

Dual Approximate Dynamic Programming

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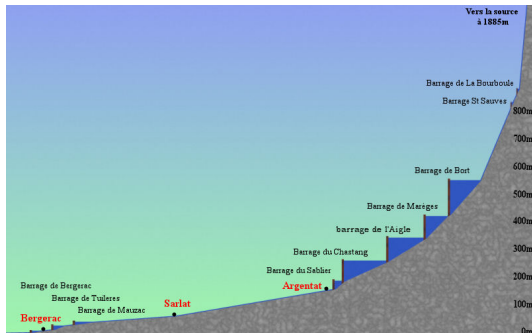
¹Joint work with J.-C. ALAIS,
supported by the FMJH Program Gaspard Monge for Optimization.

Lecture outline

- 1 Dams management problem
 - Introduction
 - Hydro valley modeling
- 2 DADP in a nutshell
 - Decomposition Methods
 - Spatial Decomposition
 - Ideas behind DADP
- 3 Numerical experiments
 - Academic examples
 - More realistic examples

Motivation

Electricity production management for hydro valleys



- *1 year time horizon:*
compute each month the **Bellman functions** (“water values”)
- *stochastic framework:*
rain, market prices
- *large-scale valley:*
5 dams and more

We wish to remain within the scope of **Dynamic Programming**.

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Multistage Stochastic Optimization: an Example

How to manage a chain of dam producing electricity from the turbine water to optimize the gain?

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=1}^N \sum_{i=0}^{T-1} U_t^i(x_t^i, u_t^i, w_{t+1}^i) \right]$$

state control noise

Constraints:

- dynamics:

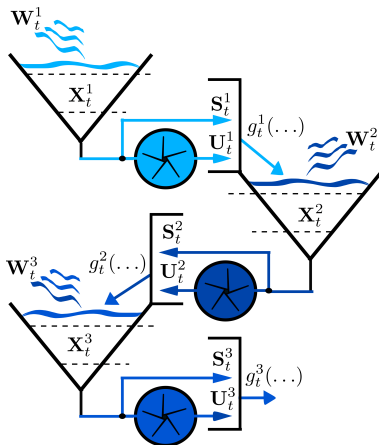
$$x_{t+1}^i = g_t^i(x_t^i, u_t^i, w_{t+1}^i)$$

- nonanticipativity:

$$u_t^i \in \mathcal{F}_t^i$$

- spatial coupling:

$$z_t^{i+1} = g_t^{i+1}(x_t^i, u_t^i, w_{t+1}^{i+1})$$



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$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} L_t^i(\underbrace{\mathbf{x}_t^i}_{\text{state}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{u}_t^i}_{\text{control}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{w}_{t+1}^i}_{\text{noise}}) \right]$$

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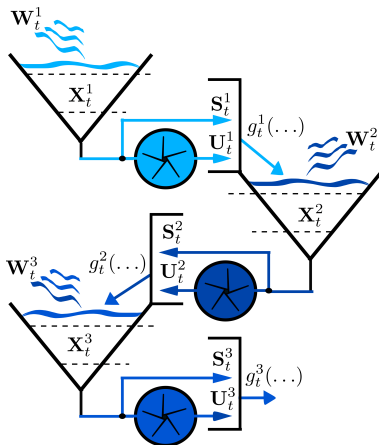
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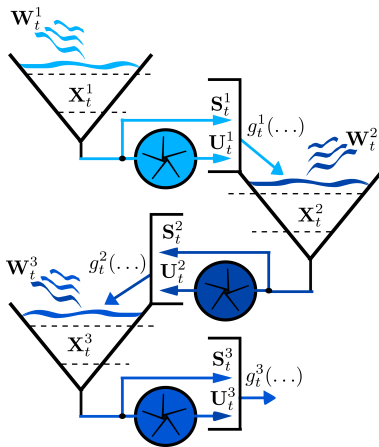
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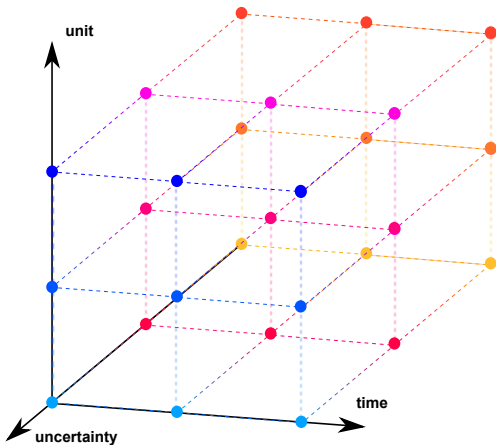
$$\mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} L_t^i(\underbrace{\mathbf{X}_t^i}_{\text{state}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{U}_t^i}_{\text{control}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{W}_{t+1}^i}_{\text{noise}}) \right]$$

Constraints:

- **dynamics:**
 $\mathbf{X}_{t+1} = f_t(\mathbf{X}_t, \mathbf{U}_t, \mathbf{W}_{t+1}),$
- **nonanticipativity:**
 $\mathbf{U}_t \preceq \mathcal{F}_t,$
- **spatial coupling:**
 $\mathbf{Z}_t^{i+1} = g_t^i(\mathbf{X}_t^i, \mathbf{U}_t^i, \mathbf{W}_{t+1}^i).$

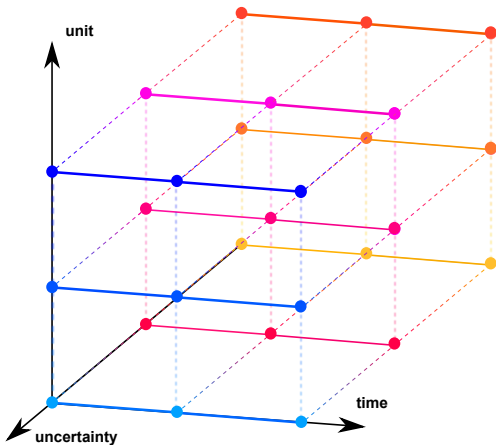


Couplings for Stochastic Problems



$$\min \sum_{\omega} \sum_i \sum_t \pi_{\omega} L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1})$$

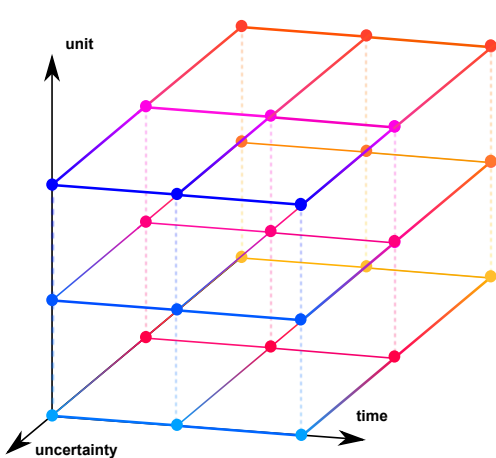
Couplings for Stochastic Problems: in Time



$$\min \sum_{\omega} \sum_i \sum_t \pi_{\omega} L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1})$$

$$\text{s.t. } \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^i = f_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1})$$

Couplings for Stochastic Problems: in Uncertainty

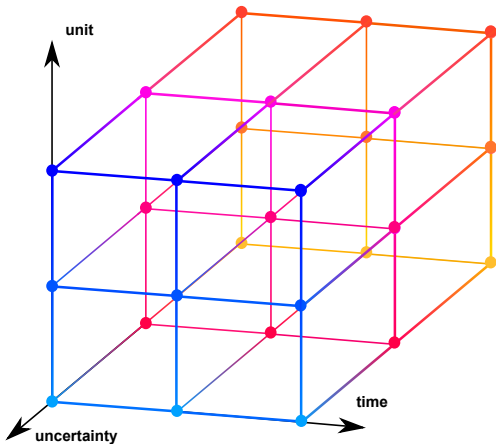


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Couplings for Stochastic Problems: in Space



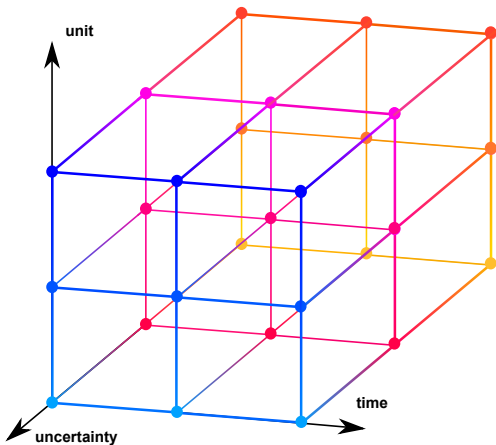
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$$\sum_i \Theta_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i) = 0$$

Couplings for Stochastic Problems: a Complex Problem



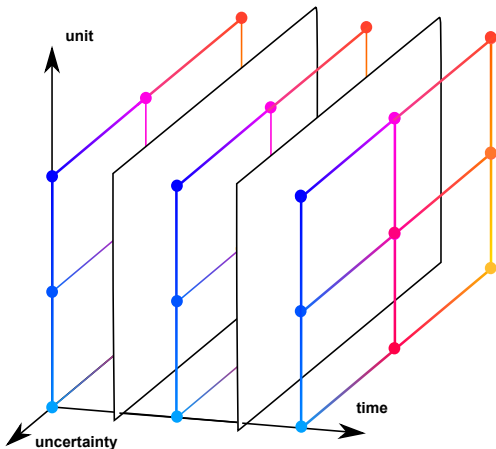
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Decompositions for Stochastic Problems: in Time



$$\min \sum_{\omega} \sum_i \sum_t \pi_{\omega} L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1})$$

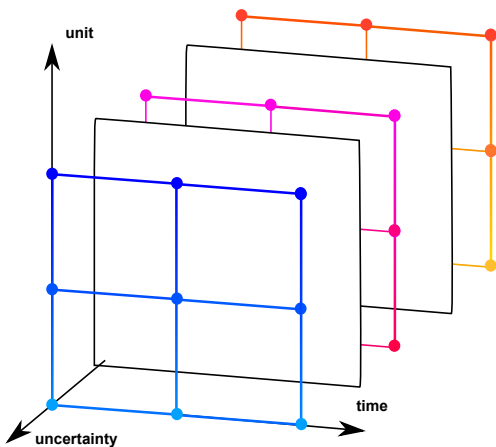
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Dynamic Programming
Bellman (56)

Decompositions for Stochastic Problems: in Uncertainty



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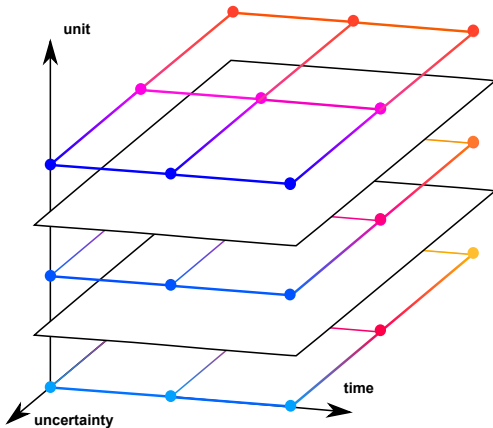
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Progressive Hedging
 Rockafellar - Wets (91)

Decompositions for Stochastic Problems: in Space



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Dual Approximate
 Dynamic Programming

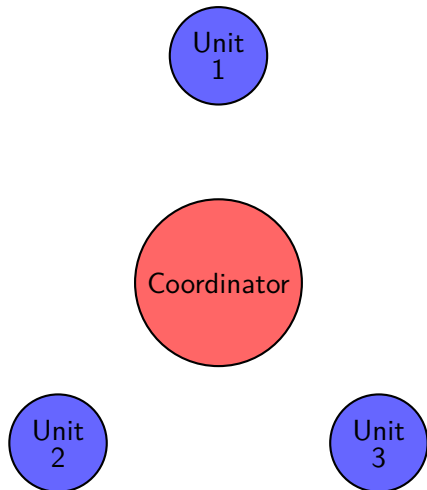
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Intuition of Spatial Decomposition

- Satisfy a demand (over T time step) with N units of production at minimal cost.

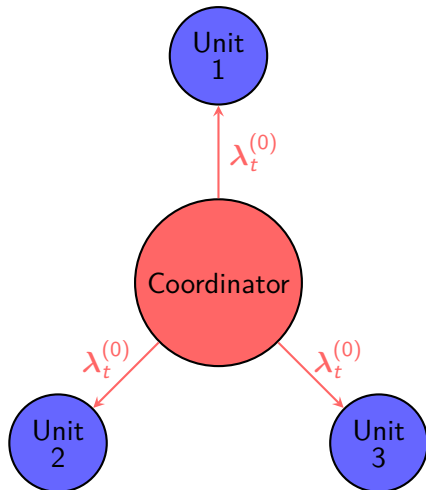
- **Price decomposition:**

- the coordinator sets a sequence of price λ_t ,
- the units send their production planning $u_t^{(i)}$,
- the coordinator compares total production and demand and updates the price,
- and so on...



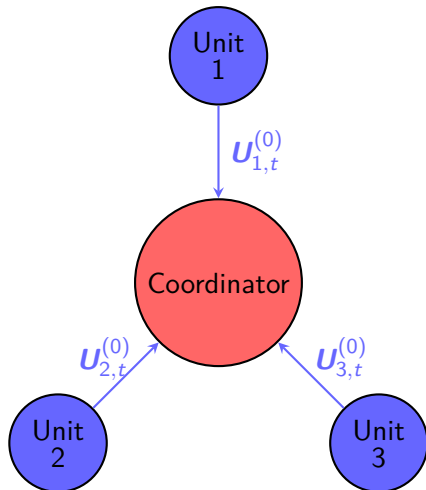
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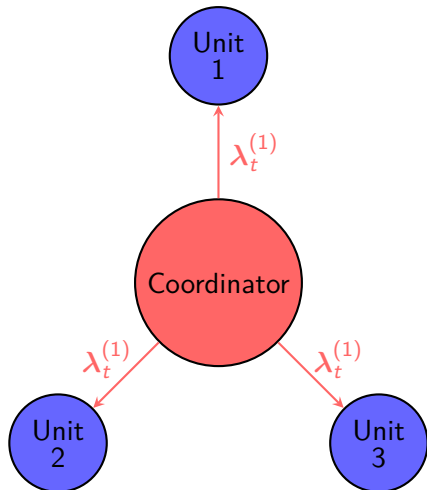
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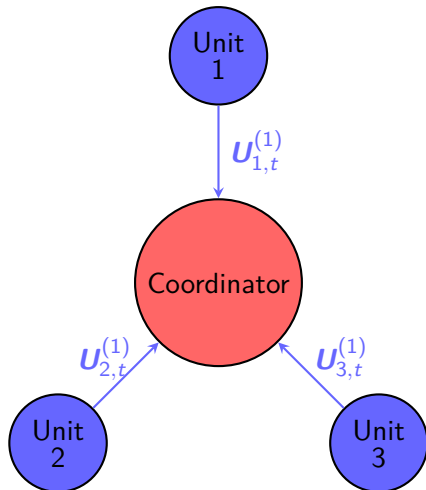
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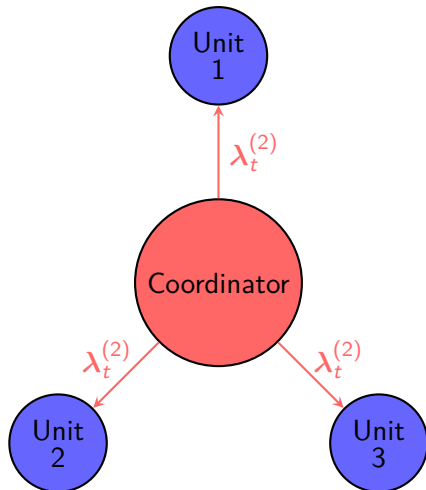
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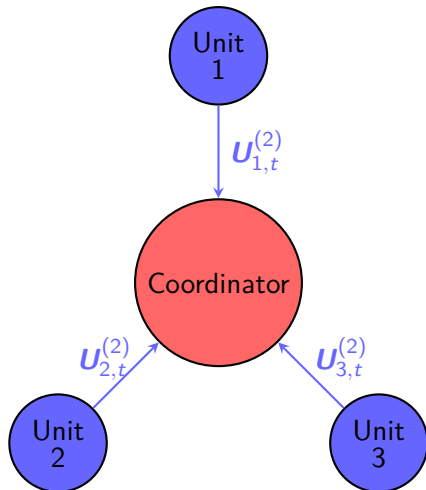
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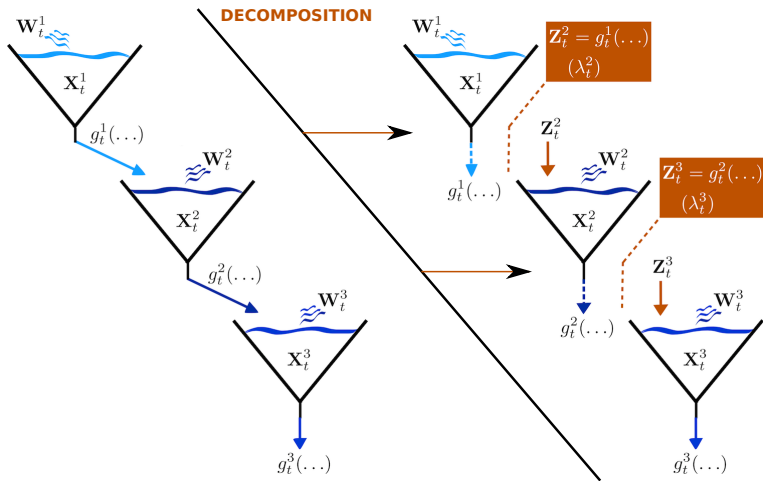


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Application to dam management



Primal Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{U}} \quad & \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}) + K^i(\mathbf{x}_T^i) \right] \\ \forall i, \quad & \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^i = f_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}), \quad \mathbf{x}_0^i = \mathbf{x}_0^i, \\ \forall i, \quad & \mathbf{u}_t^i \in \mathcal{U}_{t,i}^{ad}, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \preceq \mathcal{F}_t, \\ & \sum_{i=1}^N \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solvable by DP with state $(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N)$ (under noise independence assumption)

Primal Problem

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Solvable by DP with state $(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N)$ (under noise independence assumption)

Primal Problem with Dualized Constraint

$$\min_{\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{U}} \max_{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}) + \langle \lambda_t, \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) \rangle + K^i(\mathbf{x}_T^i) \right]$$
$$\forall i, \quad \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^i = f_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}), \quad \mathbf{x}_0^i = \mathbf{x}_0^i,$$
$$\forall i, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \in \mathcal{U}_{t,i}^{ad}, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \preceq \mathcal{F}_t,$$

Coupling constraint dualized \implies remaining constraints are i by i

Dual Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\lambda} \min_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}} \sum_{i=1}^N \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}) + \langle \lambda_t, \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) \rangle + K^i(\mathbf{x}_T^i) \right] \\ \forall i, \quad \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^i = f_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}), \quad \mathbf{x}_0^i = \mathbf{x}_0^i, \\ \forall i, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \in \mathcal{U}_{t,i}^{ad}, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \preceq \mathcal{F}_t, \end{aligned}$$

Exchange operator **min** and **max** to obtain a new problem

Decomposed Dual Problem

$$\max_{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^N \min_{\mathbf{x}^i, \mathbf{u}^i} \mathbb{E} \left[\sum_{t=0}^T L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}) + \langle \lambda_t, \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) \rangle + K^i(\mathbf{x}_T^i) \right]$$
$$\mathbf{x}_{t+1}^i = f_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}), \quad \mathbf{x}_0^i = \mathbf{x}_0^i,$$
$$\mathbf{u}_t^i \in \mathcal{U}_{t,i}^{ad}, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \preceq \mathcal{F}_t,$$

For a given λ , minimum of sum is sum of minima

Inner Minimization Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{x}^i, \mathbf{u}^i} \mathbb{E} & \left[\sum_{t=0}^T L_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}) + \langle \lambda_t, \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) \rangle + K^i(\mathbf{x}_T^i) \right] \\ \mathbf{x}_{t+1}^i &= f_t^i(\mathbf{x}_t^i, \mathbf{u}_t^i, \mathbf{w}_{t+1}), \quad \mathbf{x}_0^i = \mathbf{x}_0^i, \\ \mathbf{u}_t^i &\in \mathcal{U}_{t,i}^{ad}, \quad \mathbf{u}_t^i \preceq \mathcal{F}_t, \end{aligned}$$

We have N smaller subproblems. Can they be solved by DP?

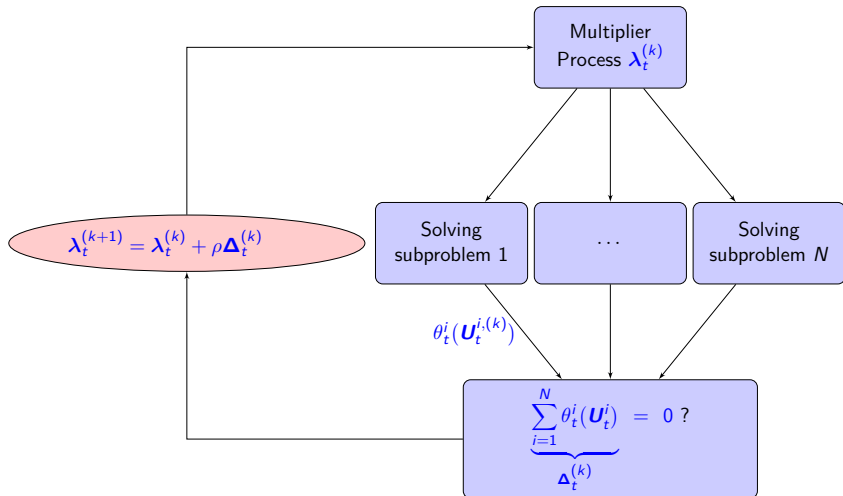
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No: $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ is a time-dependent noise $\rightsquigarrow \mathbf{x}_t^i$ is not a proper state, but rather $(\mathbf{w}_1, \dots, \mathbf{w}_t)$

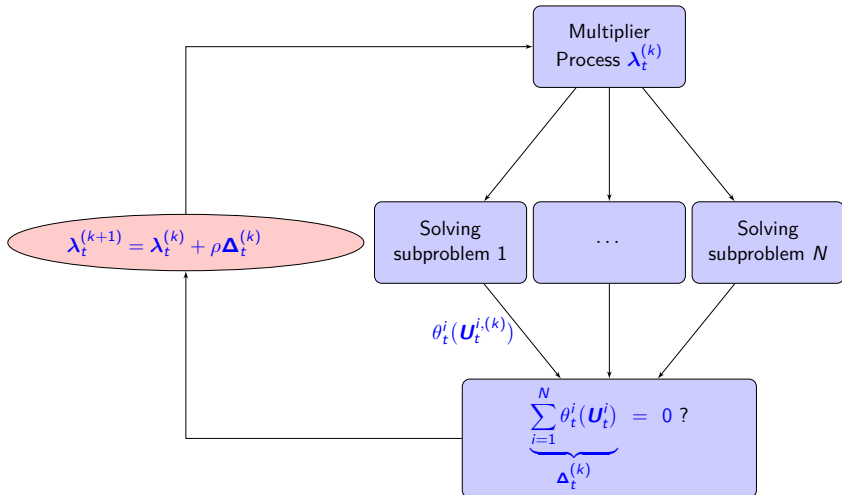
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Stochastic spatial decomposition scheme



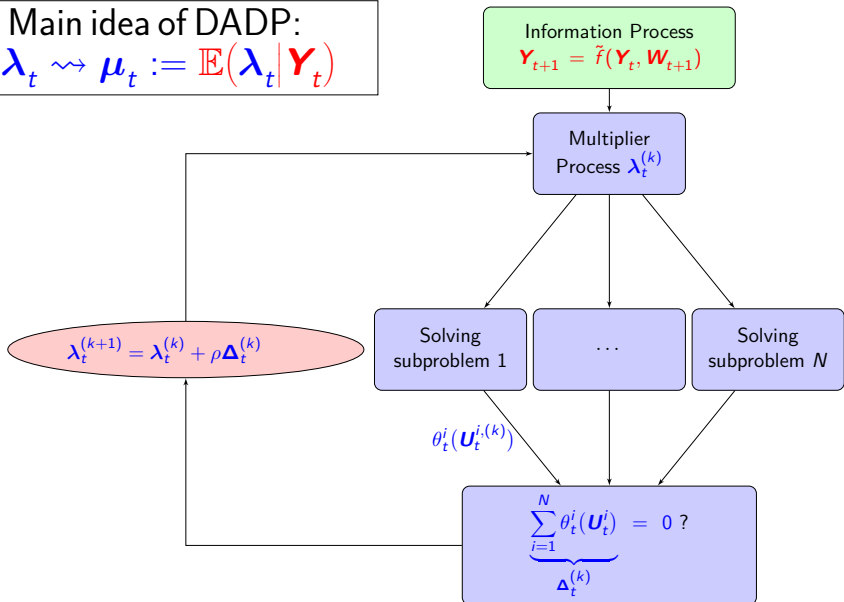
Main idea of DADP:

$$\lambda_t \rightsquigarrow \mu_t := \mathbb{E}(\lambda_t | \mathbf{Y}_t)$$



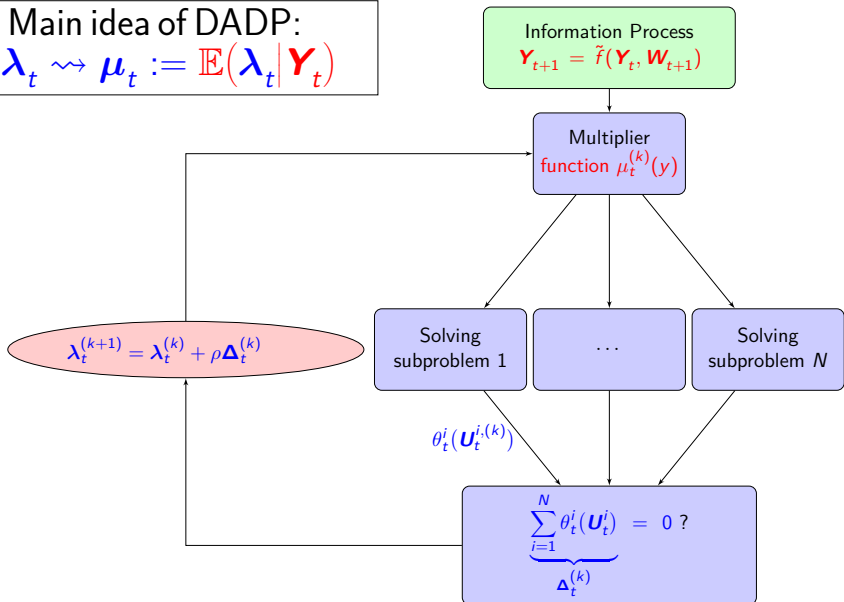
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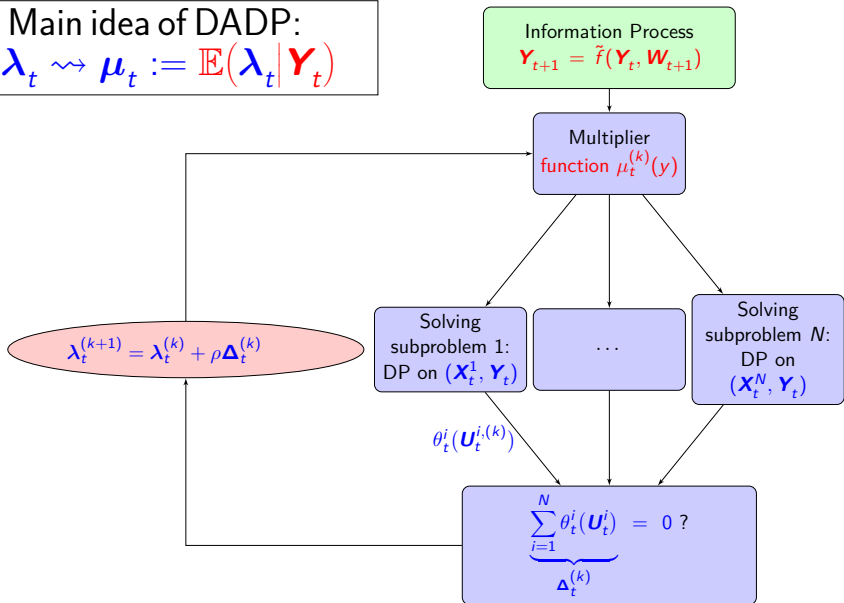
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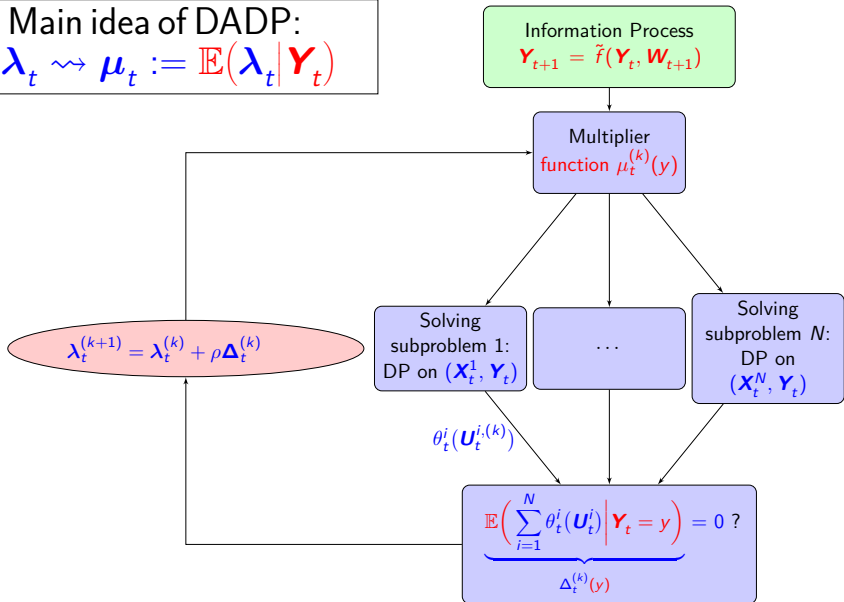
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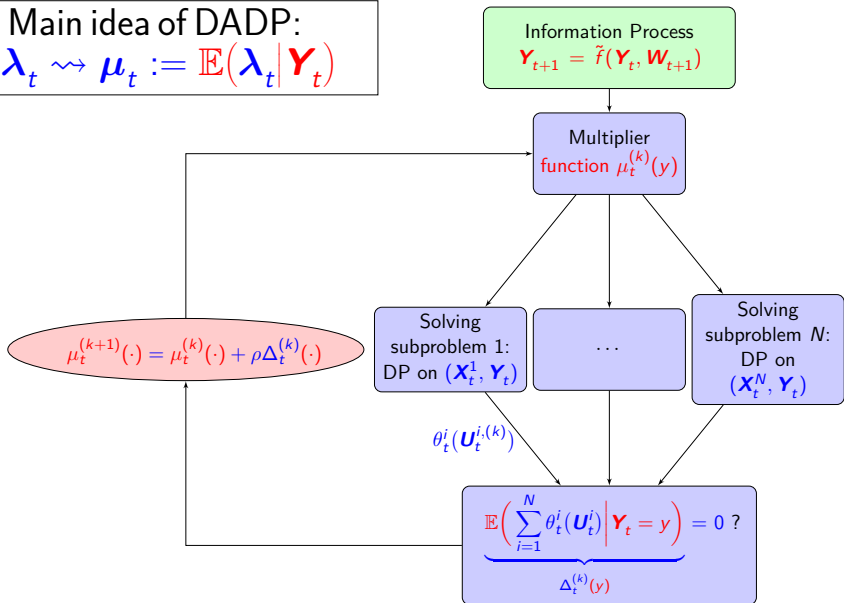
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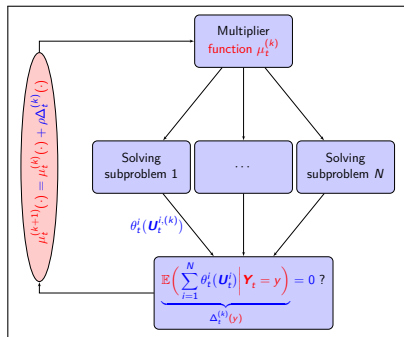
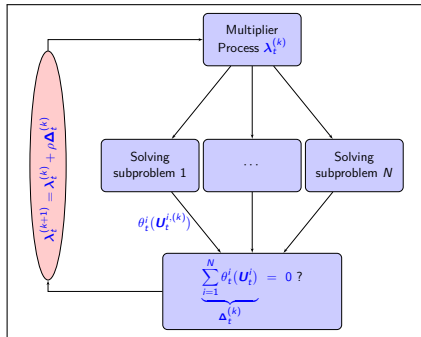


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Main problems:

- Subproblems not easily solvable by DP
- $\lambda^{(k)}$ live in a huge space

Advantages:

- Subproblems solvable by DP with state $(\mathbf{X}_t^i, \mathbf{Y}_t)$
- $\mu^{(k)}$ live in a smaller space

Dual approximation as constraint relaxation

The original problem is (abstract form)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \quad & J(\mathbf{U}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Theta(\mathbf{U}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

written as

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \max_{\lambda} J(\mathbf{U}) + \mathbb{E}[\langle \lambda, \Theta(\mathbf{U}) \rangle]$$

Substituting λ by $\mathbb{E}(\lambda | \mathbf{Y})$ gives

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \max_{\lambda} J(\mathbf{U}) + \mathbb{E}[\langle \mathbb{E}(\lambda | \mathbf{Y}), \Theta(\mathbf{U}) \rangle]$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \quad & J(\mathbf{U}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Theta(\mathbf{U}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

written as

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \max_{\lambda} J(\mathbf{U}) + \mathbb{E}[\langle \lambda, \Theta(\mathbf{U}) \rangle]$$

Substituting λ by $\mathbb{E}(\lambda | \mathbf{Y})$ gives

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \max_{\lambda} J(\mathbf{U}) + \mathbb{E}[\langle \lambda, \mathbb{E}(\Theta(\mathbf{U}) | \mathbf{Y}) \rangle]$$

Dual approximation as constraint relaxation

The original problem is (abstract form)

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \quad & J(\mathbf{U}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Theta(\mathbf{U}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

written as

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \max_{\lambda} J(\mathbf{U}) + \mathbb{E}[\langle \lambda, \Theta(\mathbf{U}) \rangle]$$

Substituting λ by $\mathbb{E}(\lambda | \mathbf{Y})$ gives

$$\min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \max_{\lambda} J(\mathbf{U}) + \mathbb{E}[\langle \lambda, \mathbb{E}(\Theta(\mathbf{U}) | \mathbf{Y}) \rangle]$$

equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{U}} \quad & J(\mathbf{U}) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mathbb{E}(\Theta(\mathbf{U}) | \mathbf{Y}) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Three Interpretations of DADP

- DADP as an **approximation** of the optimal multiplier

$$\lambda_t \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{E}(\lambda_t | \mathbf{Y}_t) .$$

- DADP as a **decision-rule** approach in the dual

$$\max_{\lambda} \min_{\mathbf{U}} L(\lambda, \mathbf{U}) \rightsquigarrow \max_{\lambda_t \preceq \mathbf{Y}_t} \min_{\mathbf{U}} L(\lambda, \mathbf{U}) .$$

- DADP as a **constraint relaxation** in the primal

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_t^i(\mathbf{U}_t^i) = 0 \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{E}\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_t^i(\mathbf{U}_t^i) \middle| \mathbf{Y}_t\right) = 0 .$$

Theoretical Results

- **Consistence** of the approximation (if we consider a sequence of approximated problems).
- **Existence** of multiplier of the coupling constraint.
- **Convergence** of the decomposition algorithm for a given relaxation.
- Lower and upper **bounds** on the original problem.
- A posteriori verification allowing for better multiplier update.

Consistence of the Approximation Scheme

- The DADP algorithm solves a relaxation (\mathcal{P}_Y) of the original problem (\mathcal{P}) where

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) = 0 \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \mathbb{E} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_t^i(\mathbf{u}_t^i) \middle| \mathbf{Y}_t \right) = 0$$

(\mathcal{P}_Y) .

- Question: if we consider a sequence of information processes $\{\mathbf{Y}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, such that the information converges

$$\sigma(\mathbf{Y}_t^{(n)}) \rightarrow \sigma(\mathbf{W}_0, \dots, \mathbf{W}_t)$$

does the associated sequence $(\mathbf{u}^{\mathbf{Y}^{(n)}})$ of optimal control converges toward an optimal control of (\mathcal{P}) ?

Epiconvergence of Approximation

Epiconvergence result

Assume that

- the cost functions L_t^i , dynamic functions f_t^i and constraint functions θ_t^i are continuous;
- the noise variables W_t are essentially bounded;
- the constraint sets $U_{i,t}^{\text{ad}}$ are bounded.

Consider a sequence of information process $\{\mathbf{Y}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $\sigma(\mathbf{Y}^{(n)})$ Kudo-converges toward \mathcal{F}_∞ . Let $\mathbf{U}^{(n)}$ be an ε_n -optimal solution to the relaxed problem $(\mathcal{P}^{\mathbf{Y}^{(n)}})$.

Then, every cluster point^a of $\{\mathbf{U}^{(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an optimal solution of the relaxation corresponding to \mathcal{F}_∞ .

^afor the topology of the convergence in probability

Choosing an Information Process \mathbf{Y}

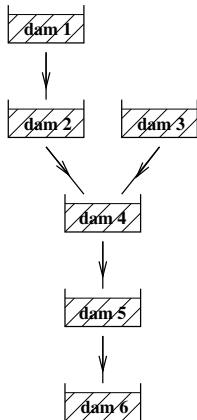
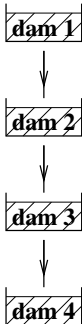
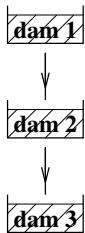
- **Perfect memory:** $\mathbf{Y}_t^i = (\mathbf{W}_0, \dots, \mathbf{W}_t)$.
 \rightsquigarrow equivalent to original problem, no numerical gain.
- **Minimal information:** $\mathbf{Y}_t^i \equiv \text{cste}$.
 \rightsquigarrow equivalent to replacing a.s. constraint by expected constraint. Subproblems solved efficiently (state \mathbf{X}_t^i), multiplier is deterministic.
- **Static information:** $\mathbf{Y}_t^i = h_t^i(\mathbf{W}_t)$.
 \rightsquigarrow Subproblems solved efficiently (state \mathbf{X}_t^i).
- **Dynamic information:** $\mathbf{Y}_{t+1}^i = h_t^i(\mathbf{Y}_t^i, \mathbf{W}_{t+1})$.
 \rightsquigarrow A number of possibilities. Some ideas:
 - mimicking the trajectory of the state of another unit (phantom state),
 - mimicking the control of other units,
 - Markov chain representing roughly the general state of the system.

Numerical Advantages of a finitely supported \mathbf{Y}

- Assume that each noise \mathbf{W}_t take w values, and the constraint function take value in \mathbb{R} .
- Then the multiplier λ_t of the almost sure constraint at time t lives in \mathbb{R}^{wt} .
- Assume that the information process at time t take y values, then the multiplier of the relaxed constraint μ_t lives in \mathbb{R}^y .
- Moreover each subproblems take “only” roughly y times more computational effort to solve than the subproblem with local state \mathbf{X}_t^i .

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Four case studies



Discretization

$T \rightsquigarrow 12$

$X \rightsquigarrow 41$

$U \rightsquigarrow 6$

$W \rightsquigarrow 10$

Results

Valley	3-Dams	4-Dams	5-Dams	6-Dams
DP CPU time	5'	1630'	461200'	N.A.
DP value	2482.0	3742.7	4681.6	N.A.
SDDP _d value	2474.2	3736.4	4672.2	7014.8
SDDP _d CPU time	0.3'	2'	16'	320'
SDDP _c value	2479.1	3739.7	4678.5	7016.4
SDDP _c CPU time	5'	9'	11'	13'

Table: Results obtained by DP, SDDP_d and SDDP_c

Valley	3-Dams	4-Dams	5-Dams	6-Dams
DADP CPU time	5'	6'	5'	13'
DADP value	2401.3	3667.0	4633.7	6816.5
Gap with DP	-3.2%	-2.0%	-1.0%	-2.8%

Table: Results obtained by DADP "Expectation"

Results obtained using a 4 cores – 8 threads Intel®Core i7 based computer.

Results

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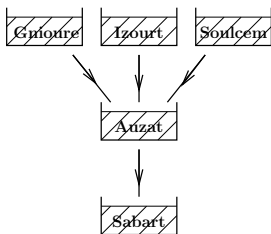
Valley	3-Dams	4-Dams	5-Dams	6-Dams
DADP CPU time	3'	6'	5'	13'
DADP value	2401.3	3667.0	4633.7	6816.5
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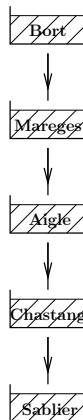
Two “true” valleys



Discretization

$T \rightsquigarrow 12$, $W \rightsquigarrow 10$

realistic grids for U and X



Vicdessos

Dordogne

Results

Valley	Vicdessos	Dordogne
SDDP _d CPU time	<i>90'</i>	<i>86000'</i>
SDDP _d value	2232.1	21904.5
SDDP _c CPU time	<i>23'</i>	<i>28'</i>
SDDP _c value	2220.6	22035.2

Table: Results obtained by SDDP_d and SDDP_c

Valley	Vicdessos	Dordogne
DADP CPU time	<i>10'</i>	<i>155'</i>
DADP value	2237.4	21499.8
Gap with SDDP _d	<i>+0.2%</i>	<i>-1.8%</i>

Table: Results obtained by DADP "Expectation"

Results

Valley	Vicdessos	Dordogne
SDDP _d CPU time	<i>90'</i>	<i>86000'</i>
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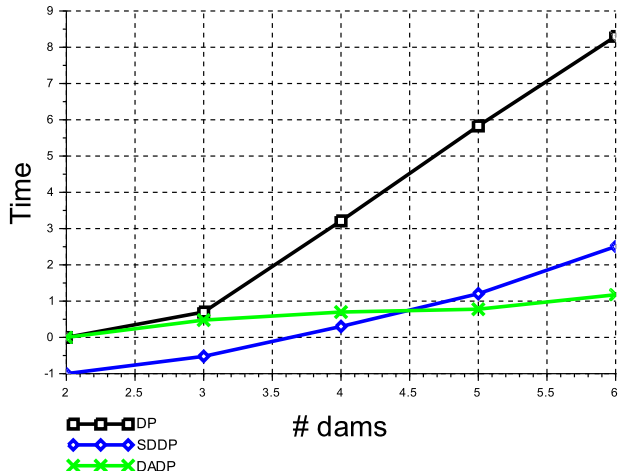
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DADP CPU time	<i>10'</i>	<i>155'</i>
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Table: Results obtained by DADP "Expectation"

CPU time comparison

CPU time (logarithmic scale)



Conclusions and perspectives

Conclusions for DADP

- Fast numerical convergence of the method.
- Near-optimal results even when using a “crude” relaxation.
- Method that can be used for very large valleys

General perspectives

- Apply to more complex topologies (smart grids).
- Connection with other decomposition methods.
- Theoretical study.

Conclusions and perspectives

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