

Stochastic Equilibrium Problems arising in the energy industry

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joint work with J.P. Luna (UFRJ) and M. Solodov (IMPA)

What this talk is about?

For equilibrium models of energy markets (including stochastic versions with risk aversion);

- + Modelling issues
- + Existence and other theoretical issues
- + Solution techniques

Energy markets can be large

Strategic sectors:

- subject to regulations in quality, price and entry
- couple several regions and markets

Electric Power:

(source EPEX)



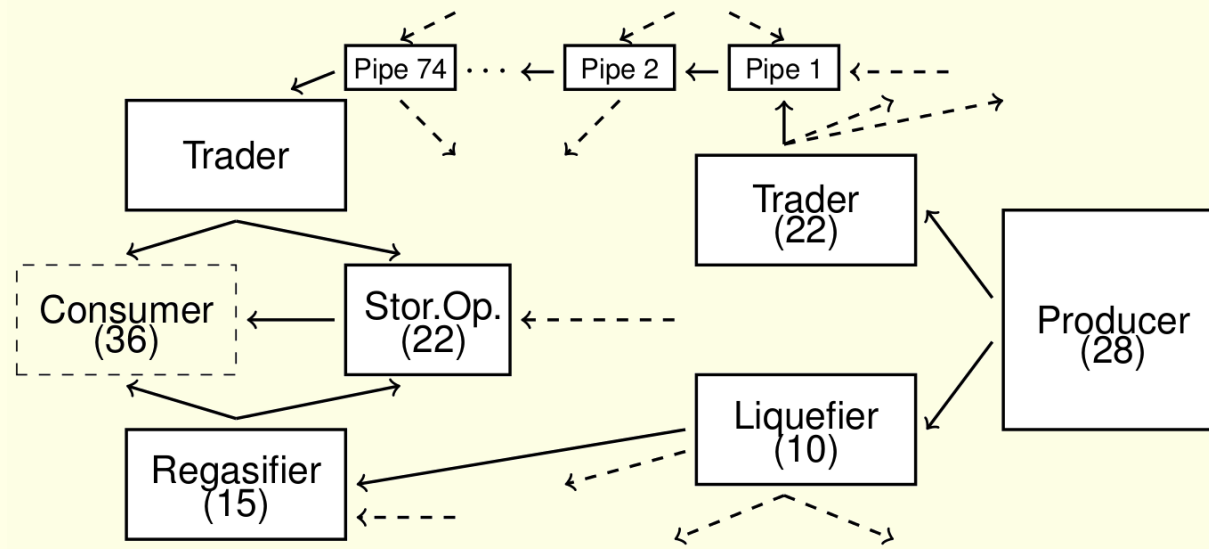
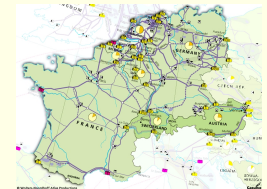
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Natural Gas: *Energy Policy*, 36:2385–2414, 2008. Egging, Gabriel, Holtz, Zhuang,

A complementarity model for the European natural gas market



Market: Premises

- +** Agents (producers, traders, logistics)
 - take unilateral decisions
 - behave competitively
- +** A representative of the consumers (the ISO)
 - focuses on the benefits of consumption
 - seeking a price that matches supply and demand
 - while keeping prices “low”
- +** Agents’ actions coupled by some relations, clearing the market.

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Today, models from game theory or complementarity leading to Variational Inequalities (VIs) (i.e., sufficiently "convex")

Different models

- Mixed Complementarity formulations**

- Models from game theory**

Different models

- **Mixed Complementarity formulations**

Agents maximize profit independently

Supply \geq Demand: Market Clearing constraint (MC)

multiplier \equiv equilibrium price

- **Models from game theory**

Different models

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Agents minimize cost s.t. MC

MC multiplier \equiv (variational) equilibrium price

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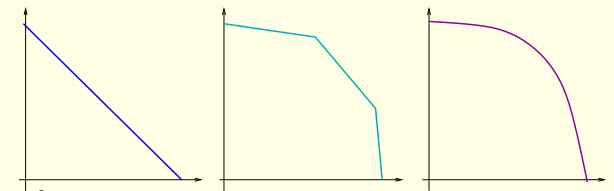
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Price is an exogenous concave

function of the total offer: $\pi = \pi(\sum_i q^i)$



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Different models

How different are these models?

– Mixed Complementarity formulations

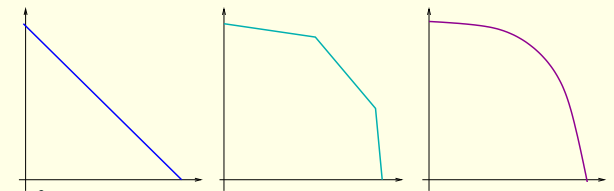
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– Models from game theory

Agents minimize cost s.t. MC

MC multiplier \equiv (variational) equilibrium price

Consumers indirectly represented

Notation: $q = (q^i, q^{-i})$, in particular $\pi = \pi(q^i, q^{-i})$

Market: Example as a Mixed Complementarity Problem

+ Agents (producers, traders, logistics)

$$\text{ith producer problem} \begin{cases} \max & r^i(q^i) \\ \text{s.t.} & q^i \in Q^i \end{cases}$$

+ Revenue $r^i(q^i) = \pi^\top q^i - c^i(q^i)$

Market: Example as a Mixed Complementarity Problem

+ Agents (producers, traders, logistics)

$$\text{ith producer problem} \begin{cases} \max & r^i(q^i, \mathbf{q}^{-i}) \equiv \min \mathbf{c}^i(\mathbf{q}^i, \mathbf{q}^i) \quad (\mathbf{c}^i = -\mathbf{r}^i) \\ \text{s.t.} & q^i \in Q^i \end{cases}$$

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+ Agents' actions coupled by a market clearing

constraint $MC(q^i, q^{-i}) = 0 \quad (\text{mult. } \pi)$

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+ Agents' actions coupled by a market clearing

constraint $MC(q^i, \mathbf{q}^{-i}) = 0$ (mult. π)

+ Equilibrium price $\bar{\pi}$ coincides with the exogenous $\pi(\bar{q})$

Market: Equilibrium price: $\bar{\pi}$

Mixed Complementarity Model

$$\text{Agents problems} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & c^i(q^i, q^{-i}) \\ \text{s.t.} & q^i \in Q^i \end{array} \right.$$

and, at equilibrium, $MC(q^i, q^{-i}) = 0$ ($\bar{\pi} = \pi(\bar{\mathbf{q}})$)

Market: Equilibrium price: $\bar{\pi}$

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Generalized Nash Game

$$\text{Agents problems} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & c^i(q^i) \\ \text{s.t.} & q^i \in Q^i \\ & MC(q^i, \tilde{q}^{-i}) = 0 \end{array} \right. \quad \bar{\pi}^i$$

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A **Variational Equilibrium** of the game is a Generalized Nash Equilibrium satisfying $\bar{\pi}^i = \bar{\pi}$

Both models give same equilibrium

Mixed Complementarity Model

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Both models give same equilibrium

Both models yield **equivalent** VIs

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Market: VI reformulation

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Variational Inequality follows from optimality conditions

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1st order OC

(primal form)

$$\langle \nabla_{q^i} c^i(\bar{q}^i), q^i - \bar{q}^i \rangle \geq 0$$

$$\forall q^i \in Q^i \cap MC$$

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In $VI(F, C) : \langle F(\bar{q}), q - \bar{q} \rangle \geq 0 \forall \text{ feasible } q$

- the VI operator $F(q) = \prod_{i=1}^N F^i(q)$ for $F^i(q) = \nabla_{q^i} c^i(q^i)$
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decomposability

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decomposability

NOTE: MC does not depend on i : constraint is **shared**

Incorporating a Capacity Market

Suppose producers pay $I^i(z^i)$

to invest in an increase z^i in production capacity

Production bounds go from $0 \leq q^i \leq q_{\max}^i$ ($\equiv q^i \in Q^i$)
to $0 \leq q^i \leq q_{\max}^i + z^i$ $(z^i, q^i) \in X^i$

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$$\mathcal{V}^i(z^i) = \begin{cases} \min c^i(q^i) \\ (z^i, q^i) \in X^i \\ MC \end{cases}$$

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can this problem be rewritten as a 2-level problem?

Incorporating a Capacity Market

When trying to rewrite $\min I^i(z^i) + \mathcal{V}^i(z^i)$ using

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Consistent with reality: Agents will keep competing after capacity expansion. **Similarly for Mixed Complementarity model and 2 stage with recourse, even without expansion**

What about uncertainty?

Given $k = 1, \dots, K$ uncertain scenarios (demand, costs, etc)

Investment variables are (naturally) the same for all realizations: z^i

Production variables are (naturally) different for each realization: q_k^i

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{ith problem} \\ \text{for scenario } k \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & I^i(z^i) + c_k^i(q_k) \\ \text{s.t.} & (z^i, q_k^i) \in X_k^i \\ & MC_k(q_k^i, q_k^{-i}) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

Two-stage formulation with recourse not possible

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Two-stage formulation with recourse not possible

Single-stage formulation instead: find a capacity expansion compatible with K scenarios of competition.

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Two-stage formulation with recourse not possible

Single-stage formulation instead: find a capacity expansion compatible with K scenarios of competition (likewise for generation-only market)

Which Stochastic VI?

Risk-neutral agents

Derive VI from

i th problem

using expected value

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & I^i(z^i) + \mathbb{E}[c_k^i(q_k^i)] \\ \text{s.t.} & (z^i, q_k^i) \in X_k^i \text{ for } k = 1 : K \\ & MC_k(q_k^i, q_k^{-i}) = 0 \text{ for } k = 1 : K \end{array} \right.$$

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- a VI operator F involving $\nabla I^i(z^i) \times \nabla_{q_{1:K}^i} \mathbb{E}[c_{1:K}^i(q)]$
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decomposability

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decomposability

there is no coupling between scenarios (\mathbb{E} is linear)

Which Stochastic VI?

Risk-averse agents, risk measure ρ

Derive VI from

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{ith problem} \\ \text{using risk measure} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & I^i(z^i) + \rho[c_k^i(q_k^i)] \\ \text{s.t.} & (z^i, q_k^i) \in X_k^i \text{ for } k = 1 : K \\ & MC_k(q_k^i, q_k^{-i}) = 0 \text{ for } k = 1 : K \end{array} \right.$$

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Difficulties arise: The risk measure is in general nonsmooth

$\rho(\mathcal{Z}) := AV@R_\varepsilon(\mathcal{Z}) = \min_u \left\{ u + \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \mathbb{E} \left([\mathcal{Z}_k - u]^+ \right) \right\}$: it is a value-function and $[\cdot]^+$ is nonsmooth

Which Stochastic VI?

Risk-averse agents, risk measure ρ

Derive VI from

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{ith problem} \\ \text{using risk measure} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min \quad I^i(z^i) + \rho[c_k^i(q_k^i)] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad (z^i, q_k^i) \in X_k^i \text{ for } k = 1 : K \\ \quad \quad MC_k(q_k^i, q_k^{-i}) = 0 \text{ for } k = 1 : K \end{array} \right.$$

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- the VI operator F involves $\nabla I^i(z^i) \times \partial_{q_{1:K}^i} \rho \left[c_{1:K}^i(q) \right]$,
multivalued

Two ways of handling multivalued VI operator

Reformulation:

Introduce $AV@R$ directly into the agent problem, by rewriting \square^+ in

$$\rho(\mathcal{Z}) := \min_u \left\{ u + \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \mathbb{E} \left([\mathcal{Z}_k - u]^+ \right) \right\}$$

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Smoothing:

Smooth the $[\cdot]^+$ -function and solve the smoothed VI

$$\rho^\ell(\mathcal{Z}) := \min_u \left\{ u + \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \mathbb{E} \left(\sigma_\ell(\mathcal{Z}_k - u) \right) \right\},$$

for smoothing $\sigma_\ell \rightarrow [\cdot]^+$ uniformly as $\ell \rightarrow \infty$

Reformulation

$$\rho(\mathbf{z}) = \min_u \left\{ u + \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \mathbb{E} \left([\mathbf{z}_k - u]^+ \right) \right\}$$

$$\text{FROM} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & I^i(z^i) + \rho[c_k^i(q_k^i)] \\ \text{s.t.} & (z^i, q_k^i) \in X_k^i \text{ for } k = 1 : K \\ & MC_k(q_k^i, q_k^{-i}) = 0 \text{ for } k = 1 : K \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{TO:} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \min & I^i(z^i) + \mathbf{u}^i + \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \mathbb{E} \left(\mathbf{T}_k^i \right) \\ \text{s.t.} & (z^i, q_k^i) \in X_k^i \text{ for } k = 1 : K \\ & MC_k(q_k^i, q_k^{-i}) = 0 \text{ for } k = 1 : K \\ & T_k^i \geq c_k^i(q_k^i) - u^i, T_k^i \geq 0 \text{ for } k = 1 : K, \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R} \end{array} \right.$$

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NOTE: new constraint is **NOT shared**: no longer a generalized Nash game, but a bilinear CP (how to show \exists ?).

Assessing both options

PATH can be used for the two variants.

+ Reformulation

- eliminates nonsmoothness

- Non-separable feasible set

+ Smoothing

- To drive smoothing parameter to 0: repeated VI solves

- Keeps feasible set separable by scenarios: easier VI

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- Provides existence result!

Smoothing

We use smooth approximations ρ^ℓ

$$\rho^\ell(\mathbf{z}) := \min_u \left\{ u + \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon} \mathbb{E} [\sigma_\ell(\mathbf{z}_k - u)] \right\},$$

for smoothing $\sigma_\ell \rightarrow [\cdot]^+$ uniformly as $\ell \rightarrow \infty$. For instance,

$$\sigma_\ell(t) = (t + \sqrt{t^2 + 4\tau_\ell^2})/2$$

for $\tau_\ell \rightarrow 0$.

Since ρ^ℓ is smooth, $\mathbf{VI}(\mathbf{F}^\ell, \mathbf{C})$ has a single-valued VI operator involving $\nabla_{\mathbf{q}^i} \rho^\ell \left[(c_k^i(\mathbf{q}_k))_{k=1}^K \right]$

Theorems

- like $AV@R$, ρ^ℓ is a risk-measure
 - convex, monotone, and translation equi-variant,
 - but not positively homogeneous (only coherent in the limit).
- ρ^ℓ is C^2 for strictly convex smoothings such as
$$\sigma^\ell(t) = (t + \sqrt{t^2 + 4\tau_\ell^2})/2$$
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existence result!

Reference: An approximation scheme for a class of risk-averse stochastic equilibrium problems. Luna, Sagastizábal, Solodov

Numerical performance of smoothing

$\tau_\ell \Rightarrow \text{VI}^\ell \Rightarrow \tau_{\ell+1} \Rightarrow \text{VI}^{\ell+1} \dots$ until stabilization

for $\mathbf{x} = (z^{1:N}, q_{1:K}^{1:N})$ stop if $\frac{|\bar{x}_{j+1} - \bar{x}_j|}{\max(1, |\bar{x}_{j+1}|)} \leq 0.01$

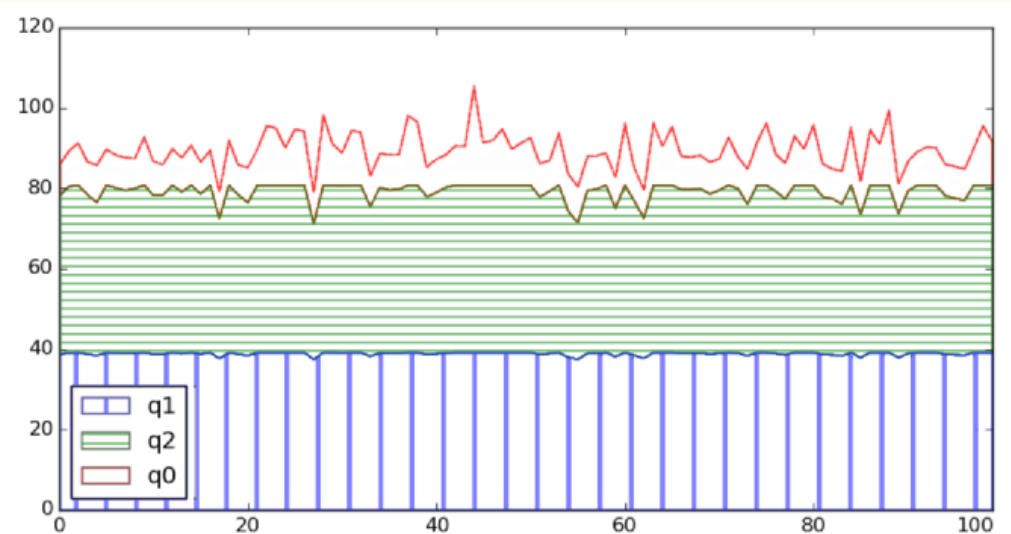
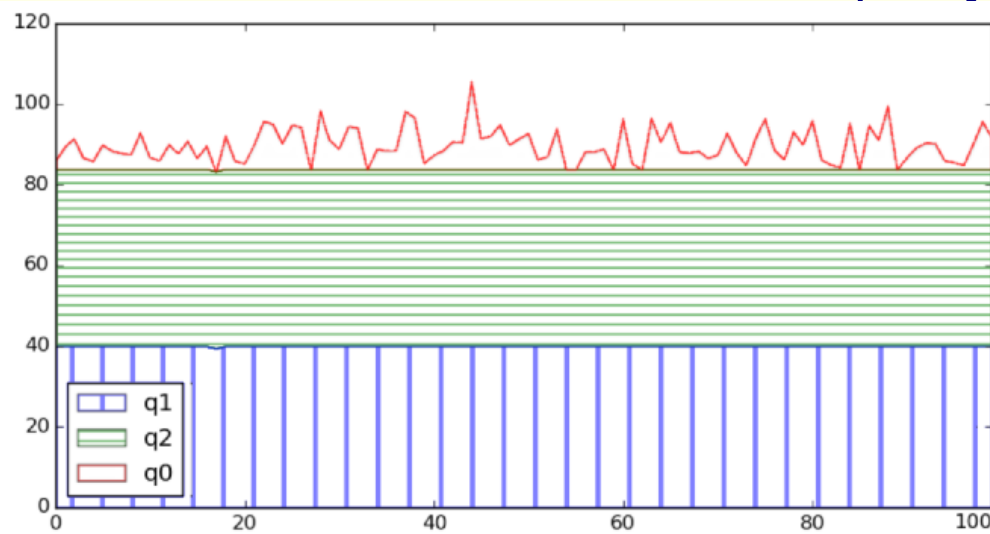
2 players and a consumer representative, player 0. Player 2 has higher generation costs. Less than 5 solves in average, each solve takes 45 seconds. Excellent solution quality

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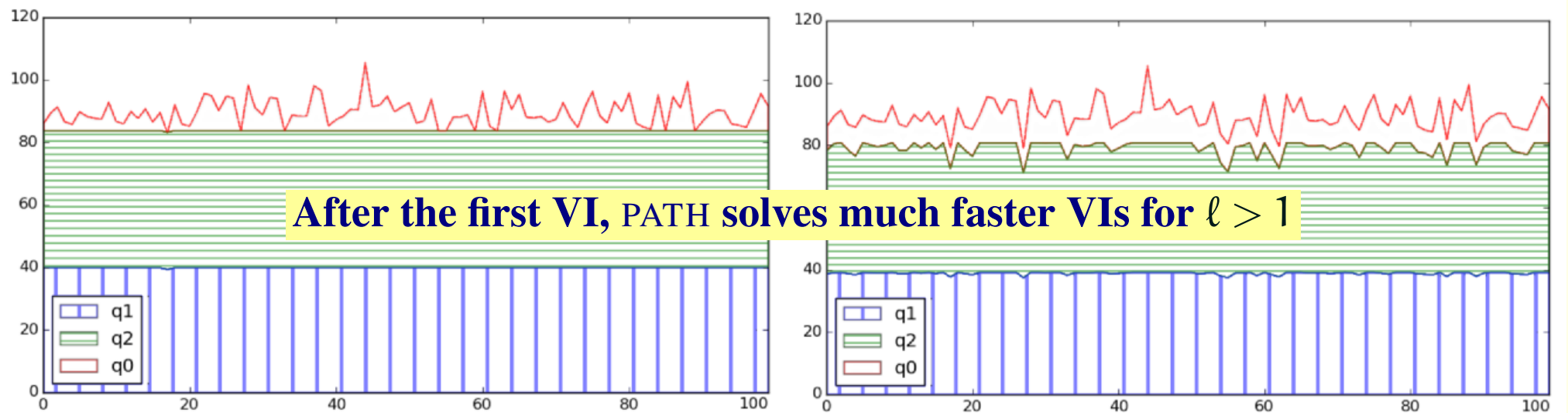
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After the first VI, PATH solves much faster VIs for $\ell > 1$



Numerical performance of smoothing

For nonconvex generation costs, reformulation becomes slower with nonconvex generation costs.

Smoothing needs less than 6 solves in average. Once again, after the first VI solve, PATH much faster for consecutive smoothed VIs:

$$\text{time of PATH}^{\text{smoothing}} \leq 2 \times \text{time of PATH}^{\text{reformulation}}$$

but: Total time of reformulation increases a lot, it scales less well

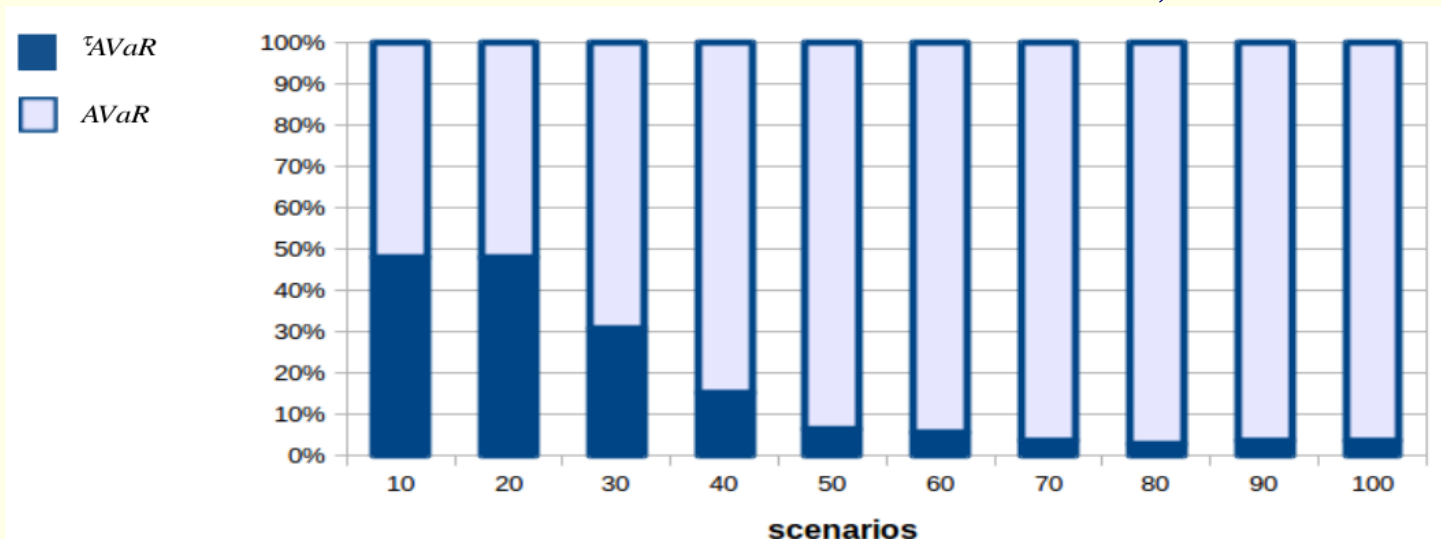
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Final Comments

- When in the agents' problems the objective or some constraint depends on actions of other agents, writing down the stochastic game/VI can be tricky (which selection mechanism in a 2-stage setting?)
- Handling nonsmoothness via reformulation seems inadequate for large instances
- Smoothing solves satisfactorily the original risk-averse nonsmooth problem for moderate τ (no need to make $\tau \rightarrow 0$)
- Smoothing preserves separability; it is possible to combine
 - Benders' techniques (along scenarios) with
 - Dantzig-Wolfe decomposition (along agents)
- Decomposition matters: for European Natural Gas network
 - Solving VI directly with PATH solver S. Dirkse, M. C. Ferris, and T. Munson
 - Using DW-decomposition **saves 2/3 of solution time**



SAVE THE DATES! June 25th-July 1st, 2016