



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

Ph.D. Thesis Defense

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Advisor: Professor Lei Wu

December 04, 2024

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Computer Engineering



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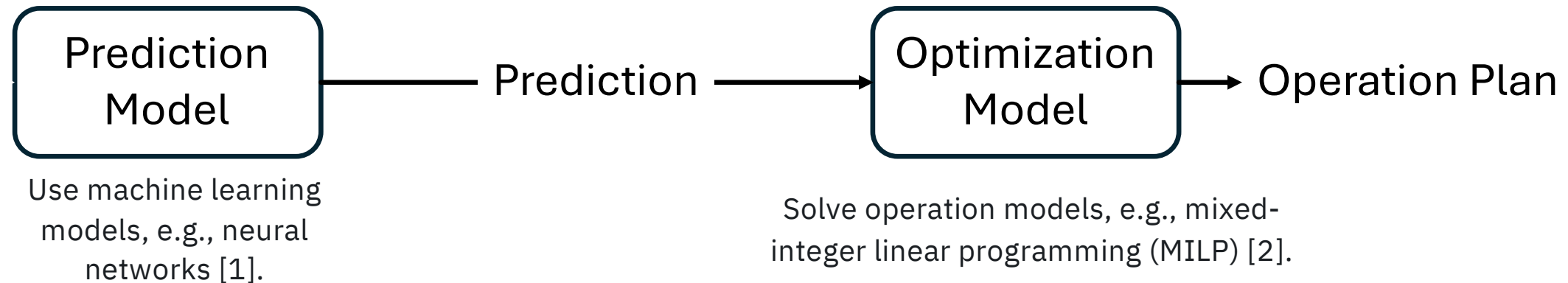
December 04, 2024

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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**

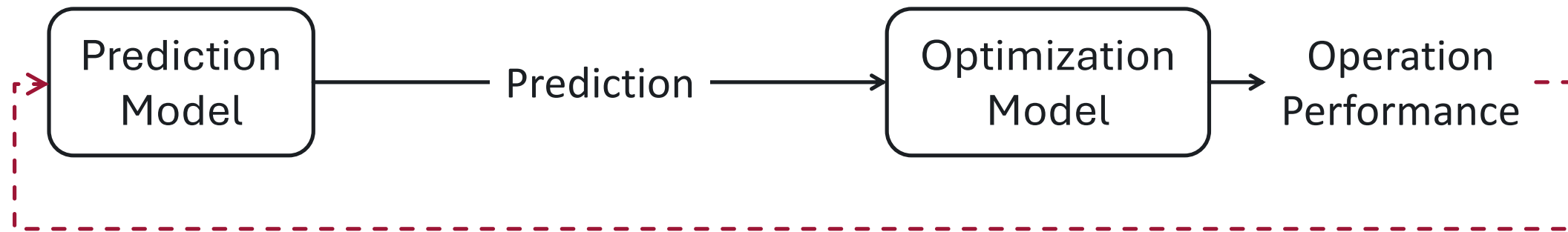
Minimum operation cost or maximum operation revenue, i.e., optimal operation economics.

[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^[3, 4] (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.

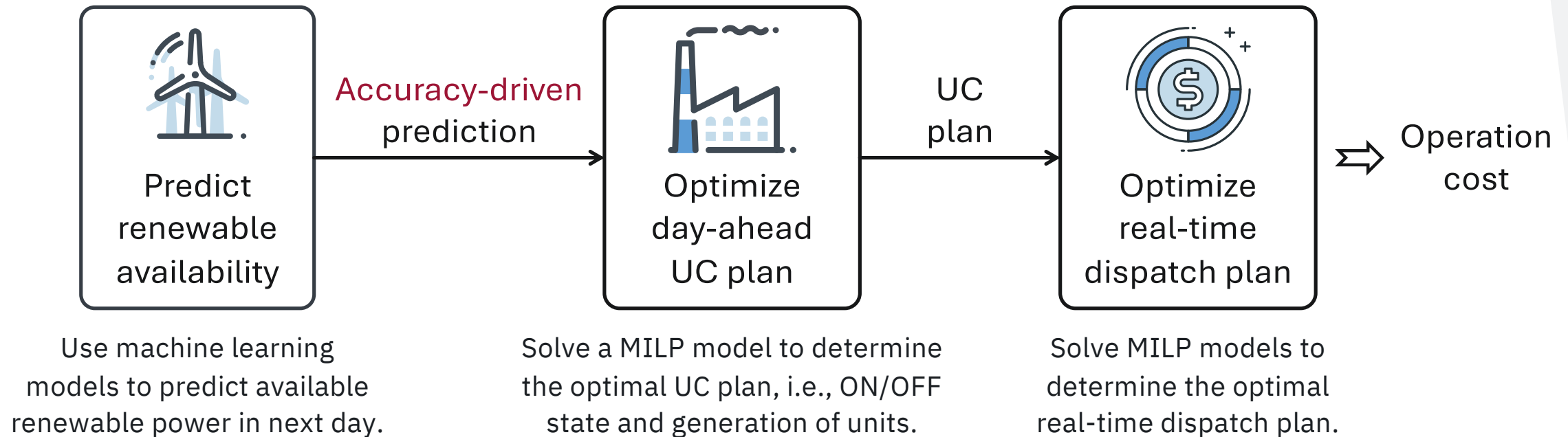
[4]. G. Y. Ban, C. Rudin, "The Big Data Newsvendor: Practical Insights from Machine Learning," in *Operations Research*, 2018.

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Proposal Recap

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

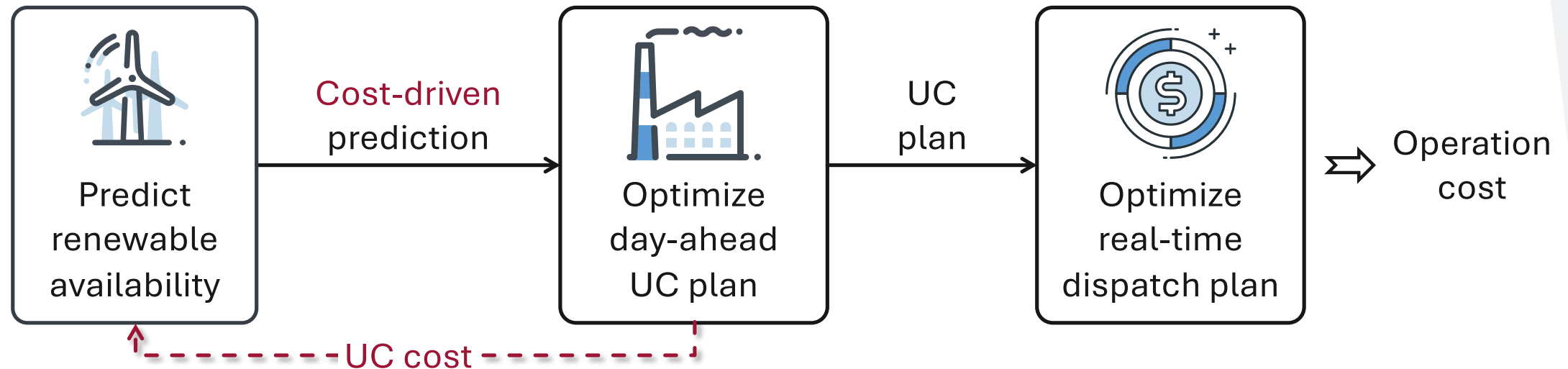


- **Proposal goal: Reduce operation cost**

- **Research gap: Few CPO methods for MILP problems**

Proposal Recap

- **Training cost-driven prediction model for UC**

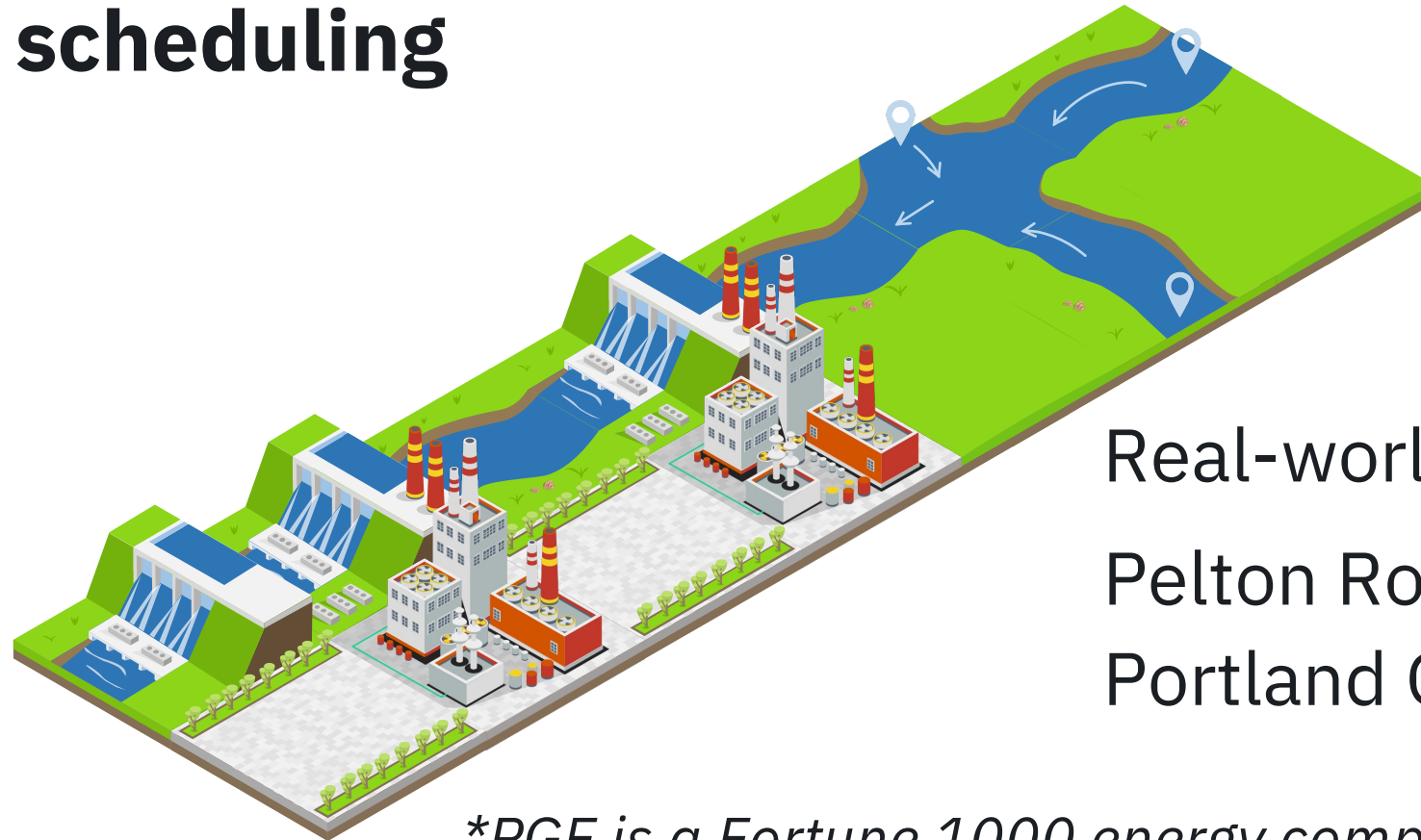


- **Key methodologies**

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

Subsequent Research

- **Engineering problem: Cascaded hydropower (CHP) scheduling**



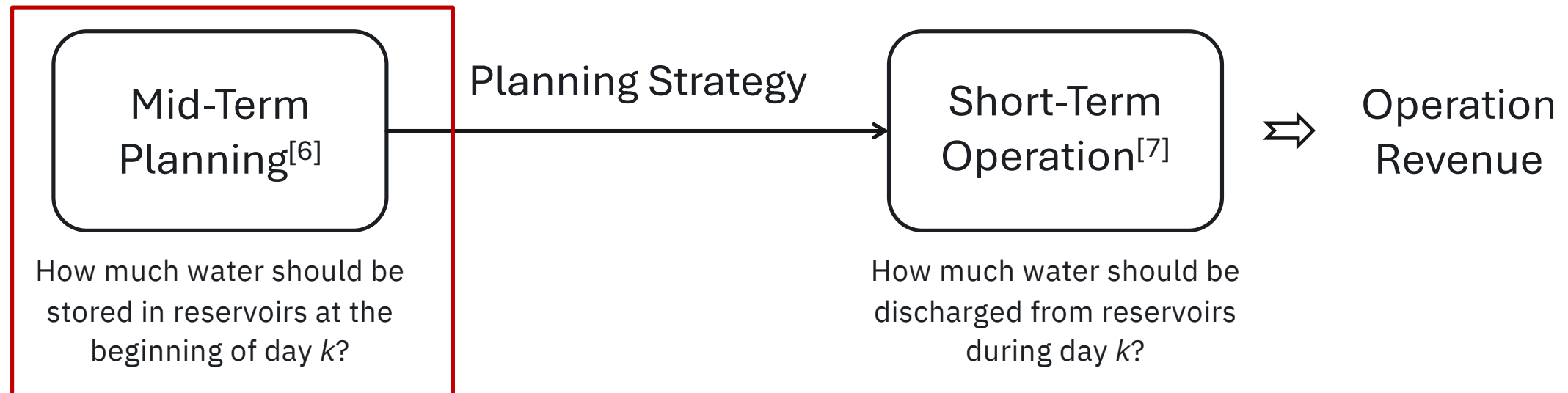
Real-world case:

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.

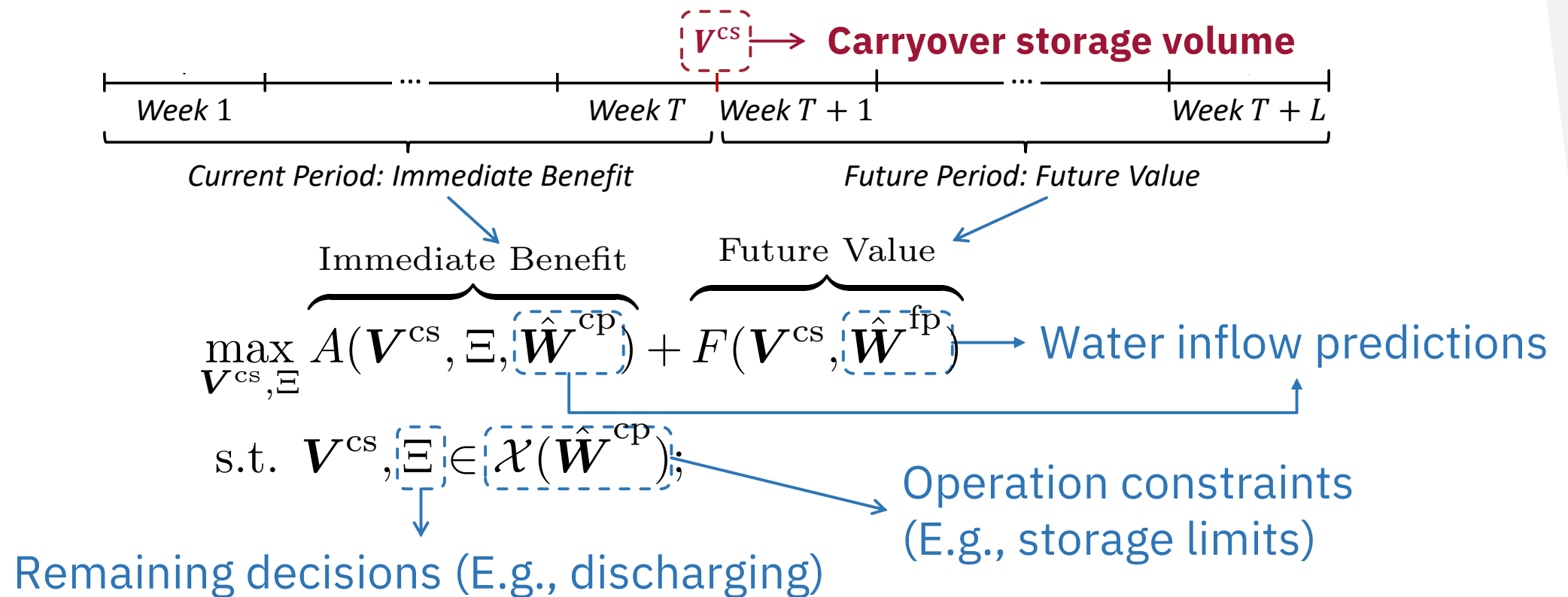
[7]. A. Helseth, S. Jaehnert and A. L. Diniz, "Convex Relaxations of the Short-Term Hydrothermal Scheduling Problem," in *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, 2021.

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An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- What is mid-term hydropower planning?



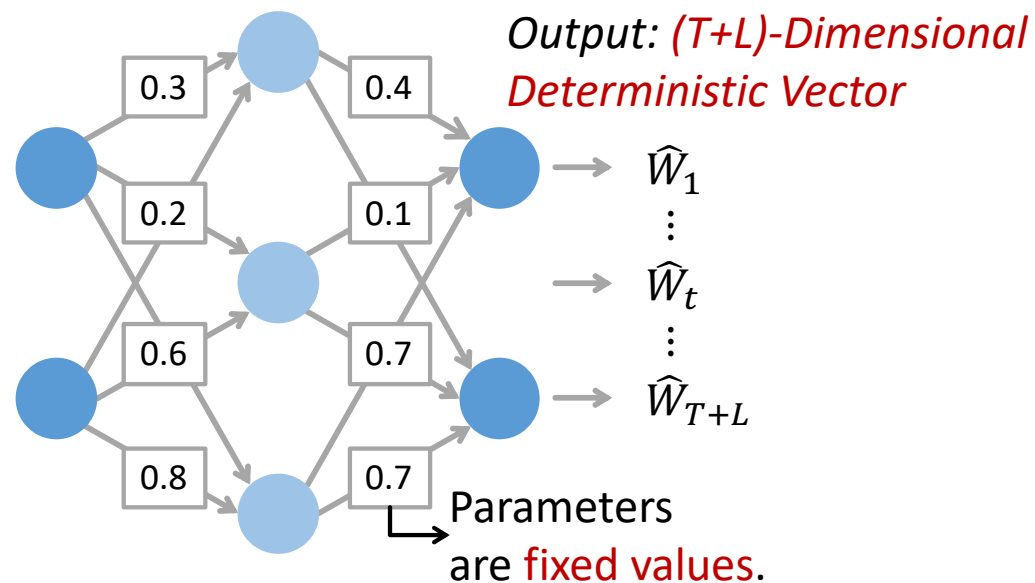
An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- **Questions to be addressed**

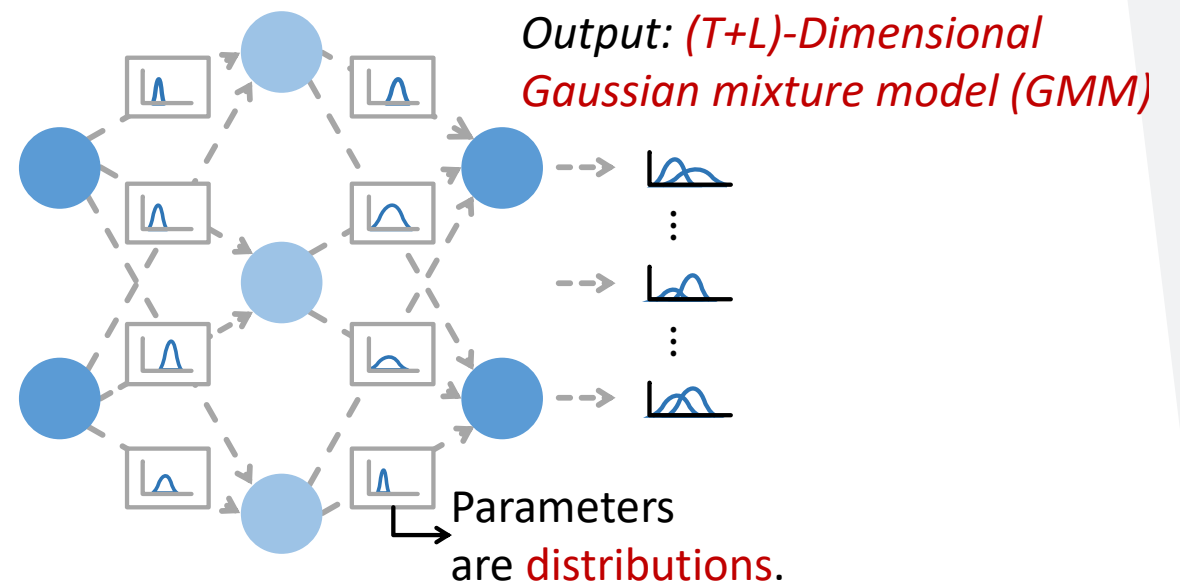
- 1) How to predict water inflow and capture uncertainties associated with these predictions?

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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

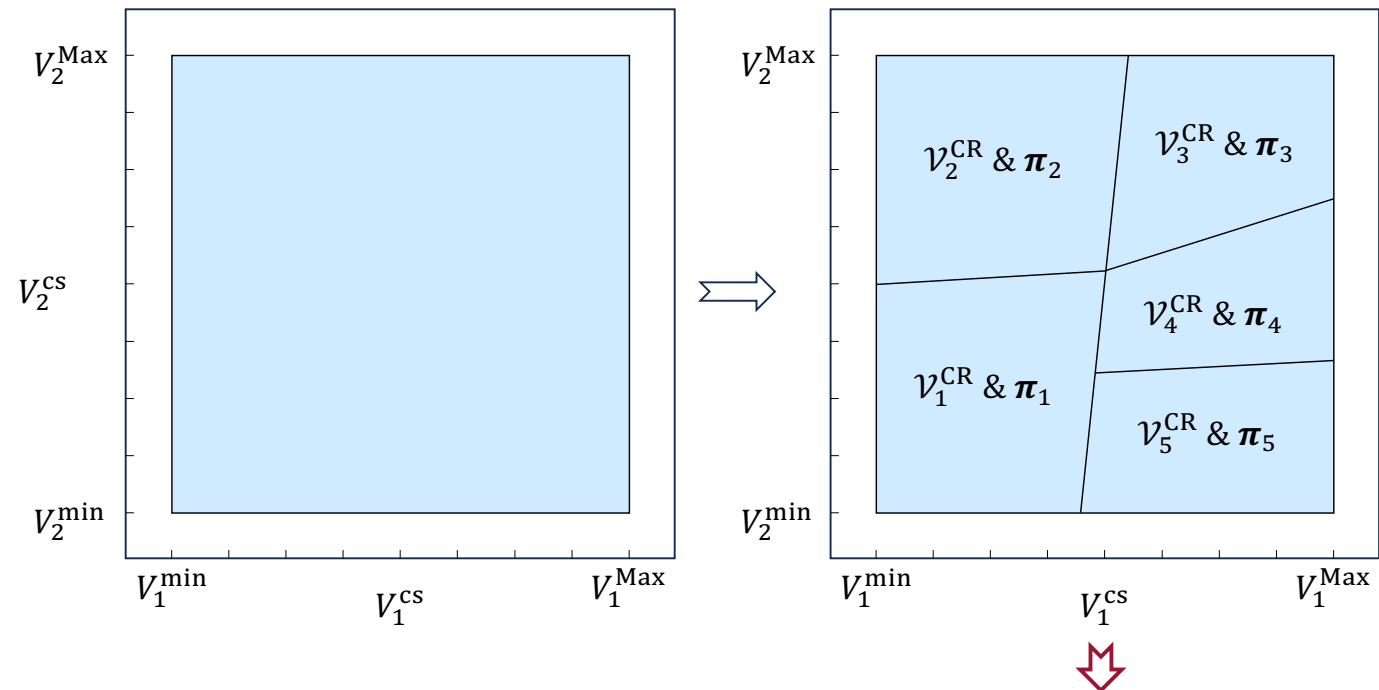
$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{E}\mathbf{y} \leq \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{F}\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}, \theta};$$

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

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

Deterministic linear constraints

A two-reservoir example



“If-then” rules

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

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

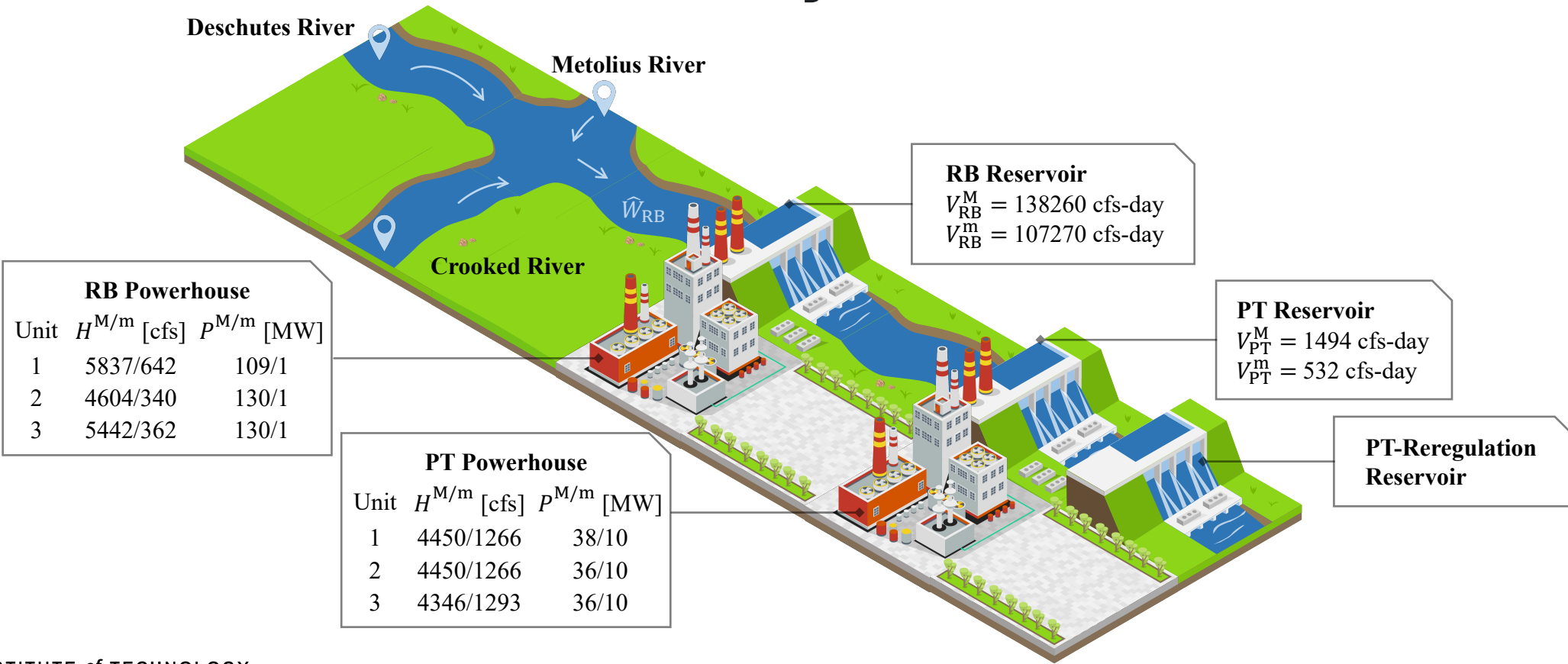
- **Final mid-term CHP planning model**

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \max_{\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}}, \Xi} \underbrace{A(\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}}, \Xi, \hat{\mathbf{W}}^{\text{cp}})}_{\text{Immediate Benefit}} + \underbrace{F(\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}}, \hat{\mathbf{W}}^{\text{fp}})}_{\text{Future Value}} \xrightarrow{\text{"If-then" rules}} \text{BNN} \\
 & \text{s.t. } \boxed{\mathbf{V}^{\text{cs}}, \Xi \in \mathcal{X}(\hat{\mathbf{W}}^{\text{cp}});} \xrightarrow{\text{Chance constraints}}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

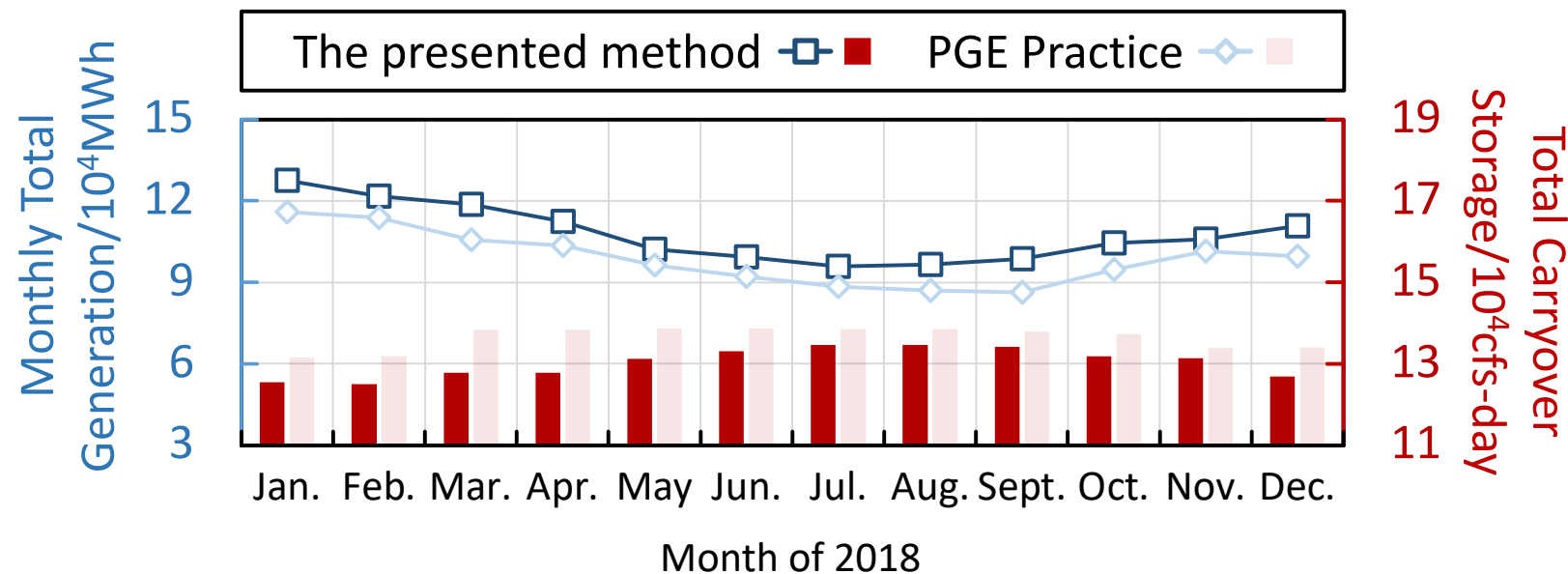
An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

- PGE's Pelton Round Butte System



An Uncertainty-Aware Mid-Term Planning for Cascaded Hydropower

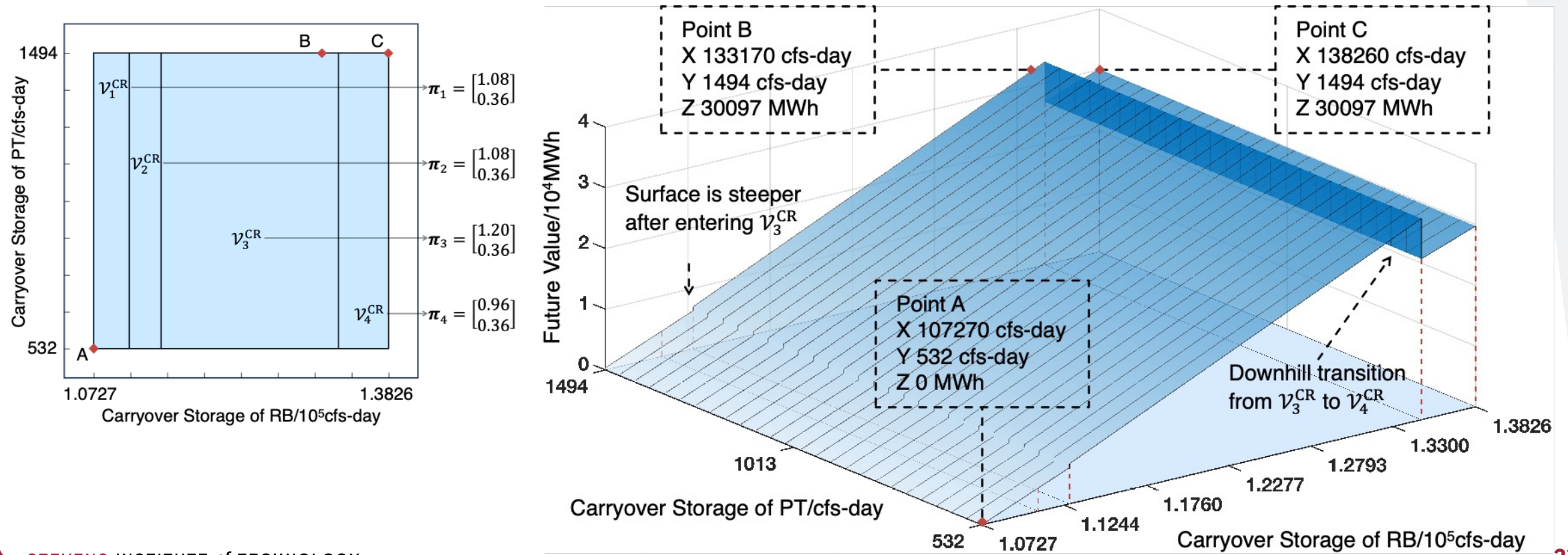
• Main numerical results



- 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

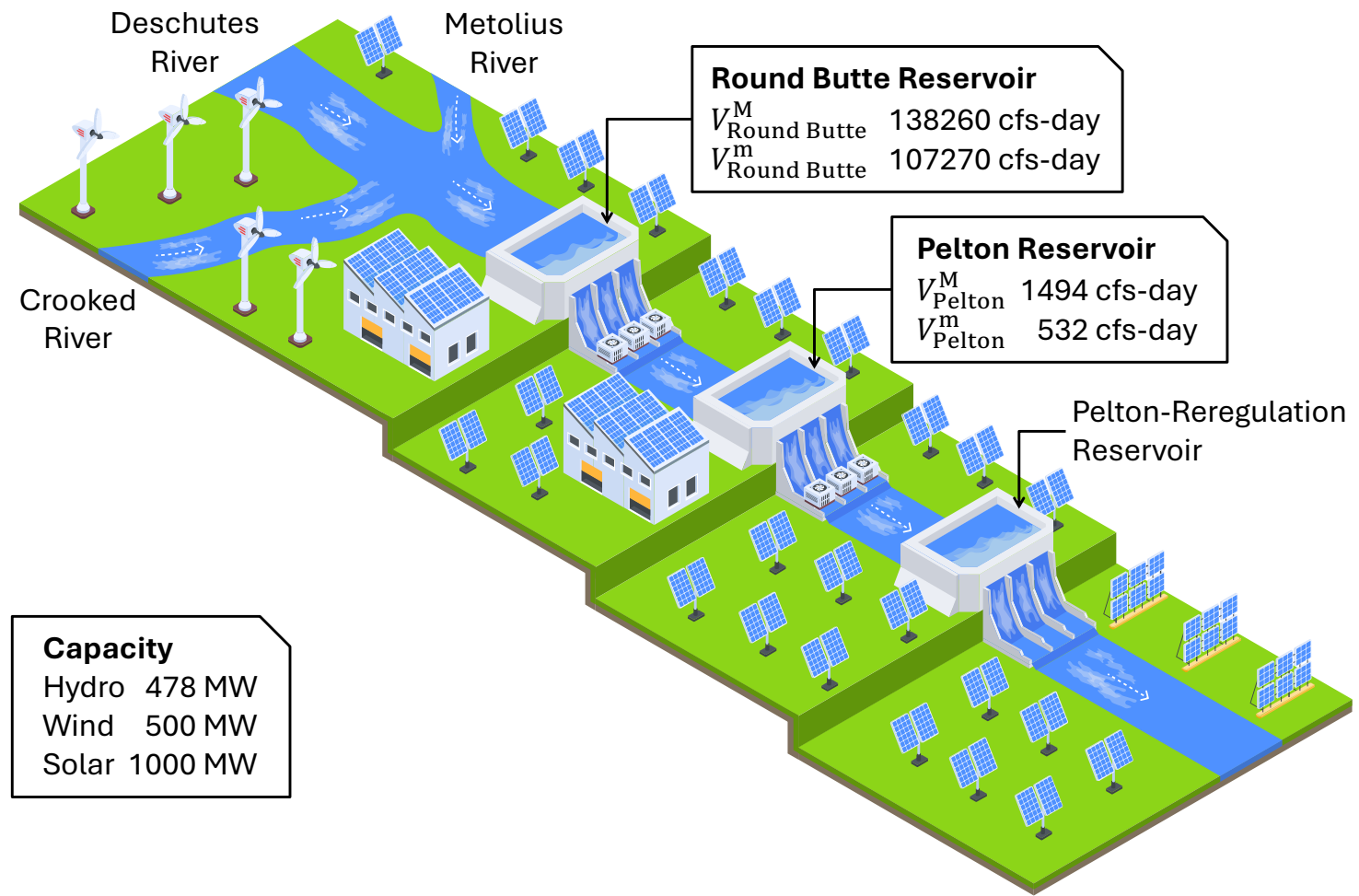
- 1) Target improving total generation by enhancing mid-term planning strategies
- 2) BNN-based water inflow predictor
- 3) Chance constraints for the current period
- 4) “If-then” rules to quantify the future value
- 5) Outperform PGE’s practice by 9.21%

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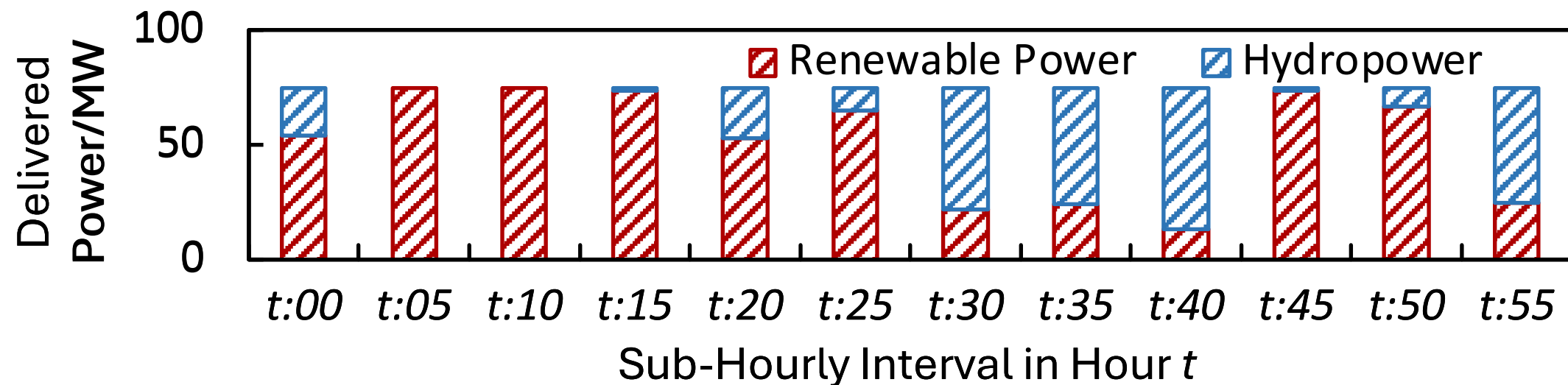
A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- PGE's Pelton Round Butte System with renewable integration



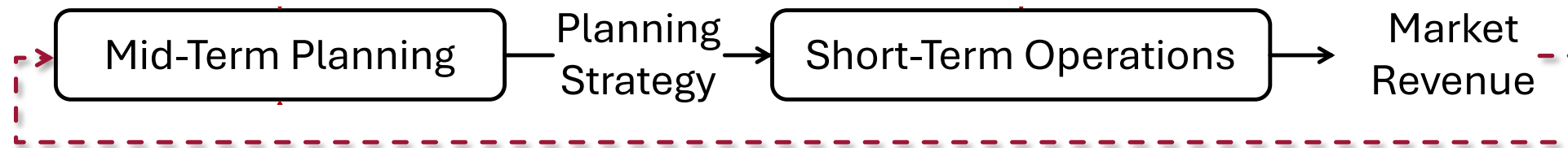
A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- **Power-mix of renewable-integrated hydropower**



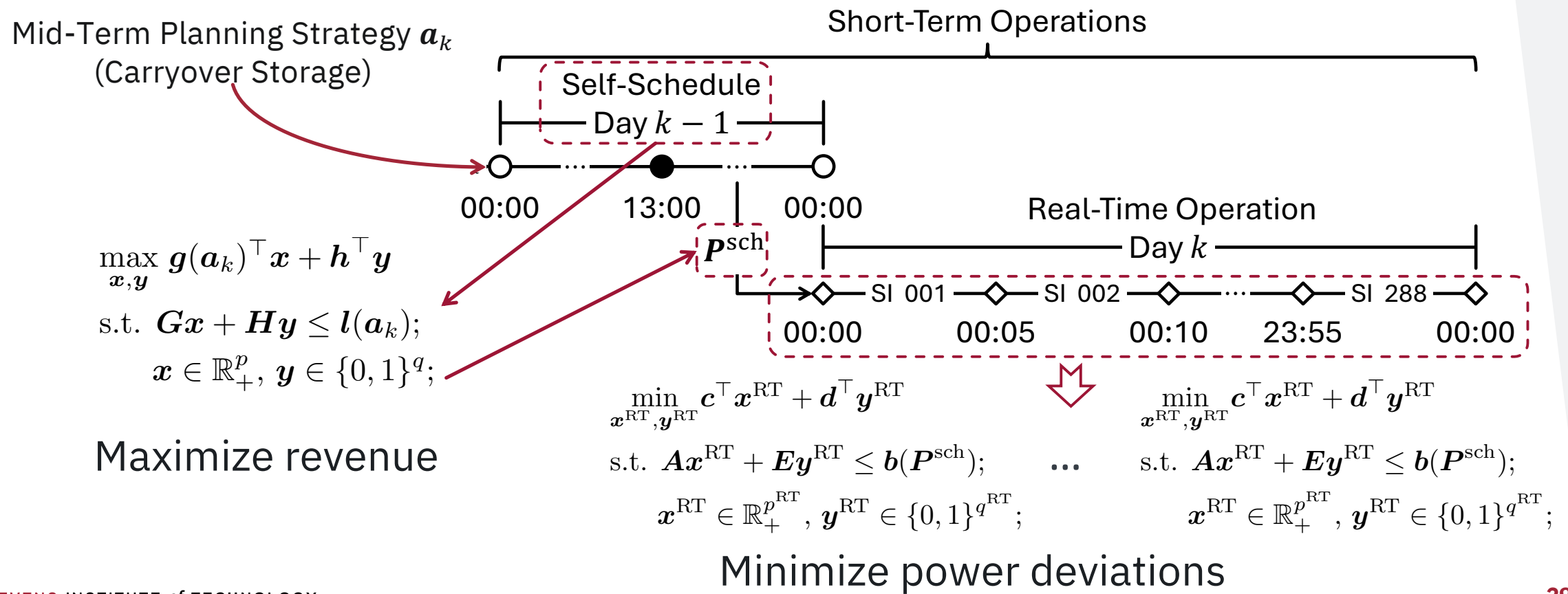
A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

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



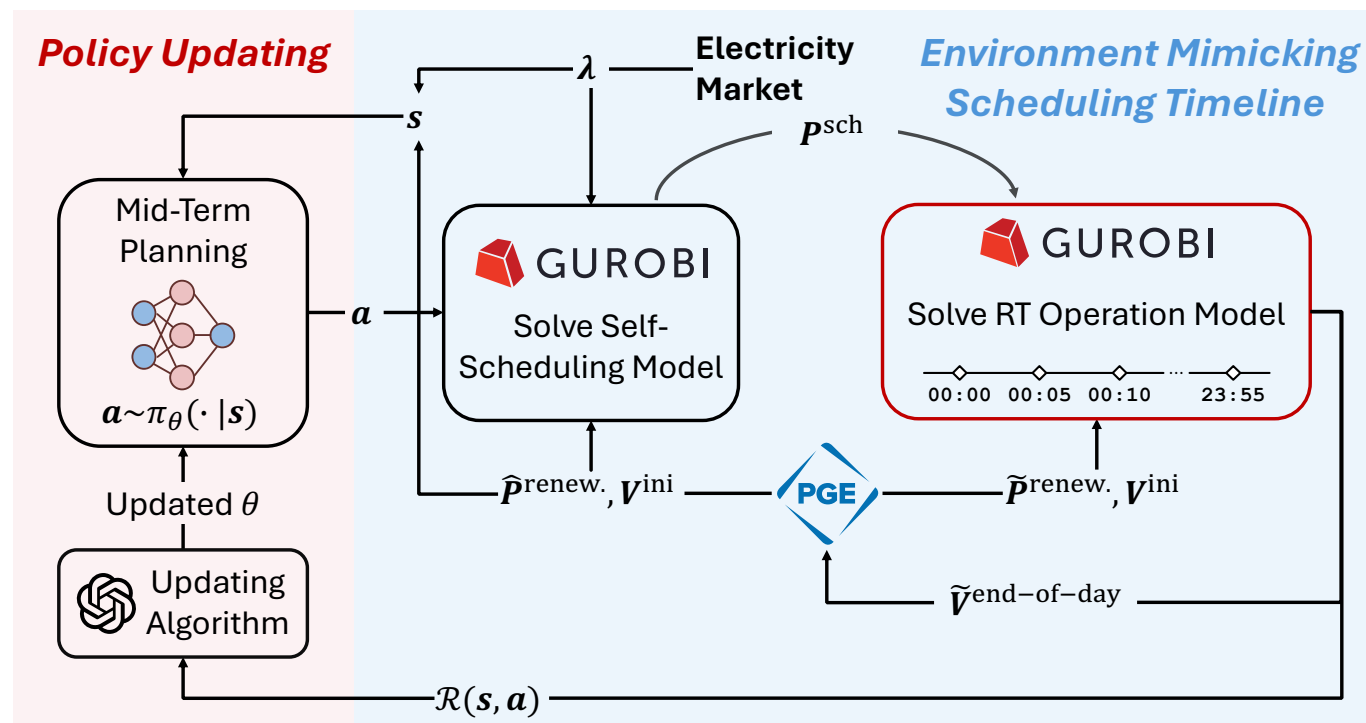
A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

• From mid-term planning to short-term operations



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

• Deep reinforcement learning-based framework

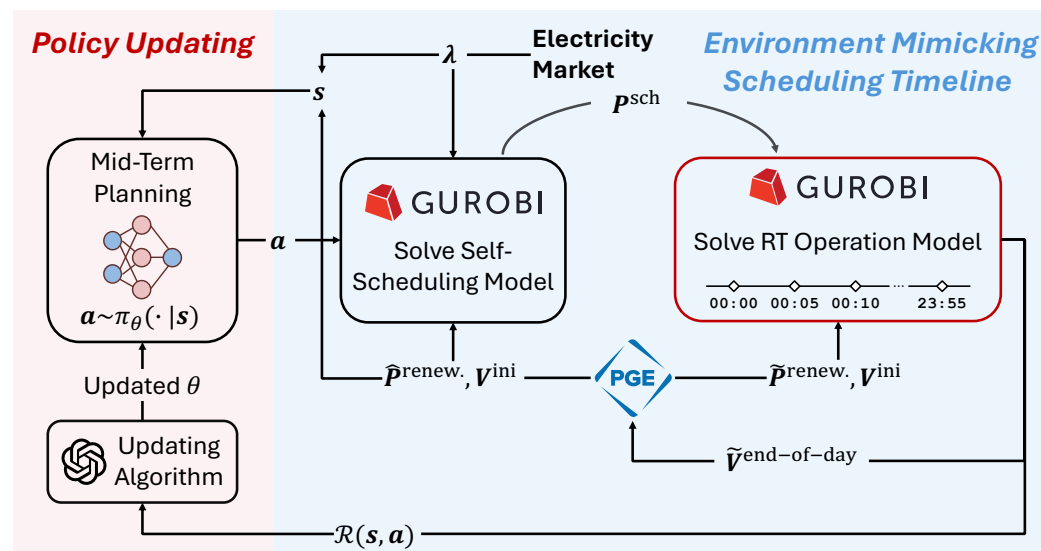


a : Mid-term planning strategy
 s : State vector
 π_θ : Mid-term planning policy
 \mathcal{R} : Reward (market revenue)
 λ : Electricity price
 $p^{renew.}$: Renewable power
 p^{sch} : Self-scheduling plan
 v^{ini} : Initial storage
 $\tilde{v}^{end-of-day}$: End-of-day storage

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

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}\star} = \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{F}_1^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{b}_1^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_1^{\text{CR}}; \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}\star} = \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{F}_R^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{b}_R^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_R^{\text{CR}}; \end{cases}$$



$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}\star} = \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{F}_1^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{b}_1^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_1^{\text{CR}}; \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}\star} = \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{F}_R^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{b}_R^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_R^{\text{CR}}; \end{cases}$$

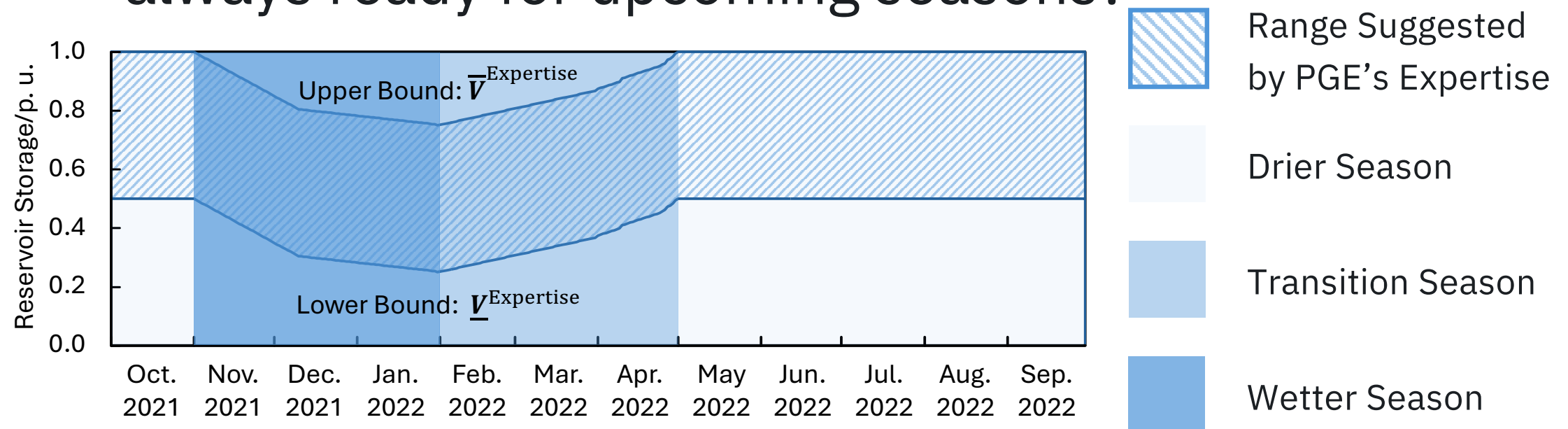


$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}\star} = \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{F}_1^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_1^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{b}_1^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_1^{\text{CR}}; \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{x}^{\text{RT}\star} = \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{F}_R^{\text{AS}} \vartheta + \mathbf{A}_R^{\text{AS}-1} \mathbf{b}_R^{\text{AS}} & \text{if } \vartheta \in \Theta_R^{\text{CR}}; \end{cases}$$

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?



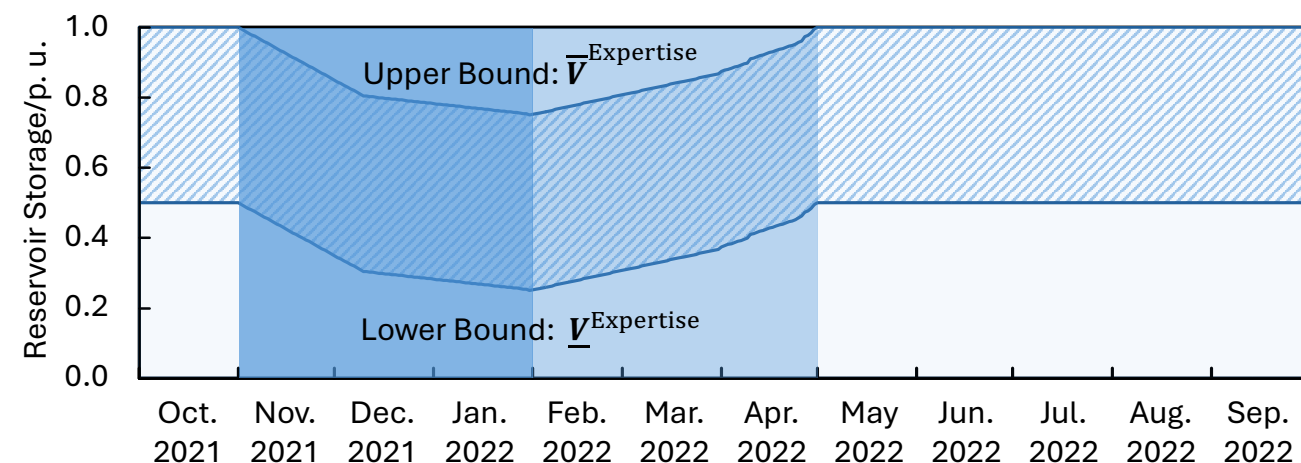
A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- **Expertise-based mechanism**

The game Space Impact



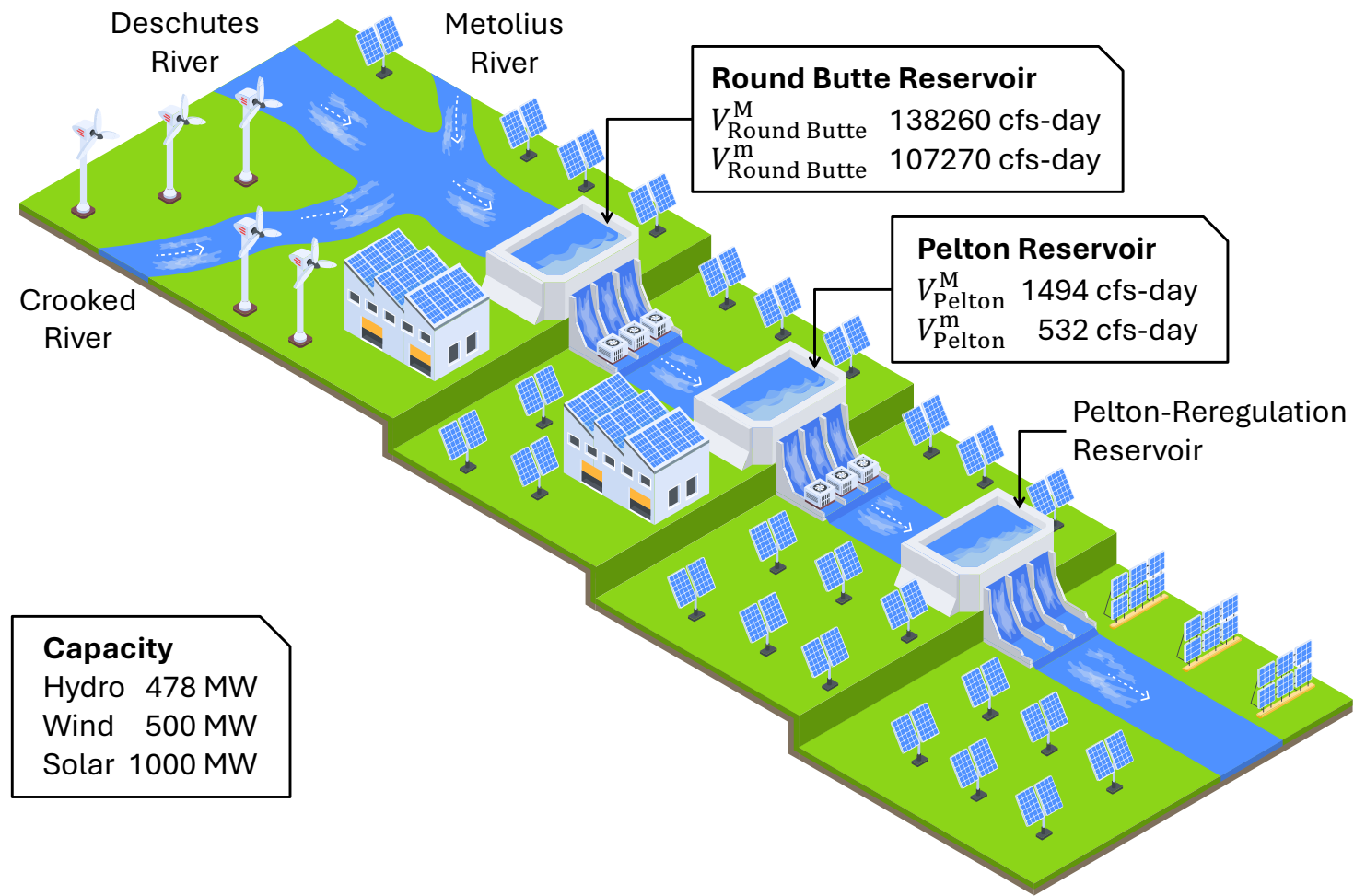
**Image source: <https://giphy.com/>*



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

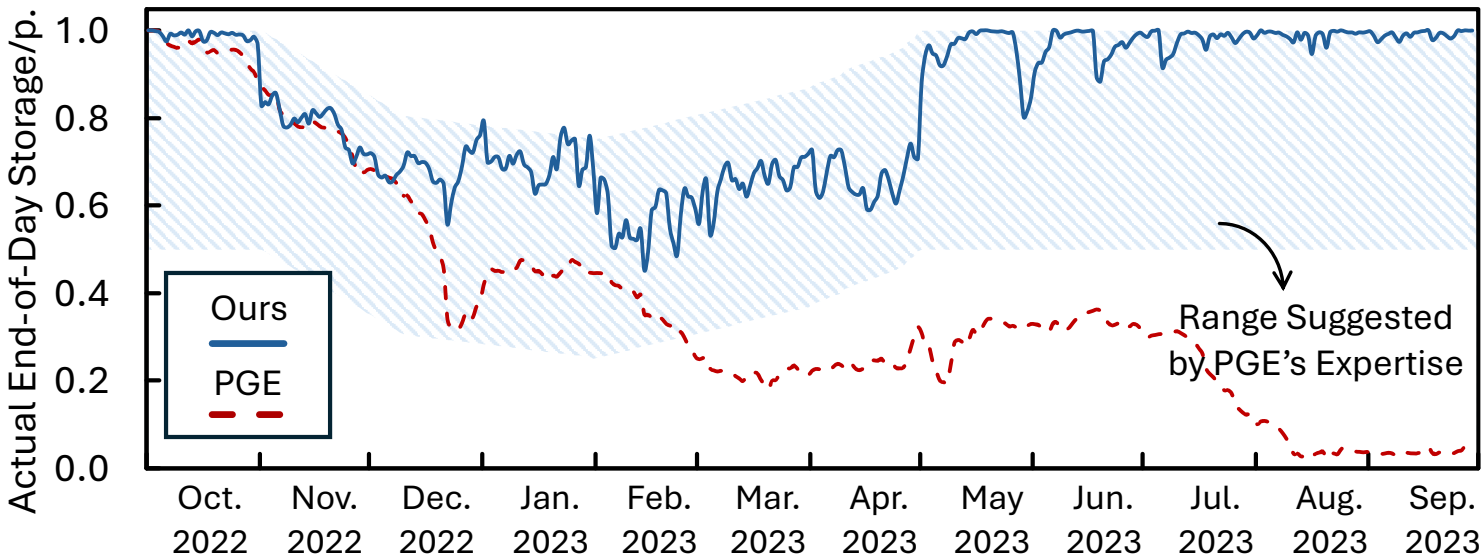
A DRL-Based Mid-Term Planning for Renewable-Integrated Cascaded Hydropower

- 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 ⁶
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.

- **CPO for CHP scheduling**

- [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.
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- [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