

Modelling Generation Investment under Wind Induced Uncertainty *with Markov Decision Processes*

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Motivation

- Traditional capacity planning and investment are based on economic costs and their merit order
 - Combining LDC and **Screening Curves**
 - The solution provided are optimal assuming all generations are “dispatchable”.

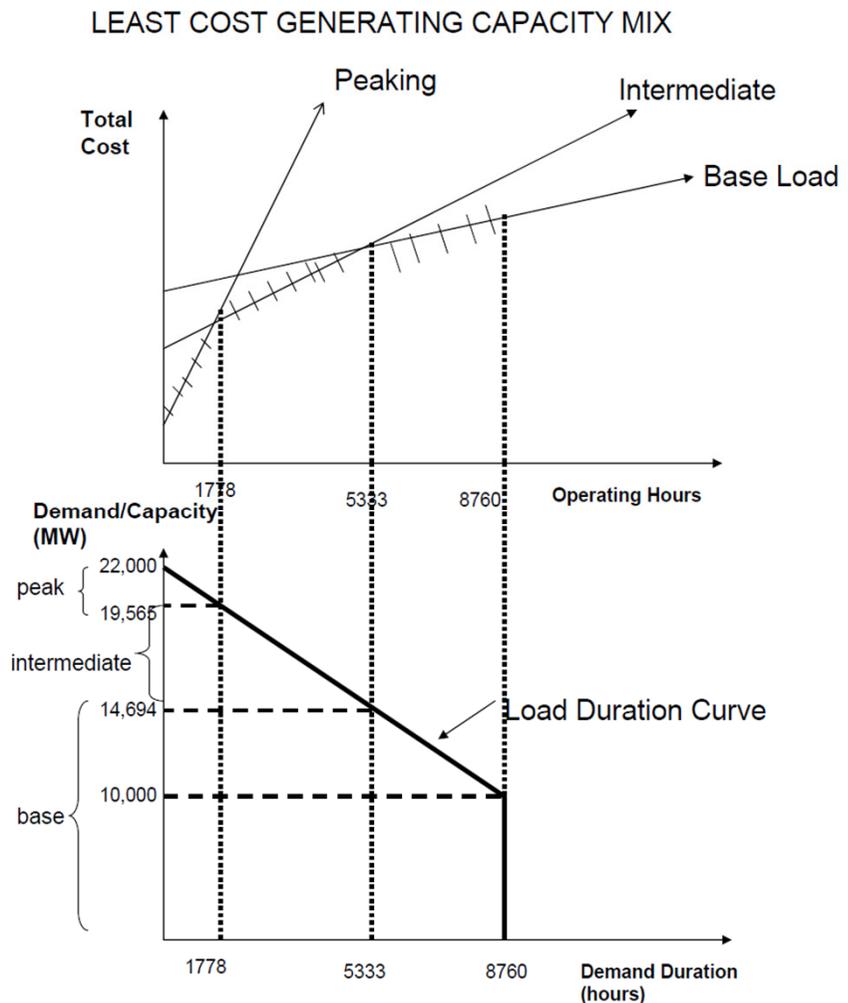
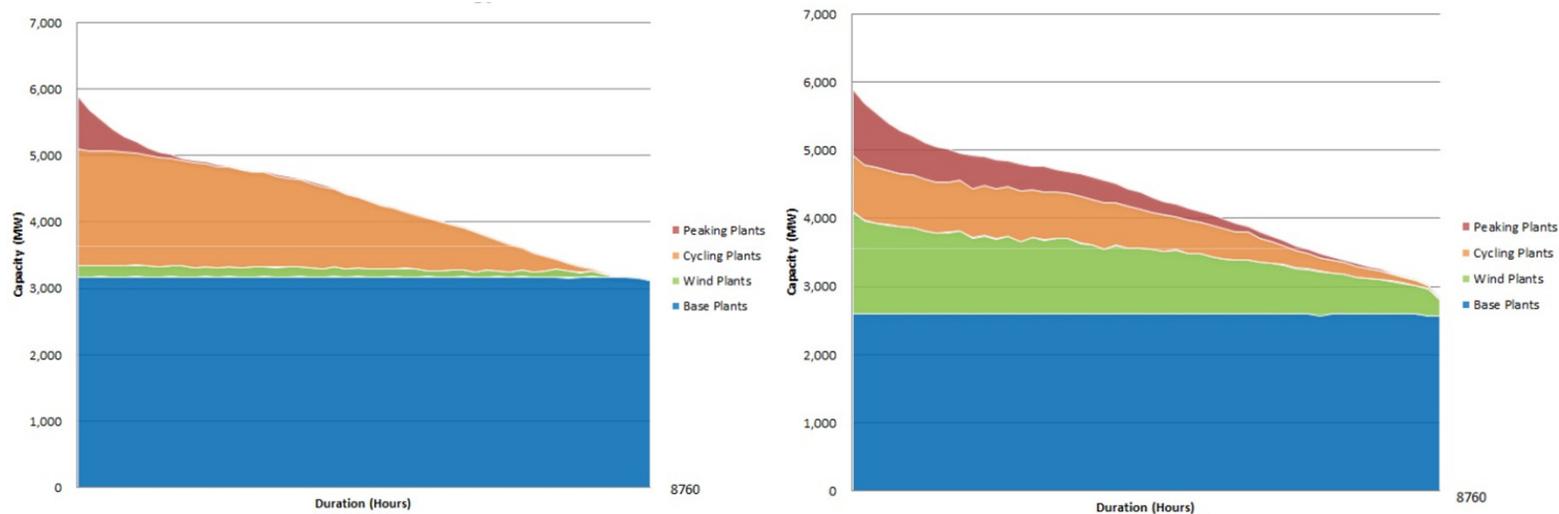


Figure 1 – Screening Curve example from Joskow 2006

Motivation

- However, the picture with high level of intermittent generation is very different



- Classical capacity planning models become problematic, as the dispatch facing high demand uncertainty is no longer according to merit order.
- **Flexibility** is the missing link

Motivation

- Alternative capacity expansion model that accounts for **flexibility** is required for an electricity system with higher wind generation
- **Today's talk:** Evaluating investment options using Markov Decision Processes (MDP)
 - A central planning model
 - Cost based investment planning

Overview

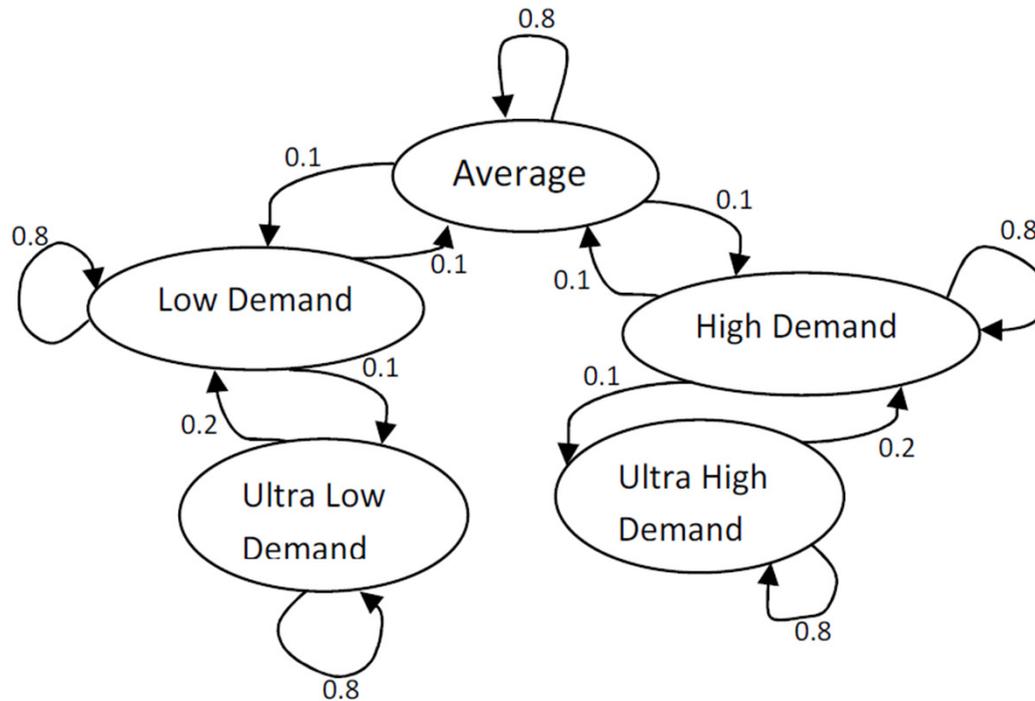
- Model Details
 - Modelling Demand Variation with Markov Chains
 - Finding Operating Policy using Markov Decision Processes
 - Modelling Investment options as a Mixed-integer Program
- Some Preliminary Results
 - Wind penetration with increase in demand variation
 - *and a comparison with screening curve results*
- Future Research

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What's a Markov Chain?

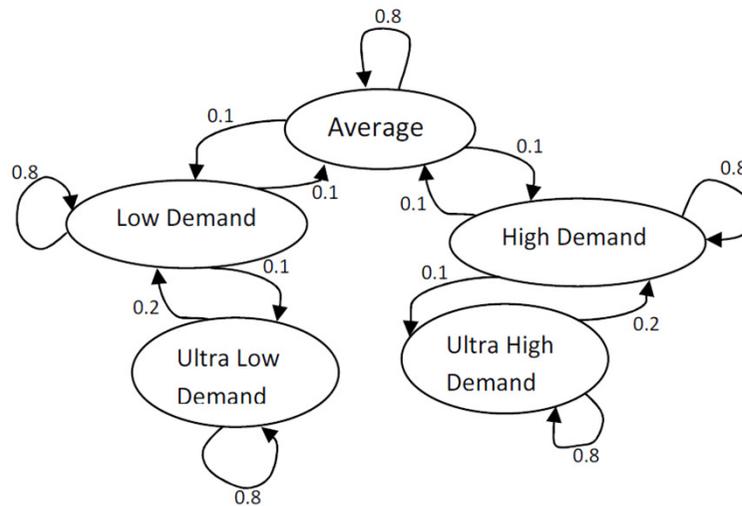
- A random process happens at discrete time intervals with state changes randomly between steps.



- The probabilities of next state changes are defined by transition matrices

Modelling Demand Variation with a Markov Chain Model

- Each period has a degree of variation from the period demand average (-2, -1, 0, 1, 2)

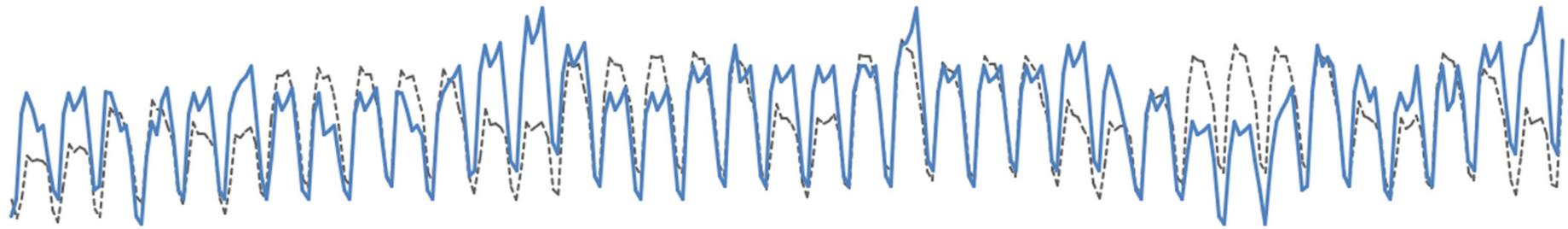


Base Case					
	-2	-1	0	1	2
-2	0.8	0.2	0	0	0
-1	0.1	0.8	0.1	0	0
0	0	0.1	0.8	0.1	0
1	0	0	0.1	0.8	0.1
2	0	0	0	0.2	0.8

High Wind Penetration					
	-2	-1	0	1	2
-2	0.6	0.3	0.1	0	0
-1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1	0
0	0.05	0.15	0.6	0.15	0.05
1	0	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.1
2	0	0	0.1	0.3	0.6

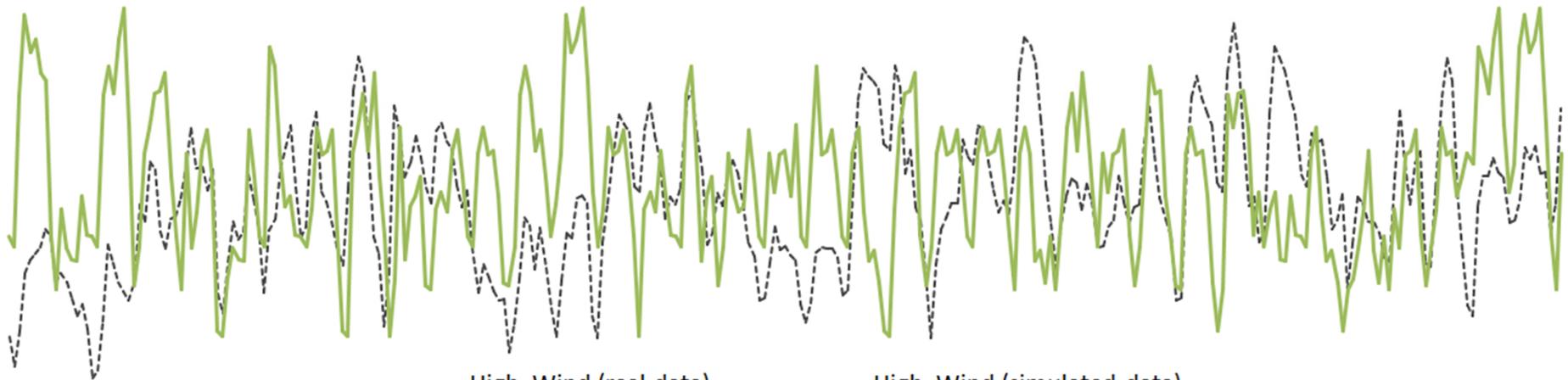
- Demand variation transition matrices for the same period of day looks different depending on the wind scenario

Simulated Demand with Markov Chain Modelled Variation



----Base (real data)

—Base (simulated data)



----High_Wind (real data)

—High_Wind (simulated data)

Overview

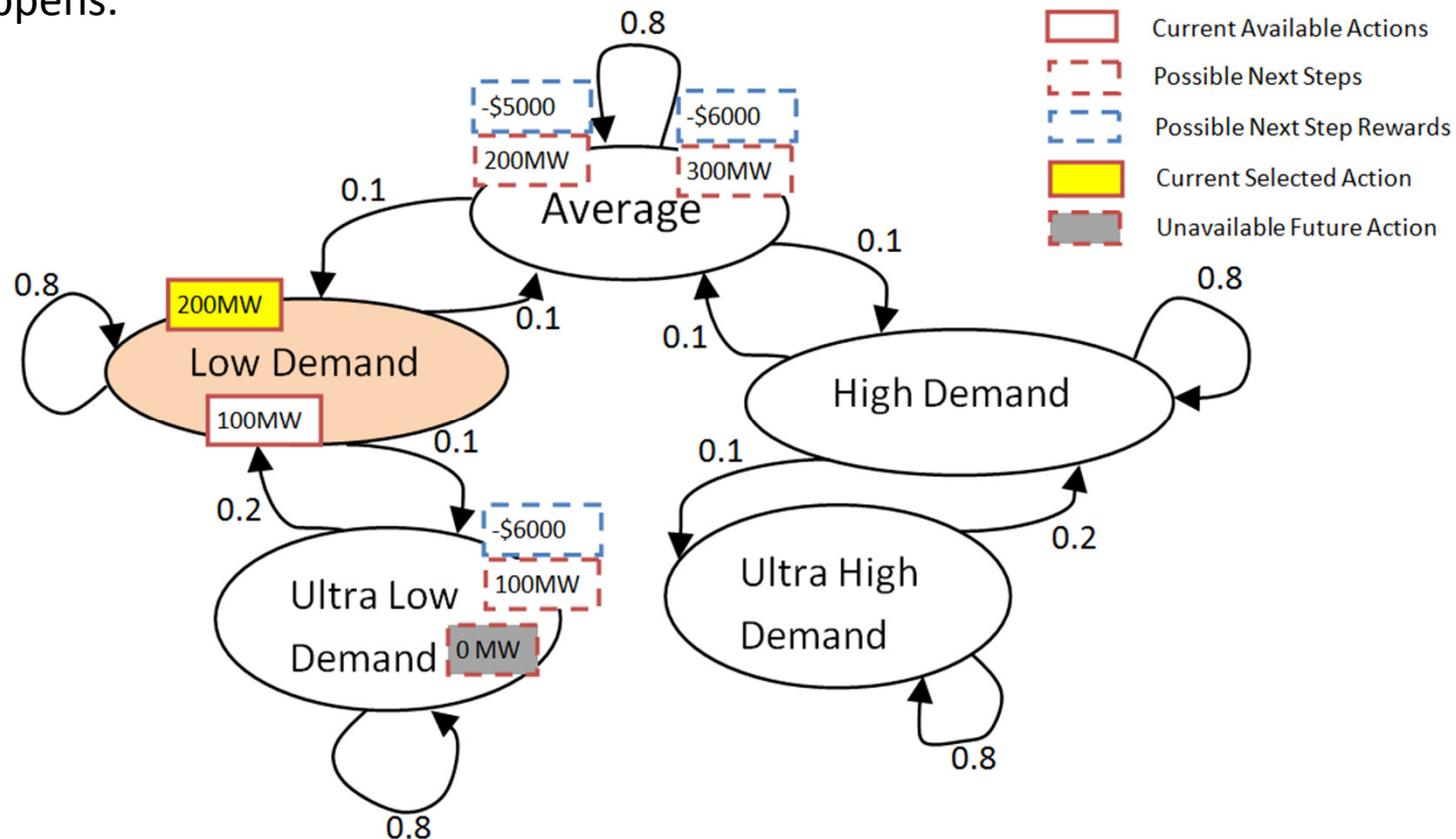
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Short-term Operation as MDP

- Short-term operation of electricity plant can be modelled as an **average reward Markov Decision Process (MDP)**
- The Basic Idea of Average-reward MDP
 - To find an optimal policy for decision maker to operate in a Markov Chain environment that maximise the average reward per period in the long-run.

What's a Markov Decision Process?

- At each time interval, a decision needs to be made before the next random event happens.



- A cost or reward is associated with each (state transition, action) combination.
- The average reward is a combination of decision policy and MC transition matrix

Inputs for Average-reward MDP (1)

- **States**
 - time periods (x8), demand variation levels (x5), previous period's operating state (x N discrete levels)
- **Actions**
 - Available actions are dependent on previous operating levels (defined via *flexibility matrix* that restricts ramping)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	-
17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-
18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1

Inputs for Average-reward MDP (2)

- **Transition probabilities**
 - MC transition matrices shown in previous section
- **Rewards**
 - Negative cost functions calculated using:
 - Demand: net of wind and base load
 - Fixed and variable costs of generation

Cost Type	Base	Ramping	Peak	Demand Reponse / Lost Load
<i>Fixed Cost (ann. \$k /MW)</i>	400	200	100	0
<i>Variable Cost (\$/MWh)</i>	30	70	150	3000

- Each (state transition, action) pair has a reward calculated (another very large matrix)
- Actions are restricted by flexibility matrix (20% ramping)
- Any remaining demand is filled by peak (and/or lost load)

Solving the Average-reward MDP

- Decision variables are **operating rules of ramping plants** at each state
- The model can be formulated as a Linear Program

$$\max_x \sum_{i \in I, k \in K(i)} r_i^k x_i^k$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{k \in K(i)} x_i^k - \sum_{j \in I, k \in K(j)} p_{ji}^k x_j^k = 0 \quad , \forall i \in I$$

$$\sum_{i \in I, k \in K(i)} x_i^k = 1$$

$$x_i^k \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in I, k \in K(i)$$

- For more details:
 - refer to: D. J. White, *Markov Decision Processes* 1994

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MDP based Mixed-integer Program for Investment Options

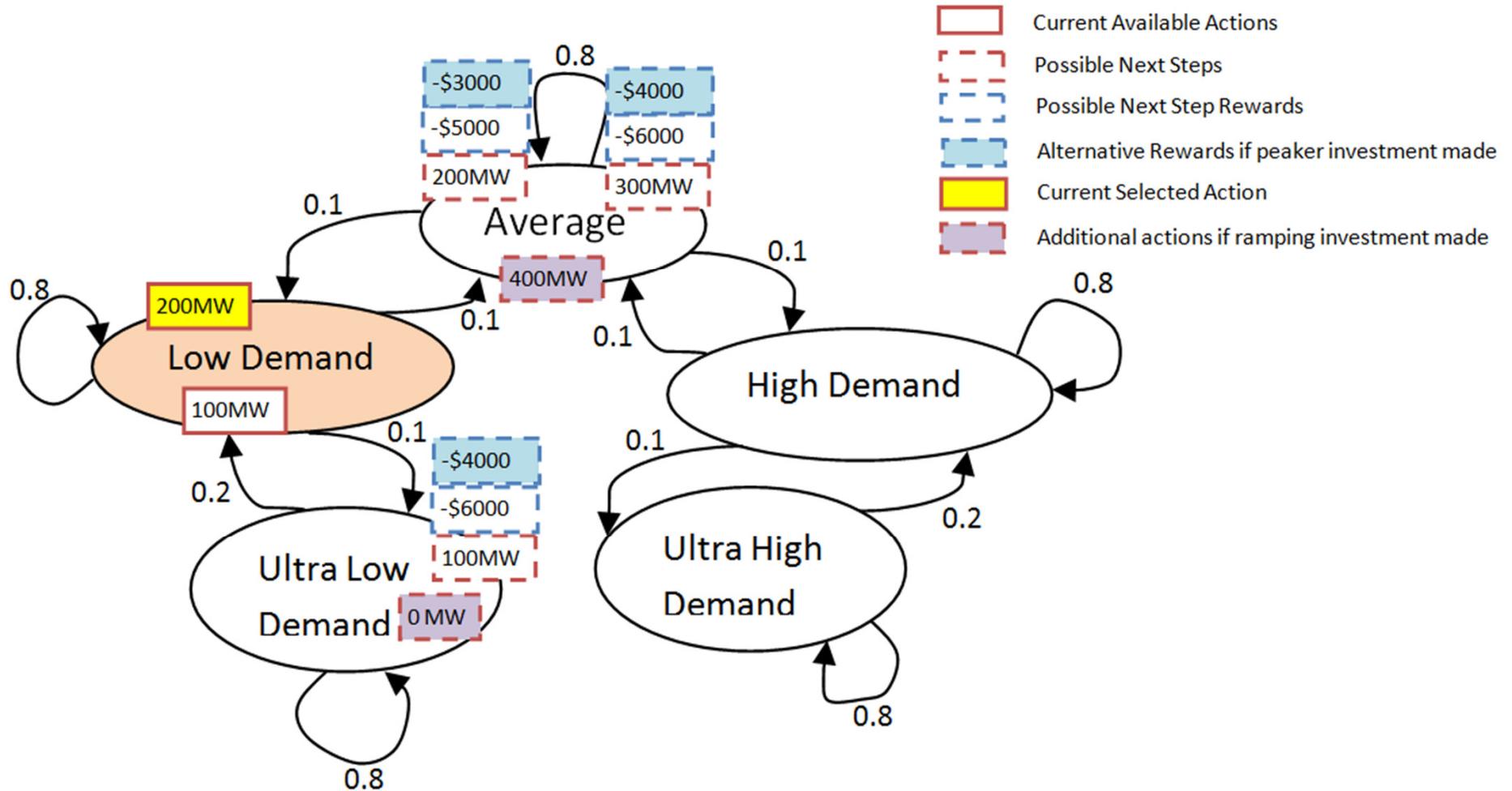
- The linear program used to solve for optimal operation policy can be augmented by binary variables defining investment actions, leading to a mixed-integer program.
- Two types of Investment Options :
 - Ramping plant options gives *multiple flexibility matrices*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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5	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1

- Different peaking plant options generates *multiple reward matrices* for all (state, action) combinations – *too big to show...*

MDP based Mixed-integer Program for Investment Options



MDP based Mixed-integer Program for Investment Options

- The formulation gets a bit more complex...

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_x \sum_{h \in H} \sum_{i \in I, k \in K(i)} r_i^k(h) x_i^k(h) + \sum_{g \in G} T_g z_g \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{k \in K(i)} x_i^k(h) - \sum_{j \in I, k \in K(j)} p_{ji}^k x_j^k(h) = 0, \quad \forall i \in I, \forall h \in H \\ & \sum_{i \in I, k \in K(i)} x_i^k(h) = 1, \\ & x_i^k(h) \leq \left(\sum_{g \in G} z_g U_g \right)_i^k, \quad \forall i \in I, k \in K(i), \forall h \in H \\ & z_g \in \{0,1\} \quad \sum_{g \in G} z_g = 1 \\ & w_h \in \{0,1\} \quad \sum_{h \in H} w_h = 1 \\ & x_i^k(h) \leq w_h, \quad \forall i \in I, k \in K(i), \forall h \in H \\ & x_i^k(h) \geq 0 \quad \forall i \in I, k \in K(i), \forall h \in H \end{aligned}$$

- For more information, look out for coming paper on our EPOC website.

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Scenarios and Assumptions

- **Case 1: Base**
 - Very minimal wind energy and the demand variation caused by wind is not significant enough from the normal demand variation caused by loads/users
- **Case 2: High Wind Penetration**
 - Growth in wind generation is able to satisfy the growing energy demand (i.e. the net LDC after deducting wind requires the same energy as Base Case)
 - The penetration of wind, however, increased the variation of demand by 25%
- **Common Assumptions**
 - Plan for investment for intermediate and peaking demand only
 - Ramping operate at 50 discrete levels; Peakers operate at continuous levels
 - Flexibility constraints for ramping plant is 20% of invested capacity
 - Fixed and Variable costs of plant types are as below:

Cost Type	Base	Ramping	Peak	Demand Reponse / Lost Load
<i>Fixed Cost (ann. \$k/MW)</i>	400	200	100	0
<i>Variable Cost (\$/MWh)</i>	30	70	150	3000

The Impact of Increasing Wind Variation on Investments

- MIP results for the two cases:

1. Base Case (wind contribution low, have minimal effect on demand variation)

Model	Theoretical Results				50 Simulations of 2920-period (one year) sequences				Dmd Response
	Base	Ramping	Peak	Cost per Period	Average	s.e.	Min	Max	Average (hrs)
Screening Curve	4,217	776	656	\$ 153,935	\$ 235,554	\$ 7,938	\$ 213,200	\$ 253,869	405
MDP model	4,217	600	840	\$ 195,042	\$ 193,208	\$ 6,739	\$ 173,873	\$ 204,980	135

2. Higher Wind Penetration (wind sequence adds 25% variance on demand)

Method	Theoretical Results				50 Simulations of 2920-period (one year) sequences				Dmd Response
	Base	Ramping	Peak	Cost per Period	Average	s.e.	Min	Max	Average (hrs)
Screening Curve	4,183	994	528	\$ 173,664	\$ 344,371	\$ 20,880	\$ 310,057	\$ 402,543	1,439
MDP model	4,183	700	840	\$ 220,050	\$ 223,107	\$ 8,828	\$ 203,548	\$ 241,666	9

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- Screening Curve model's theoretical results cannot be achieved
 - Not enough capacity planned
 - Results in high number of demand response hours

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 - Not enough capacity planned
 - Results in high number of demand response hours
- MDP model investments & policies perform much better in simulation
- MDP tend to invest in less 'Ramping' and more 'Peaking' plants

Comments on the Results

- Wind changes the picture, traditional capacity planning methods needs to be challenged
- MDP is one way to take generation flexibility into account, and get insights of supply mix required to supplement a system with more intermittency
- With higher wind penetration and the increased demand variability caused, more flexibility is required to supply the system reliably – peakers are not valued enough
- How do we price flexibility in a pool market?

Future Research

- Locational Model
 - Generation as well as transmission planning
 - Spatial dependence of wind
- Time-staged Investment
 - GEMSTONE (Girardeau-Philpott)
- Hydro (New Zealand context)
 - The current MDP model is for a generic thermal dominated system
 - What if we can use hydro as peaker to supplement wind?
 - Merit order dispatch won't work
 - Need to price flexibility into dispatch model too