t^k\|_2^2,$$

$$p^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{p_{i,t} \in X_i} \sum_{i \in U, t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|p_{i,t} - \hat{p}_{i,t}^k + \frac{\mu_{i,t}^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|p_{i,t} - p_{i,t}^k\|_2^2,$$

$$\mu^{k+1} = \mu^k + \tau \rho (p^{k+1} - \hat{p}^{k+1}),$$

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Price signal estimate

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$$\mu^{k+1} = \mu^k + \tau \rho (p^{k+1} - \hat{p}^{k+1}),$$

Price signal estimate

Parameters

- τ : *damping term*
- ρ : *penalization term*
- K : *proximal term*

Notations

- \hat{X}_i : *a split of constraint X_i*
- X_i : *complementary split of X_i*

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Proximal Jacobian ADMM

$$\hat{p}^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{\hat{p}_{i,t} \in \hat{X}_i} \hat{C}_t(d_t - \sum_{i \in U} \hat{p}_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - p_t^k - \frac{\mu_t^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - \hat{p}_t^k\|_2^2,$$

$$p^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{p_{i,t} \in \bar{X}_i} \sum_{t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|p_{i,t} - \hat{p}_{i,t}^k + \frac{\mu_{i,t}^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|p_{i,t} - p_{i,t}^k\|_2^2,$$

$$\mu^{k+1} = \mu^k + \tau \rho (p^{k+1} - \hat{p}^{k+1}),$$

Fully distributed version

Price signal estimate

Parameters

- τ : *damping term*
- ρ : *penalization term*
- K : *proximal term*

Notations

- \hat{X}_i : *a split of constraint X_i*
- \bar{X}_i : *complementary split of X_i*

2.2 Current algorithm used

Phase 2 algorithm

Proximal Jacobian ADMM

$$\hat{p}^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{\hat{p}_{d,t}, \hat{p}_t \in \hat{X}_i} \hat{C}_i(\hat{p}_{d,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - p_t^k - \frac{\mu_i^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - \hat{p}_t^k\|_2^2,$$

$$p^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{p_i \in \bar{X}_i} \sum_{t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|p_{i,t} - \hat{p}_{i,t}^k + \frac{\mu_{i,t}^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|p_{i,t} - p_{i,t}^k\|_2^2,$$

Fully distributed version

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Fully distributed version

$$\mu^{k+1} = \mu^k + \tau \rho (p^{k+1} - \hat{p}^{k+1}),$$

Price signal estimate

Parameters

- τ : *damping term*
- ρ : *penalization term*
- K : *proximal term*

Convergence conditions

- $0 < \tau \leq 1$
- $0 < \rho < K$

Notations

- \hat{X}_i : *a split of constraint X_i*
- \bar{X}_i : *complementary split of X_i*

2.2 Current algorithm used

Phase 2 algorithm

Proximal Jacobian ADMM

$$\hat{p}^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{\hat{p}_{d,t}, \hat{p}_t \in \hat{X}_i} \hat{C}_i(\hat{p}_{d,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - p_t^k - \frac{\mu_i^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - \hat{p}_t^k\|_2^2,$$

$$p^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{p_i \in \bar{X}_i} \sum_{t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|p_{i,t} - \hat{p}_{i,t}^k + \frac{\mu_{i,t}^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|p_{i,t} - p_{i,t}^k\|_2^2,$$

Fully distributed version

$$\mu^{k+1} = \mu^k + \tau \rho (p^{k+1} - \hat{p}^{k+1}),$$

Price signal estimate

Parameterization used

- $\tau = 1$: no *damping*
- $\rho = K/2$: penalization term
- $K > 0$: proximal term

Convergence conditions

- $0 < \tau \leq 1$
- $0 < \rho < K$

Notations

- \hat{X}_i : a *split* of constraint X_i
- \bar{X}_i : *complementary split* of X_i

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Variations experimented

- Automatic calibration techniques
- Acceleration techniques

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Automatic calibration techniques

Current calibration

- ρ et K a strictly increasing interpolation;
- $\rho = K / 2$;
- $\tau = 1$;

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Automatic calibration techniques

Current calibration

- ρ et K a strictly increasing interpolation;
- $\rho = K / 2$;
- $\tau = 1$;

« vanilla » Variation:

- $\rho = K / \alpha$ with α strictly greater than 2;
- $\tau = 0.95$;
- K another interpolation with slower variation;

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Automatic calibration techniques

Vanilla « automatic » technic (inspired from Method of Multipliers based algorithms):

- $\rho = K / \alpha$ with α strictly greater than 2;
- $\tau = 0.95$;
- K another interpolation with slower variation;
- If $\| \mathbf{p}^{k+1} - \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{k+1} \| \geq 0.95 \| \mathbf{p}^k - \hat{\mathbf{p}}^k \|$ (at some frequency):
 - Increase ρ (we don't penalize enough the constraint)

References:

Birgin, E. G., & Martínez, J. M. (2014). *Practical augmented Lagrangian methods for constrained optimization*. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Automatic calibration techniques

More advanced technic (OSQP like):

- $\rho = K / \alpha$ with α strictly greater than 2;
- $\tau = 0.95$;
- K another interpolation with slower variation;
- If primal residual larger than dual one (at some frequency):
 - Increase ρ (dual converges too quickly)
- If dual residual larger than primal one (at some frequency):
 - Decrease ρ (primal converges too quickly)

References:



Stellato, B., Banjac, G., Goulart, P., Bemporad, A., & Boyd, S. (2020). OSQP: An operator splitting solver for quadratic programs. *Mathematical Programming Computation*, 12(4), 637-672.

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Acceleration techniques

General principle

ADMM based algorithms can be accelerated

Tested technics:

- Over-Relaxation
- Anderson acceleration

2.3 Some algorithmic improvements

Acceleration techniques

General principle

ADMM based algorithms can be accelerated

Tested technics:

- Over-Relaxation
- Anderson acceleration

$$\hat{p}^{k+1/2} \in \arg \min_{\hat{p}_{d,t}, \hat{p}_t \in \hat{X}_i} \hat{C}_t(\hat{p}_{d,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - p_t^k - \frac{\mu_t^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|\hat{p}_t - \hat{p}_t^k\|_2^2,$$

$$p^{k+1} \in \arg \min_{p_i \in \bar{X}_i} \sum_{t \in T} C_{i,t}(p_{i,t}) + \frac{\rho}{2} \|p_{i,t} - \hat{p}_{i,t}^k + \frac{\mu_{i,t}^k}{\rho}\|_2^2 + \frac{K}{2} \|p_{i,t} - p_{i,t}^k\|_2^2,$$

$$\mu^{k+1} = \mu^k + \tau \rho (p^{k+1} - \alpha \hat{p}^{k+1/2} - (1 - \alpha) \hat{p}^k),$$

$$\hat{p}^{k+1} = \alpha \hat{p}^{k+1/2} + (1 - \alpha) \hat{p}^k.$$

Remark:

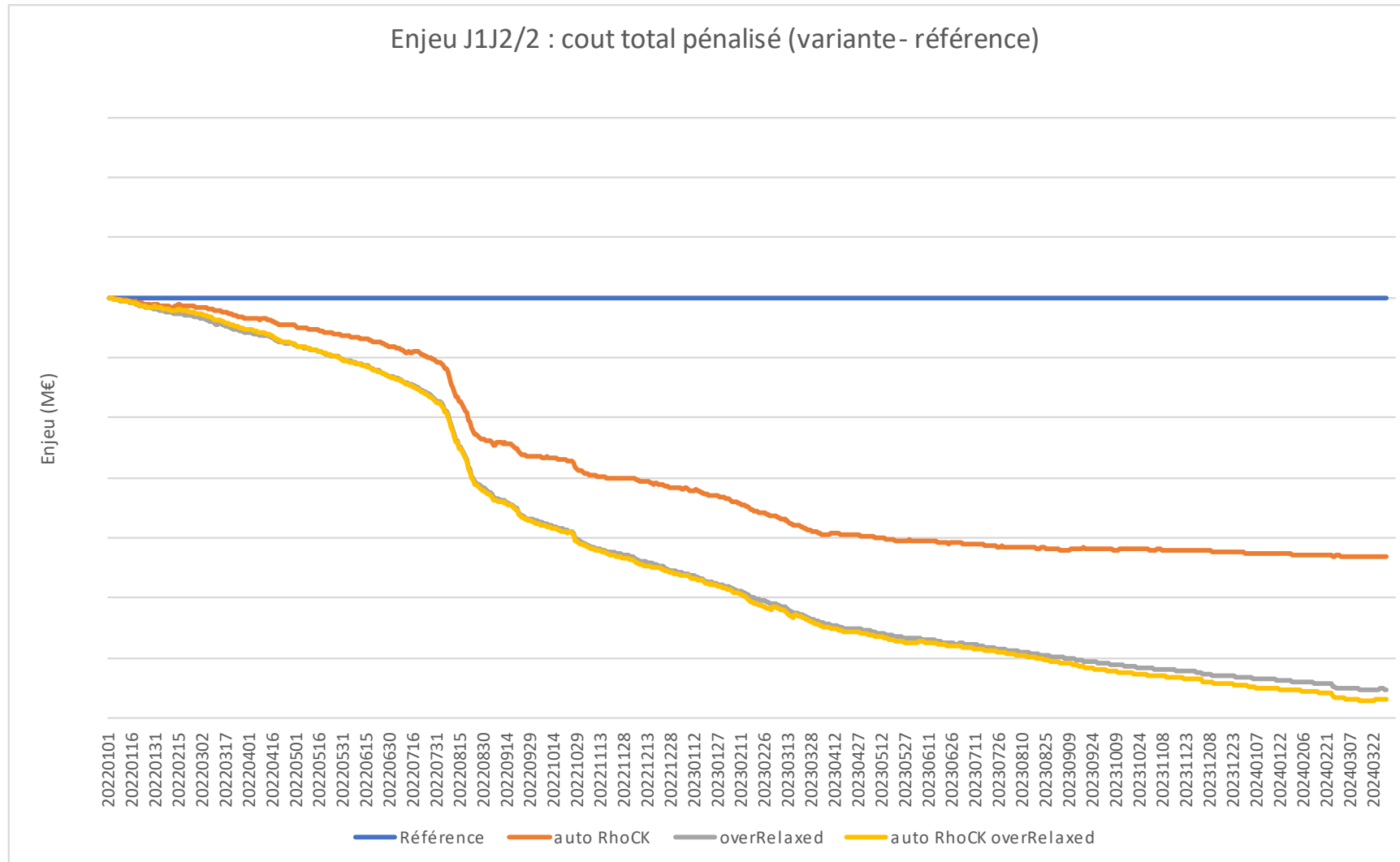
ADMM converges for $0 < \alpha < 2$

- $\alpha > 1$: *over-relaxation*
- $\alpha < 1$: *under-relaxation*

It has been observed that for $\alpha > 1$ it goes quicker (especially for $\alpha=1.6$)

2.4 Experimental results

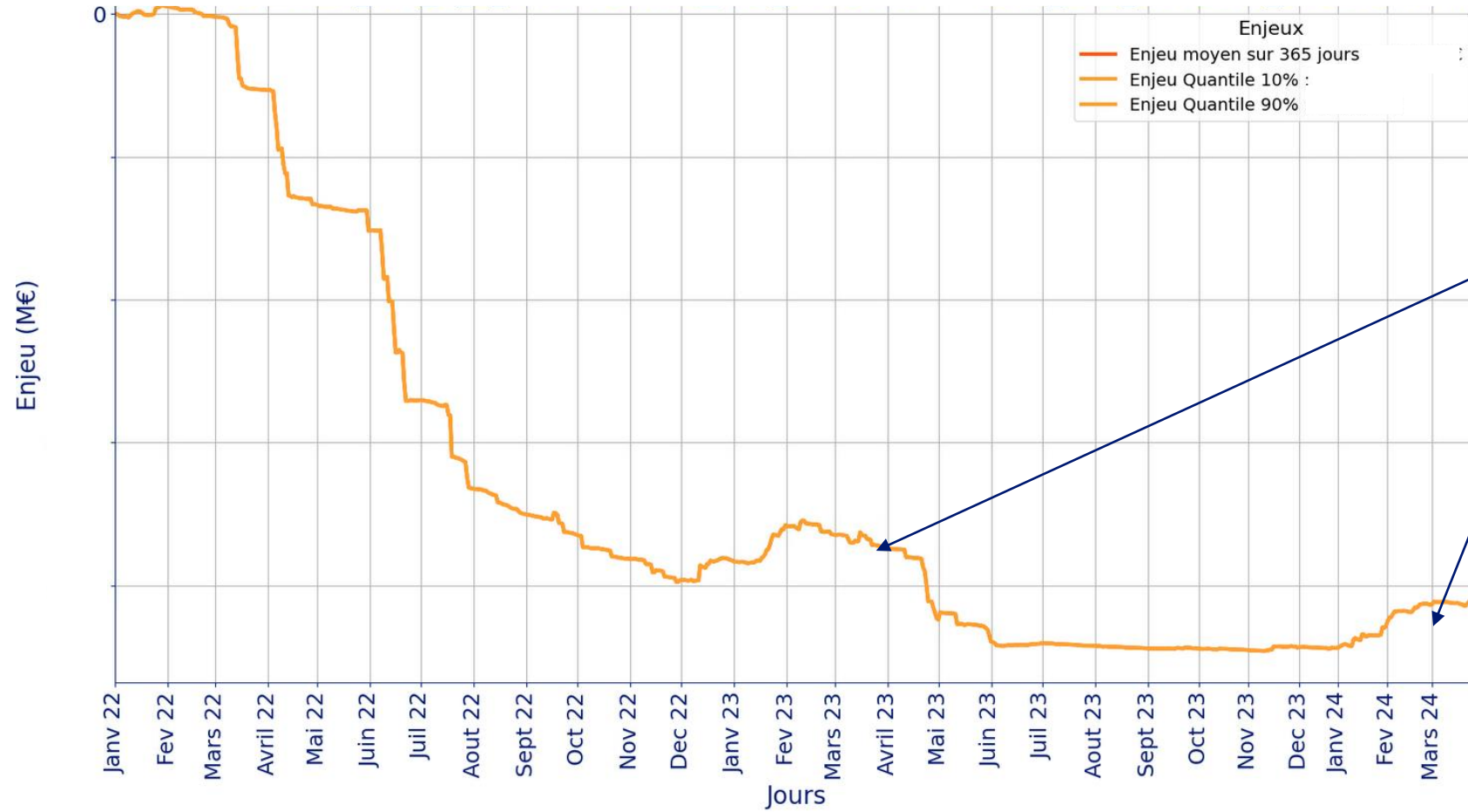
Time discretization: 30 minutes



2.4 Experimental results

Time discretization: 15 minutes

Vanilla over relaxed automatic calibration - reference

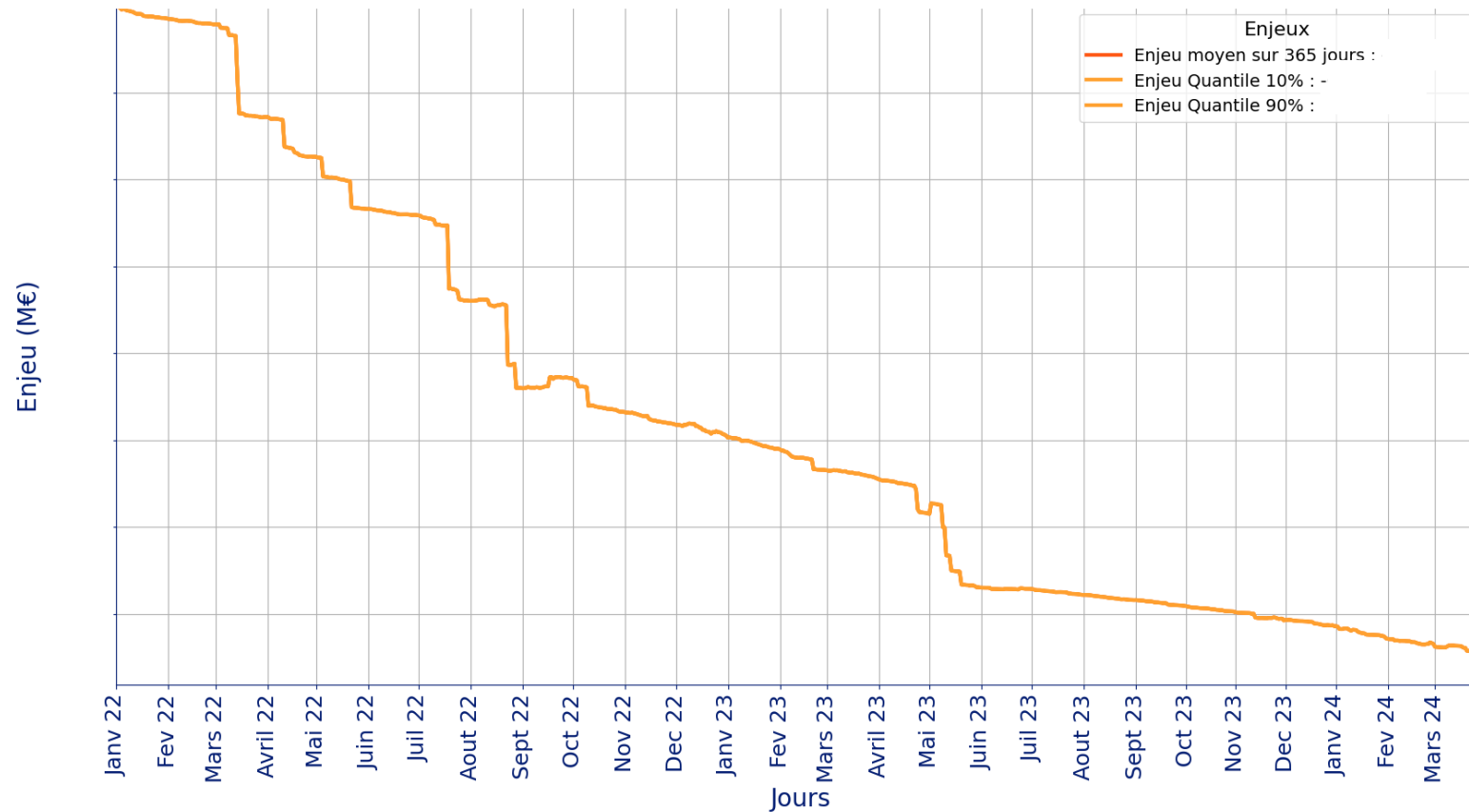


Problematic during winter

2.4 Experimental results

Time discretization: 15 minutes

More advanced relaxed automatic calibration - reference



2.6 Conclusions

Key results

- ADMM based algorithms are very powerful;
- They are very sensitive to the step size calibration;
- New improvements integrated into production;



Merci

