



REVIEW

A Review of Optimization and Solution Methods for New Power Systems with Uncertainty

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ABSTRACT: For mixed-integer programming (MIP) problems in new power systems with uncertainties, existing studies tend to address uncertainty modeling or MIP solution methods in isolation. They overlook core bottlenecks arising from their coupling, such as variable dimension explosion, disrupted constraint separability, and conflicts in solution logic. To address this gap, this paper focuses on the coupling effects between the two and systematically conducts three aspects of work: first, the paper summarizes the uncertainty optimization methods suitable for addressing uncertainty-related issues in power systems, along with their respective advantages and disadvantages. It also clarifies the specific forms and operational mechanisms through which these uncertainty optimization methods are integrated into MIP models. Meanwhile, based on the application scenarios of new power systems, the paper delineates the applicable boundaries of different optimization methods; second, the paper organizes three categories of solution methods, which are exact solution methods, decomposition-based methods, and meta-heuristic algorithms. It focuses on analyzing the improvement paths of various solution methods for resolving coupling bottlenecks, as well as their applicability in different types of power system optimization problems; finally, providing a summary and presenting an outlook on future directions: artificial intelligence-enabled optimization, development of dedicated solvers for extreme scenarios, and dynamic modeling of multi-source uncertainties. This study aims to help researchers in the field of new power systems quickly grasp uncertainty optimization methods and core solution methods, bridge existing research gaps, and promote the development of this field.

KEYWORDS: Uncertainty; new power system; renewable energy; optimal scheduling

1 Introduction

The new power system faces dual challenges: reliable model solving and the growing impact of uncertain factors. On one hand, power systems generally confront complex decision-making requirements in optimal scheduling problems such as unit commitment (UC) and topological operation optimization [1]. Since these problems typically involve discrete decision variables and nonlinear constraints, they are often formulated as Mixed Integer Programming (MIP) models for solving [2]. Notably, MIP problems themselves fall into the category of Non-deterministic Polynomial-time Hard (NP-hard) problems [3]; as the problem scale expands, algorithms inevitably encounter the “curse of dimensionality”. On the other hand, with the continuous increase in the proportion of renewable energy in the new power system, various uncertain factors, such as fluctuations in renewable energy output [4], fluctuations in load demand [5], and changes in equipment efficiency [6], have become increasingly prominent in the power system, exerting a significant impact on the stability and economy of system operation. Available Load Supply Capability (ALSC) can be used to assess



the security and stability of power systems. Zhang et al. [7] demonstrated through experiment that when the penetration rate of renewable energy increases from 15% to 30%, the mean value of ALSC in the power system will decrease by nearly 50%. Kaewpasuk et al. [8] found when addressing the unit commitment problem that, compared with deterministic optimization, the adoption of uncertainty-aware optimization methods can reduce Loss of Load Probability-related metrics by 10.87% to 61.76%.

To address these challenges, in terms of uncertainty modeling, methods such as Stochastic Optimization (SO) [4,9,10], Robust Optimization (RO) [11–13], Chance-Constrained Optimization (CCO) [14–16], Fuzzy Optimization (FO) [17–20], and Information Gap Decision Theory (IGDT) [21–23] have been introduced; in terms of MIP solving, algorithms like Benders decomposition (BD) and Column-and-Constraint Generation (C&CG) decomposition have been developed to reduce the computational complexity of large-scale problems.

More importantly, existing studies overlook that the coupling effect between uncertainty handling and MIP solving has become a core bottleneck for the practical application of optimization. This coupling effect manifests in three key aspects: first, variable dimension explosion: uncertainties must be quantified through multi-scenario and interval constraints, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of MIP decision variables and constraints compared to deterministic scenarios; second, disrupted constraint separability: the classic decomposition methods for MIP rely on the separation of constraints between discrete and continuous variables, yet coupling effects undermine this property, rendering the solving basis of decomposition methods invalid; third, conflicts in solving logic: addressing uncertainties requires covering extreme scenarios to ensure feasibility, whereas MIP solving demands model simplification to control solving time. Overcoming this bottleneck requires the collaborative design of these two components.

While recent review papers have focused on uncertain optimization or MIP modeling for new power systems, to date, no literature has examined their synergistic effects in power system optimal scheduling. Afzali et al. [24] present a systematic review of the research progress on mainstream uncertainty and risk modeling methods in power systems, and quantifies and compares the performance differences of these methods in reliability assessment via case studies. However, it fails to elaborate on formulating related problems as MIP models and their subsequent solution. Building on this, Du et al. [25] include a brief introduction to MIP models but fail to elaborate on the specific methods for transforming uncertain optimization models into MIP models, nor does it cover MIP solution methods. Bragin et al. [2] summarize the basic framework for Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) models and propose solution acceleration approaches. However, it does not consider the impact of uncertain factors, nor does it address the transformation into and solution of Mixed Integer Nonlinear Programming (MINLP) problems.

Thus, there is an urgent need for a review that systematically integrates uncertainty handling methods with MIP solving strategies for new power system optimization problems. The main content framework reviewed in this paper is shown in Fig. 1.

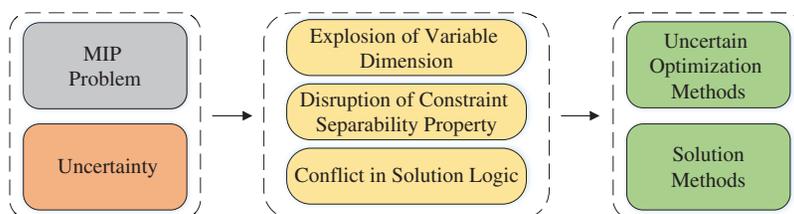


Figure 1: Framework of coupling bottlenecks and countermeasures between uncertainty and MIP problem

This paper, focusing on the current research status of MIP problems in new power systems with uncertainties, makes two core contributions compared to previous reviews: on one hand, it clarifies the embedding mechanisms of common uncertainty methods such as SO and RO, and other methods into MIP models, and elucidates the applicable scenarios, development status, and key technologies for converting them into deterministic models; on the other hand, it outlines three categories of solving strategies—exact methods, decomposition methods, and meta-heuristic algorithms(MA)—with a focus on analyzing the optimization paths of BD, C&CG decomposition, and other methods to address coupling bottlenecks, and explicitly identifies the applicable scenarios of each method. Finally, it provides an outlook on future research directions. The paper aims to help researchers in the field of power system optimization quickly develop a comprehensive understanding of uncertainty embedding and adaptive solving approaches, bridge existing research gaps, and advance the development of this field.

2 Representation of MIP with Uncertainty

2.1 Deterministic MIP Model

Since the power system optimization problem is a complex optimization problem involving both continuous variables (e.g., generator output and energy storage charge/discharge quantity) and discrete variables (e.g., UC status and switching actions), it can be modeled as an MIP model, whose general form can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \min/\max z &= f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \\ \text{s.t. } h(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &\leq 0 \\ g(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) &= 0 \\ x_j &\in S_j, j = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where, x_j denotes a decision variable, and S_j represents the value set of x_j . When $j \in J \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$, $S_j \subseteq Z$, meaning x_j is an integer or discrete integer variable; otherwise, x_j is a continuous variable. $f(\cdot)$ is the objective function, which defines the model's objective of maximizing or minimizing a specific quantity. $h(\cdot)$ and $g(\cdot)$ are the inequality and equality constraint functions, respectively, which describe the constraints of the problem.

2.2 MIP Model with Uncertainty

The basic formulation of the above MIP model provides a framework for modeling a wide range of complex problems. To address the challenges caused by increased uncertainties in new power systems, uncertain factors need to be integrated into the modeling process. The integrated model framework is presented below:

$$\begin{aligned} \min / \max z &= f(x, y, \xi) \\ \text{s.t. } h(x, y, \xi) &\leq 0 \\ g(x, y, \xi) &= 0 \\ x_j &\subseteq Z, y_k \geq 0, j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where, x denotes the integer variable vector, y denotes the continuous variable vector, $f(\cdot)$ is the objective function, $h(\cdot)$ and $g(\cdot)$ are the inequality and equality constraint functions, and ξ is a vector consisting of uncertain variables, which directly links the uncertain factors with the discrete and continuous variables of the MIP, and quantifies the coupling relationship between the uncertain parameters and the decision variables.

3 Uncertain Optimization Methods for New Power Systems

In the field of uncertainty optimization for new power systems, existing research methods fall into five categories: SO, RO, CCO, FO and IGDT. The requirements of various uncertainty optimization methods for random variables are shown in Fig. 2. These methods exhibit distinct model characteristics and applicable scopes. Among them, both SO and CCO rely on known probability distributions, and CCO can also be regarded as a special case of SO. RO relies on known fluctuation intervals, so it is more suitable for power grid dispatching with strict security constraints. FO/IGDT have significant advantages in scenarios with scarce data or fuzzy boundaries.

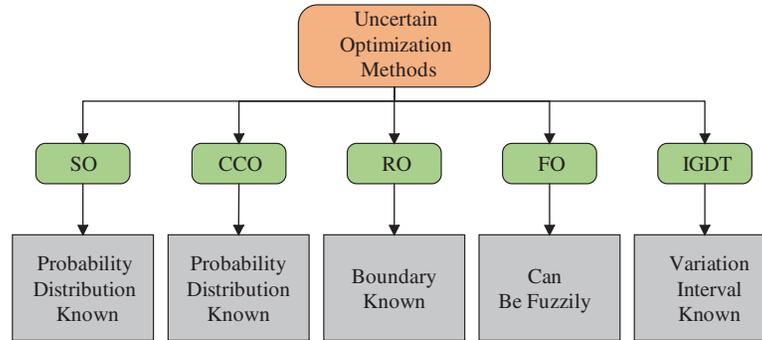


Figure 2: Various uncertain optimization methods and their requirements for random variables

3.1 Stochastic Optimization

SO applies to power system optimization scenarios where random variables have known probability distributions. These variables are typically assumed to follow specific probability distributions: for instance, wind power follows a Weibull distribution, photovoltaic power a Beta distribution [26], and loads a normal distribution [27].

SO generally incorporates uncertainty into the model through the objective function and constraints [28]. The SO model framework is as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & E_{\xi} [f(x, \xi)] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & g(x, \xi) \leq 0, \forall \xi \in \Xi \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where, E_{ξ} represent the expectation of the random variable ξ ; Ξ represent the set of values of the random variable.

The model described in Eq. (3) is an expected value model, the scenario method [29,30] converts the probabilistic expectation in Eq. (3) into a weighted sum of individual scenarios, and requires the model to satisfy deterministic constraints under every discrete scenario. Ultimately, it transforms the original stochastic optimization model into a directly solvable MIP model. In new power systems, SO is mainly applied to planning problems [31], scheduling problems [4], and line expansion problems [32] of new power systems. Hemmati et al. [31] introduced the SO method into system planning and operation to deal with multi-source uncertainties, thereby enhancing the stability of system operation and improving system economy. In addition, decision optimization in electricity markets is a major application direction of SO [33,34].

SO can make full use of the statistical laws in historical data [31–34], with high decision-making reliability. However, it is also dependent on data quality and probability distribution assumptions, and is not applicable to data-scarce scenarios. Moreover, this does not mean that the more scenarios, the better—an excessive number of scenarios will lead to a surge in discrete variables. To address this issue, existing solution strategies mainly fall into two categories:

The first is scenario reduction, which uses methods such as forward selection, backward reduction [35], improved forward selection [32–36], K-means clustering [37], K-medoids clustering [38], MILP-based reduction [39], and LP-based reduction [40] to reduce the scale of MIP problems.

The second focuses on solution approaches, mainly using decomposition-based methods to solve large-scale MIP problems. This is elaborated in [Section 4](#).

3.2 Chance-Constrained Optimization

Like SO, CCO is applicable to power system optimization scenarios where random variables have known probability distributions. The primary difference is that the chance-constrained approach allows decisions to violate certain constraints, with only the probability of such violations limited. This method ignores some extreme scenarios and balances economy and reliability [41]. In power system models, power balance constraints [42,43] and spinning reserve constraints [42,44,45] are typically formulated as chance constraints to address uncertainties in wind power, photovoltaic (PV) generation, and loads.

The general form of the CCO method, consisting of an objective function, deterministic constraints, and chance constraints [46], is as follows. The model framework is presented below:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_x \quad & f(x) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & P(g(x, \xi) \leq 0) \geq 1 - \epsilon \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where, P represents a probability measure, and ϵ represents the probability of allowing constraint violations.

To solve chance-constrained models, two common approaches exist: one involves deterministic transformation of the model prior to solution [14,44,47,48], and the other combines MA with online Monte Carlo simulation for solution [49].

Deterministic transformation methods primarily include two types. One is based on the analytical expression of the cumulative distribution function (CDF) [15,16]. This method is relatively simple but struggles to accurately describe the cumulative probability distribution of uncertain variables in practical applications. For example, in specific scenarios, when random variables are assumed to follow a normal distribution, this analytical expression-based method can be used for deterministic transformation [15]. However, the normal distribution assumption fails to accurately model the randomness and spatial correlation of wind power output, and more complex modeling methods (e.g., Gaussian mixture models) can mitigate this issue [16].

Another approach converts chance constraints into deterministic mixed-integer constraints using methods such as Sample Average Approximation (SAA) [42,45] and the Big-M method [15], thereby forming an MIP model. Such methods are also based on the scenario approach. Taking the Big-M method as an example, First, a 0-1 integer variable is introduced to identify the satisfaction status of the chance constraint. Then, a sufficiently large constant is selected to construct linear constraints. Finally, the values of the 0-1 variables in all scenarios are weighted and summed according to the occurrence probability of each scenario, and the weighted sum is required to be no less than $1 - \epsilon$. The final deterministic transformation is shown in [Eq. \(5\)](#). With details on solving MIP models provided in [Section 4](#).

$$\begin{aligned}
& \min_x f(x) \\
& \text{s.t.} \quad g(x_\omega, \xi_\omega) \leq (1 - z_\omega) \cdot M \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega \\
& \quad \sum_{\omega=1}^{\Omega} \pi_\omega \cdot z_\omega \geq 1 - \epsilon \\
& \quad z_\omega \in \{0, 1\}
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where, ξ_ω represents the value of the random variable in the ω -th scenario; z_ω is a 0-1 variable identifying the satisfaction status of the constraint in the ω -th scenario; π_ω is the occurrence probability of the ω -th scenario, and Ω is the total number of scenarios; M is a sufficiently large constant used to realize the switch of the constraint.

The characteristic of CCO that allows constraint violations with a certain probability can avoid the problem of excessively high economic costs caused by overly conservative deterministic constraints. However, on the other hand, there is also the problem that the selection of confidence level lacks a unified standard. In addition, SAA and Big-M generate a large number of binary variables, increasing computational complexity. To reduce computational costs and shorten computation time, Jiang et al. [50] proposed a new partial SAA method that uses partial sampling to reduce computational difficulty and improve solution quality. Addressing the low computational efficiency of the Big-M method, Zhang et al. [43] proposed a more efficient chance-constrained mixed-integer bilinear reformulation. Compared to the Big-M method, the bilinear method [51,52] better approximates the nonlinear behavior of chance-constrained reformulations and is more suitable for large-scale MIP problems [53].

3.3 Robust Optimization

The essence of RO lies in characterizing stochastic parameters using an uncertainty set with known bounds, requiring only the specification of fluctuation intervals and extreme value boundaries [11]—thus making it particularly suitable for renewable-rich scenarios with scarce historical data. However, its core assumption—that the optimization objective must still achieve good performance even under the worst-case scenarios of parameter fluctuations—renders its solutions conservative [13]. To address this, Ben-Tal et al. [12] extended the robust decision-making process to multi-stage frameworks. Taking single-stage and two-stage RO [54] as examples, their model formulations are presented below, respectively:

Single-stage RO:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \min_x \max_{\xi \in E} f(x, \xi) \\
& \text{s.t.} \quad g(x, \xi) \leq 0, \forall \xi \in E
\end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Two-stage RO:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \min \left[f_1(x) + \max_{\xi \in E} \min_y f_2(y, \xi) \right] \\
& \text{s.t.} \quad g_1(x) \leq 0 \\
& \quad g_2(x, y, \xi) \leq 0, \forall \xi \in E
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where, $f_1(\cdot)$ and $f_2(\cdot)$ are the objective functions for the first and second stages, respectively. $g_1(\cdot)$ and $g_2(\cdot)$ are the constraint conditions for the first and second stages, respectively.

The application of RO in new power systems mainly focuses on addressing two core issues: the first involves modeling multi-level decision coupling and multi-time-scale correlations; the second focuses on

the accurate characterization of complex uncertainties. For the first challenge, multi-level or multi-stage models have been constructed: Zhang et al. [55] established a multi-time scale robust scheduling model for integrated multi-energy systems incorporating photovoltaic battery swapping-charging-storage stations (PBSCSS). This model characterizes the multi-level decision coupling relationship of the internal battery module in PBSCSS—between “meeting users’ battery swapping demands” and “responding to the system’s global scheduling”. Through a collaborative framework of day-ahead scheduling, intra-day scheduling, and real-time adjustment, it resolves multi-level decision conflicts and bridges multi-time scale scheduling, thereby ensuring scheduling adaptability in “transportation-energy” coupling scenarios of complex systems.

For the second challenge, uncertainty characterization methods have been optimized based on the characteristics of uncertainties: Microgrids [56] constructed a decision-dependent uncertainty set to capture the dynamic coupling between hydrogen refueling station investment decisions and induced refueling demand. This significantly improves the adaptability of investment decisions to uncertainties, and offers a new “decision-demand interaction” paradigm for characterizing uncertainties in hydrogen-electrical collaborative systems. Zhang et al. [57] adopted a two-stage robust optimization framework to dynamically adjust uncertainty boundaries by integrating the heat recovery of power-to-hydrogen-and-heat units and the ladder-type carbon trading mechanism. This framework injects a low-carbon dimension into uncertainty characterization of multi-energy complementary systems, cuts system carbon emissions by 21.79%, and provides technical support for multi-energy coordination and low-carbon operation of new power systems.

In solving RO problems, the deterministic transformation of uncertain problems is one of the core steps; common transformation pathways are shown in Table 1. The solution method for the transformed model must take into account both its scale and structural characteristics: if the scale is limited with strong nonlinearity or non-convexity, heuristic algorithms can be directly deployed [58]; if the scale is large, decomposition methods or duality theory can be used to convert it into a single-level easily solvable form [59]; if the model itself contains both discrete and continuous variables and fits the MIP framework, treating it as an MIP model and leveraging established mature methods is the most efficient approach.

Table 1: Robust optimization deterministic transformation method

Method	Description	Applicable scenarios	References
Robust constraint transformation	Transform uncertain constraints into deterministic constraints to ensure that the constraints remain valid even in the worst-case scenario	Linear/convex scenarios, with existing non-convex extensions	[13]
Robust objective function	Transform uncertain objective functions into deterministic objective functions to minimize the objective value in the worst-case scenario	Problems where the objective function is uncertain	[60]
Robust feasible region	Construct a robust feasible region to ensure that solutions remain feasible when all uncertain parameters are within the set	Problems where the constraint conditions are uncertain	[61]

However, complex models such as multi-level and multi-stage ones exhibit structural characteristics including nested multi-level variables and temporal nonlinear coupling. Therefore, they require preprocessing and transformation to be compatible with the MIP framework, and this step has become a focal point of research. For multi-level optimization, the mainstream strategy is to convert the problem into a single-level optimization problem by means of methods such as the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions and duality theory [62]. However, these methods have significant limitations: on one hand, the simplification process can easily introduce new binary variables or bilinear terms, which instead increases model complexity. To address this, El-Meligy et al. [59] propose a solution method that replaces the lower-level problem with its dual problem. On the other hand, if each optimization level contains binary variables, the KKT conditions and duality principle lose their validity due to their reliance on continuity assumptions. El-Meligy et al. [63] employ a method based on the idea of multi-parametric programming, which transforms the problems corresponding to different critical region combinations into single-level MILP problems.

For multi-stage scenarios, Qiu et al. [64] propose a dedicated reconstruction algorithm, which leverages the implicit affine strategy and dual Fourier-Motzkin elimination to reformulate the original problem into a directly solvable MILP. However, Fourier-Motzkin elimination is only applicable to convex feasibility-checking problems without recourse objectives; therefore, Qiu et al. [65] further propose an MILP solution framework for scheduling problems that include recourse objectives to meet more general engineering requirements.

3.4 Fuzzy Optimization

Fuzzy optimization, an optimization method that uses membership functions to handle uncertainties, is typically applied to specific power system optimization scenarios where boundaries are ill-defined. The framework of the fuzzy optimization model is presented as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_x \quad & \lambda \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \mu_{\tilde{f}}(x, z) \geq \lambda \\ & \mu_{\tilde{g}_i}(x, c_i) \geq \lambda, i = 1, 2, \dots, m \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where, λ is the minimum membership degree, representing the satisfaction degree of the objective function and constraints, $\mu_{\tilde{f}}(x, z)$ is the membership function of the objective; c_i is the value of the i -th constraint function, and $\mu_{\tilde{g}_i}(x, c_i)$ is the membership function of the i -th constraint.

In the application of fuzzy optimization to MIP problems in power systems with uncertainties, there are typically two scenarios. One involves modeling uncertain variables (e.g., wind power and PV generation) to enhance model robustness [17,18,20,66,67]. The other involves converting multi-objective optimization problems into single-objective ones [19,68,69] to reduce problem complexity. When multi-objective optimization problems involve conflicting objectives, traditional algorithms struggle to solve them, whereas fuzzy optimization provides an effective approach to address such problems. Huang et al. (2021), Gholizadeh-Roshanagh et al. (2020), Nojavan et al. (2017a), Nojavan et al. (2017b), Javadi et al. (2020) [68,70–73] use the epsilon-constraint method to form the Pareto optimal frontier, and then adopt the Max-Min operator to synthesize the impacts of each objective, yielding the optimal compromise solution. However, the Max-Min operator cannot guarantee Pareto optimality [74]. To address this deficiency, operators such as the weighted additive operator [75], weighted average operator, and ordered weighted average operator have been proposed [4].

Fuzzy models with fuzzy variables cannot be solved directly and thus require deterministic transformation first, a process also known as defuzzification. Common methods include the maximum membership

method [68], centroid method [76], and weighted average method [69]. Furthermore, beyond standalone use, fuzzy optimization can be combined with other methods when the probability density function of uncertain parameters is known [77,78].

The advantage of FO lies in that it does not rely on accurate probability distributions or intervals, nor does it require a large amount of data for training, and can efficiently handle multi-objective optimization conflicts to simplify decision-making; however, its membership function definition depends on subjective experience and its computational complexity is relatively high, which have also become unavoidable shortcomings of FO.

3.5 Information Gap Decision Theory

IGDT, first proposed by Yakov Ben-Haim et al., quantifies the unknown extent of uncertainty using an information gap, delineates the trend-oriented variation intervals of uncertain parameters, making it suitable for power system optimization scenarios where data scarcity exists and uncertainty is hard to quantify accurately [21]. A key strength of IGDT lies in its ability to facilitate an explicit trade-off between robustness—immunity against unfavorable deviations—and opportuneness—the potential to exploit favorable outcomes. This dual-assessment framework provides a more comprehensive risk profile for decision-making under deep uncertainty. The IGDT model framework is given below:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\alpha} \quad & \alpha \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & f(x, \xi) \leq f_c, \forall \xi \in \Xi(\alpha) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where, f_c is the target threshold, α represents the degree of uncertainty, $\Xi(\alpha)$ denotes the uncertainty set for uncertain parameters.

However, practical applications of IGDT have certain limitations: on one hand, it requires predicting the relationship between uncertain variables and objective function values, thereby increasing the workload and error probability; on the other hand, its lack of consideration for the probability distribution of uncertain variables may cause errors in computational results. To address these issues, existing studies have proceeded in two main directions: on the one hand, by integrating IGDT with classical frameworks (e.g., FO, SO, or RO), or by incorporating auxiliary mechanisms such as risk-aversion strategies [79] and model predictive control [80] into specific scenarios; on the other hand, by improving the IGDT methodology itself to adapt to specific application scenarios. He et al. [21] developed a probability-integrated IGDT model, significantly enhancing its operability and robustness. Yin et al. [81] introduced the entropy weight method and, by combining it with the Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II, proposed the EWNS-IGDT model. This model reduces the total cost by 19.98% and significantly cuts the carbon trading cost by 321.90% compared with traditional IGDT, thereby improving the objectivity and rationality of uncertainty weight setting in both risk-averse strategies and risk-seeking strategies. Eslahi et al. [82] proposed a MILP-based time-varying weighted IGDT for multi-period wind uncertainty in large power grids, achieving computational efficiency 10–11 times higher than Monte Carlo simulation while ensuring accuracy. This overcomes the limitation of traditional IGDT's fixed uncertainty radius.

After IGDT converts the original problem into a deterministic equivalent model, the solution strategy must be tailored to the model's scale and structure: if the model is small-scale and its nonlinear components can be smoothed, it can be solved directly via nonlinear solvers [83]; for large-scale models, decomposition methods such as BD and C&CG can be used to solve the problem iteratively by decomposing it into master and subproblems; when the model contains non-convex constraints and traditional methods struggle to converge, heuristic algorithms can be used for solution; similarly, when the conditions are satisfied,

the problem can be treated as an MIP model and efficiently solved using established mature solution methods [84].

4 Solution Methods for Uncertain Optimization

For problems such as the optimal dispatching of new power systems with multiple uncertainties, after introducing various methods for handling uncertainties in optimal dispatching in the previous section, further efforts are still required to address them. Currently, the solution methods for MIP problems involving uncertainties fall into three categories: exact solution methods, decomposition-based methods, and MA. Next, we will review the current development of key technologies for each of these three approaches.

4.1 Exact Solution Methods

Exact solution methods primarily include the branch and bound (B&B) method and its improved algorithms. The B&B method solves MIP problems via implicit enumeration, and its specific process is shown in Fig. 3. Its core steps are as follows: relaxing integer constraints to generate a linear programming (LP) model, performing branching to form subproblems, constructing a search tree and pruning subproblems that do not contain the global optimal solution, and finally enumerating feasible solutions of subproblems to obtain the global optimal solution [85]. LP model is typically solved using the simplex method or interior-point method [85]. Currently, most commercial solvers such as CPLEX, GUROBI, and YALMIP employ the B&B method as their core solution algorithm [86]. Table 2 presents the B&B and its improved algorithms applied in solving MIP problems in current power systems. These methods are categorized into basic branch and bound (BB&B), hybrid branch and bound (HB&B), and improved branch and bound (IB&B).

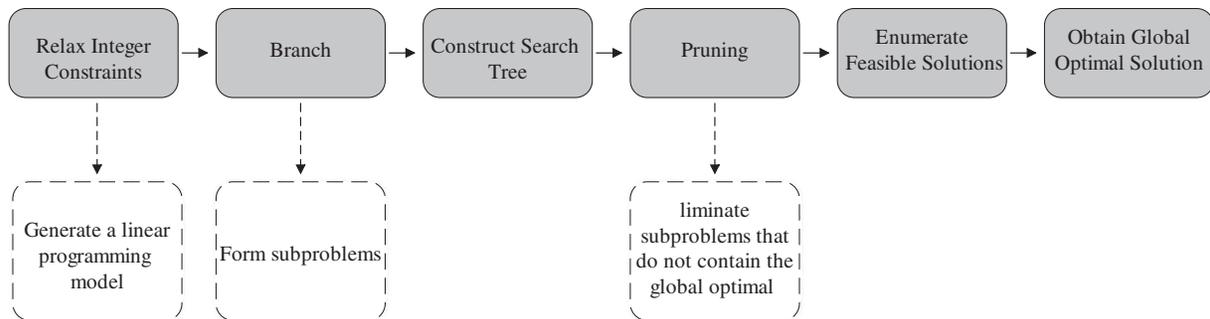


Figure 3: Flowchart of the B&B method

Table 2: Application of B&B and its improved algorithm in solving MIP problem of power system

Solution methods	Processing methods	Model types	References
BB&B	Solve directly	MILP	[87,88]
	Solve the MILP model	MILP+MINLP	[89]
	Solve after linearization	MINLP	[90]
HB&B	Solve directly	MINLP	[91–93]
	Solve the MILP part	MINLP	[94]
IB&B	Solve after linearization	MINLP	[95]

(Continued)

Table 2 (continued)

Solution methods	Processing methods	Model types	References
	Solve directly	MILP	[96,97]

Typically, the B&B algorithm is employed to solve MILP problems or linear problems in multi-level problems [89,98]. Bai et al. [89] applied the B&B algorithm to solve the lower-level MILP model within the bi-level programming model for user-side interconnected integrated energy systems, which contributed to the reduction of annual operating costs. For MINLP problems, the simplex-based B&B algorithm cannot guarantee the optimality of the obtained solution, especially when the problem is non-convex [2]. MINLP problems can be solved via decomposition methods such as the outer approximation method and generalized BD, as well as heuristic algorithms [99]; alternatively, the interior-point method can replace the simplex method for solving nonlinear programming subproblems. Zhao et al. [93] applied this method to solve the nonlinear programming subproblems in the optimal scheduling model of active distribution networks with battery energy storage systems. Additionally, MINLP problem can be linearized first before being solved by the B&B algorithm, with commonly used linearization methods listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Linearization method and its advantages and disadvantages

Linearization method	Application scenarios	Advantages	Disadvantages	References
Direct current power flow approximation	Nonlinear optimization in power systems	Extremely fast calculation	Low accuracy	[100,101]
Piecewise linearization	Convex nonlinear functions	Controllable accuracy, simple modeling	Large number of variables and constraints	[94,102]
McCormick envelope	Bilinear terms	Strict feasible domain	Dependence on variable boundaries	[43,103]
Conic linearization	Second-order cone programming	Convexity guarantee, global optimality	High computational complexity	[104]
Big-M method	Logical constraints	Simple modeling, wide application range	Sensitive to M-value selection	[105,106]

It is noteworthy that, depending on the model structure, the B&B method can be applied directly if discrete variables are decoupled from nonlinear terms [91,92]. Furthermore, the B&B algorithm can handle the linear part of the problem, while the nonlinear part is solved via MA [107].

Large-scale MIP problems in new power systems impose higher demands on the solution time and convergence of B&B algorithms. Optimizing the branching variable selection strategy of B&B algorithms through machine learning methods such as support vector machines [95], graph convolutional neural networks [96], and Bayesian optimization [97] has emerged as a key research direction for IB&B algorithms.

In addition, Cut and Branch (C&B) and Branch and Cut (B&C) are other research directions of IB&B and are also applicable to large-scale MIP problems. Among them, C&B integrates the cutting plane method into the B&B method, reducing invalid searches and thus achieving significantly higher computational efficiency than the traditional B&B method. However, C&B relies on the design of problem-specific cutting planes for the target problem. Table 4 presents the C&B methods commonly used in power system optimization problems.

Table 4: Cutting plane method for C&B in power system optimization

Application scenarios	Cutting plane method	References
UC	Approximate integer cutting plane and flow cover inequality	[108]
Transmission expansion planning	Path-based angular valid inequalities	[109]
	Specific-knowledge-based valid inequalities	[110]
	MA	[111]

Unlike the C&B approach, which adds cutting planes at the root node, the B&C algorithm integrates the cutting plane method into solving subproblems during the branch-and-bound process. This accelerates the branching process, improves the efficiency of the B&B method, but also increases computational complexity. Comparative experiments in literatures [112,113] indicate that the B&B and B&C algorithms yield similarly optimal results, but B&C requires less computation time. Gao et al. [114] formulate an induced MIP based on congestion management information; solving this induced MIP can guide the search process and avoids unnecessary exploration. The results demonstrate that the computational speed has increased to more than twice its original rate before modification.

4.2 Decomposition-Based Methods

The scale of MIP problems in new power systems is growing increasingly large, and the difficulty of solving them due to the need to account for uncertainties is further increasing. Researchers have begun to apply decomposition methods to MIP problems considering uncertainties to reduce computational complexity.

4.2.1 Lagrangian Relaxation

Lagrangian Relaxation (LR) is an effective method for solving large-scale MIP problems [115,116], as it reduces computational complexity and is also applicable to handling MINLP problems [117,118]. Unlike the B&B method, LR does not solve MIP problems directly; instead, it decomposes the original problem and then solves it using algorithms such as B&B. Solving MIP problems via LR can be implemented through an iterative framework, comprising two steps: solving relaxed subproblem and updating Lagrange multipliers,

as illustrated in Fig. 4. The applications of LR and its improved algorithms in power system optimization are summarized in Table 5.

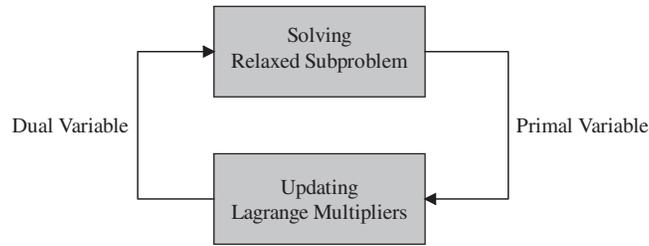


Figure 4: The iterative framework of LR

Traditional LR uses the subgradient method to update multipliers. Improper step size selection may easily lead to oscillations or slow convergence, making it harder to balance the “feasibility of uncertain scenarios” and “solution efficiency of MIP problems”. In response to these issues, researchers have proposed a series of improved algorithms: Augmented Lagrangian Relaxation (ALR) [119,120], Surrogate Lagrangian Relaxation (SLR) [121], Surrogate Absolute Value Lagrangian Relaxation (SAVLR) [122] with their specific advantages and disadvantages summarized in Table 5. When choosing among these algorithms for new power system optimization tasks, if the priority is to enhance solution efficiency in the face of strong uncertainties, ALR can be considered; Khaligh et al. [118] combined ALR with the alternating direction method of multipliers for the cooperative scheduling optimization of multi-vector microgrids. While addressing uncertainties such as wind turbine output, photovoltaic output, and hydrogen load and enhancing the capability to cope with uncertainties, this method also improved the efficiency of model solution. If computational efficiency is more critical for large-scale but relatively stable new power system optimization problems, SLR might be a better choice; Sun et al. [123] applied SLR to the optimization of large-scale UC problems. Experimental results show that the B&C algorithm requires 3600 s to obtain a near-optimal solution, while SLR only takes 1800 s, which significantly improves computational efficiency. And for scenarios requiring both fast convergence and capability to handle large-scale cases, SAVLR is applicable [124].

Table 5: Comparison of advantages and disadvantages of LR based methods

Solution methods	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference
LR	Can effectively solve large-scale coupled problem	Improper step size selection may easily lead to oscillations or slow convergence	[115–118]
ALR	Improves convergence compared to LR	Increases solution complexity compared to LR	[102,125,126]
SLR	Improves computational efficiency compared to ALR	Risks a decline in convergence precision	[118,127]
SAVLR	Improves algorithm convergence speed compared to SLR	Still has the problem of high memory consumption when dealing with large-scale optimization problems	[124,128]

4.2.2 Benders Decomposition

The BD algorithm employs a “divide-and-conquer” strategy, iteratively solving a complex MIP problem by decomposing it into a master problem and a subproblem, as illustrated in Fig. 5. A key strength of BD lies in its mathematical rigor: unlike methods such as LR which may converge to suboptimal solutions, BD is guaranteed to converge to the global optimum of the original problem by progressively adding cuts [129]. This makes it particularly valuable for power system applications demanding high solution accuracy, such as unit commitment and transmission expansion planning.

However, the performance of the BD algorithm involves a fundamental trade-off. On one hand, its master-subproblem iterative framework effectively separates discrete and continuous variables to reduce computational complexity, making it a natural fit for two-stage decision-making problems commonly encountered in engineering [130]. On the other hand, its convergence rate can be severely hampered in practice. Solving subproblems and generating cutting planes becomes highly time-consuming for large-scale problems or those with numerous discrete variables. Moreover, the convergence efficiency is highly sensitive to the quality of the initial cuts, where poor cuts inevitably lead to slow iteration progress.

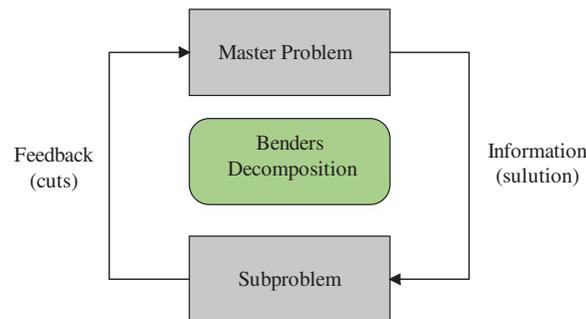


Figure 5: Schematic diagram of BD

To address these challenges, Nielsen et al. [131] proposed a parallel BD algorithm, which achieves near-perfect scalability by solving scenario subproblems in parallel with a data-parallel interior-point method, enabling efficient solutions to very large-scale stochastic programs. To address the pain point in power system planning where climate uncertainty causes exponential growth in the number of scenarios and computational time explosion of Benders Decomposition (BD), Göke et al. [132] incorporated stabilization techniques into the BD framework, avoiding the efficiency degradation of traditional BD caused by increasing scenarios. Case studies demonstrate that when parallelized, its computational efficiency is 100 times higher than that of traditional BD, and the computational time remains constant as the number of scenarios increases, providing technical support for cross-regional new energy base planning.

Du et al. [133] proposed a scenario-oriented generalized Benders decomposition algorithm for the planning of integrated electric and heating systems considering the seasonal reconfiguration of district heating networks. This algorithm enables parallel computation of subproblems and unifies cuts into penalty-driven cuts to avoid slow convergence. Practical case studies demonstrate that it reduces the total planning cost by 13.15% while enhancing wind power penetration, providing a key tool for the planning of large-scale heating systems.

4.2.3 Column-and-Constraint Generation Decomposition

The core mechanism of the C&CG algorithm lies in its iterative “master-subproblem” framework that dynamically refines the problem model. The master problem provides a candidate solution, while the subproblem identifies the worst-case scenario realization under that decision. The key decision variables and constraints corresponding to this identified worst-case scenario are then fed back to the master problem as new “columns” and “constraints”. This process of progressively incorporating critical elements allows the algorithm to converge toward a global optimum without solving the full-scale original problem directly.

Compared with BD, C&CG significantly reduces the number of convergence iterations by preserving the master problem structure and employing a rigorous scenario identification mechanism. This approach avoids computational inefficiencies caused by redundant cutting planes, making it particularly suitable for multi-scenario RO problems. Moreover, the hierarchical iterative logic of C&CG aligns well with tightly coupled two-stage problems, where first-stage decisions and second-stage scenario responses are highly interdependent. It effectively handles the separation requirements between discrete and continuous variables, as well as deterministic decisions and uncertain responses [134].

However, the performance of the C&CG algorithm is highly dependent on the strategies for generating columns and constraints and the selection of the relaxation method. In practical applications, various improved variants have been developed, such as Parallel C&CG [135] and Nesting C&CG [136]. In uncertain scenarios, C&CG needs to cover extreme cases to ensure decision feasibility. However, this increases model complexity, which conflicts with the need to control MIP solution time costs. To balance this conflict, Tsang et al. [134] proposed an inexact C&CG method, which improves solution speed at the expense of solution accuracy. For prosumers’ two-stage robust optimization involving wind power and load uncertainties, Zhou et al. [137] extended the Nesting C&CG algorithm to solve the non-convex bi-level subproblem with 0–1 variables, achieving convergence in only 4 iterations and a solving time of 9.75 s under 10^{-6} accuracy, which ensures the timeliness of day-ahead scheduling while promoting local wind power accommodation. For coupled transportation-power systems under hurricanes, Yang et al. [138] proposed a customized parametric Nesting C&CG algorithm to handle hybrid endogenous-exogenous uncertainties, reducing solving time by 9.7% (IEEE RTS-79 system) and 55.2% (IEEE RTS-96 system) compared with traditional Nesting C&CG, providing efficient decision support for resilience enhancement under extreme weather.

4.2.4 Dantzig-Wolfe Decomposition

Another widely used approach for decomposing large-scale MILP is Dantzig-Wolfe (DW) decomposition. Its core idea is to leverage the block-angular structure of the constraint matrix to decompose the original complex optimization problem into multiple subproblems and a master problem with coupling constraints [139]. Solutions from solving the master problem guide the solution of subproblems, while optimal solutions (typically marginal costs) from subproblems are fed back to the master problem, serving as part of its constraints or objective function. Wirtz et al. [139] solved the large-scale district energy supply planning problem through DW decomposition, reducing the computational time by an average of 94%. To address the challenges posed by uncertainty and large-scale MILP in low-carbon power system expansion planning, Apablaza et al. [140] proposed a multi-stage stochastic expansion planning model and decomposed the problem using DW decomposition, enabling efficient solution of the model.

DW decomposition can reduce problem complexity and improve computational efficiency. However, it is primarily designed for linear problems. For nonlinear problems especially non-convex ones this method is not fully applicable. In uncertain scenarios involving nonlinear coupling, the nonlinearity of uncertain parameters undermines the fundamental basis that traditional MIP models rely on for solving problems [141],

rendering DW decomposition inapplicable. Modifications such as linearization [141] or integration with other algorithms (e.g., Reinforcement Learning (RL) [142]) are required for solving such problems. After applying DW decomposition to the original problem, the branch-and-price (B&P) method [143] is typically used for solution. Unlike B&B, which directly solves node relaxation problems, B&P usually adopts column generation for solution. Additionally, DW decomposition enhances data privacy, as each subproblem can be solved locally, thereby reducing the exposure of sensitive information.

4.3 Meta-Heuristic Algorithm

Traditional optimization methods typically rely on mathematical modeling and exact solution techniques. Theoretically, they have a rigorous mathematical basis and can produce optimal or near-optimal solutions. However, their computational complexity is relatively high—especially when uncertainties are considered, the problem scale expands further, significantly increasing solution time. By contrast, MA rely on specific heuristic rules derived from natural events and social behaviors. This intuition-based approach helps find solutions to large-scale complex optimization problems with lower computational costs [90,143] and is more suitable for nonlinear problems [144,145]. Nevertheless, they suffer from the drawback that their solutions cannot guarantee global optimality [90,145,146]. The application of MA in solving power system MIP problems is shown in Table 6, where the MA used are classified as Basic Meta-heuristic Algorithms (BMA), Hybrid Meta-heuristic Algorithms (HMA), and Improved Meta-Heuristic Algorithms (IMA).

Most optimization problems in new power systems can be modeled as MIP problems, which requires solution algorithms to handle discrete variables. Among MA, genetic algorithms possess inherent adaptability to MIP problems [147], while most other MAs struggle to handle discrete decision variables. A common improvement strategy is to develop binary variants of MAs [148–157]. When addressing power system MIP problems, these algorithms can simulate discrete decision variables (e.g., on-off variables), thereby enabling problem solving [148,154,158–161]. In addition, using HMAs for solving is also an effective method, where algorithms handle discrete and continuous variables separately based on the characteristics of each MA [155,159,160,162]. Rahim and Ahmad [159] applied hybrid meta-heuristic algorithms to solve the MIP problem of household power scheduling, in which the GA is used to handle discrete variables, achieving a reduction in electricity cost. In addition to combining multiple MA, integrating MAs with RL [163] or using RL to handle discrete variables is another effective approach.

Table 6: Application of different MA in solving power system optimization problems

Solution methods	Application scenarios	Uncertainty optimization method	Reference
BMA	Hybrid micro-grid scheduling	SO	[164]
	Energy management system planning and scheduling	SO	[165]
	Multi-energy collaborative system scheduling	SO	[148]
IMA	Energy management system planning and scheduling	SO	[166]
	UC	CCO	[158]
	Hybrid micro-grid scheduling	SO	[167]
	UC	SO	[163]

(Continued)

Table 6 (continued)

Solution methods	Application scenarios	Uncertainty optimization method	Reference
HMA	Operation scheduling and expansion planning in microgrids	SO	[31]
	Transmission expansion planning	SO, FO	[168]
BMA, HMA	Transmission and distribution collaborative expansion planning	SO	[143]
	UC	FO	[154]
IMA, HMA	Energy management system scheduling	SO	[159]
	Hydro-wind-solar hybrid system scheduling	SO	[160]
	UC	SO	[161,169]

For complex new power system optimization scenarios involving high proportions of renewable energy, electric vehicles, and energy storage systems, the problem's search space is large and highly complex. Using HMAs to leverage complementary advantages across algorithms improves search efficiency and avoids local optimal [161,168]. Al-Dhaifallah et al. [168] applied HMA to solve the transmission expansion planning problem, leveraging multi-mechanism collaborative search to improve efficiency, with the computational time reduced by more than 92%. Beyond integrating MAs with their improved variants, combining MAs with machine learning has emerged as a key research direction. Fitting the objective function through neural networks accelerates its calculation of the objective function [170,171], thus increasing algorithm speed. Liu et al. [172] propose a fusion scheme of Q-learning and particle swarm optimization (PSO), where optimal actions derived from the Q-table guide particle exploration and exploitation, thereby enhancing PSO performance. However, when solving large-scale optimization problems, integration with RL further increases computational resource requirements.

5 Research Progress and Future Prospects

5.1 Current Research Frontiers and Technical Progress

This paper centers on MIP problems in new power systems with uncertainties, presenting a systematic review that focuses on cutting-edge technical advancements across two core dimensions: uncertainty optimization methods and solution methods.

In terms of uncertainty optimization, each currently available method has distinct advantages and applicable scenarios: SO and CCO rely on probability distributions, making them suitable for scenarios with sufficient data; RO addresses extreme cases through uncertainty sets, thus making it more suitable for scenarios with strict security constraints; FO and IGDT offer greater advantages in scenarios involving fuzzy boundaries or scarce data.

However, a single method struggles to cope with the “multi-source uncertainty coupling” characteristic of current new power systems. Therefore, current cutting-edge research increasingly focuses on the hybrid application of optimization methods [21,77–79]. However, the increased complexity resulting from this also places higher requirements on the solution of the model.

In terms of solution strategies, the B&B method and its improved algorithms remain core for solving MILP problems. Nevertheless, when dealing with MINLP and large-scale problems, relying on decomposition strategies and MAs is necessary. However, decomposition-based methods face efficiency bottlenecks when dealing with high-dimensional uncertainty, requiring a balance between the contradiction of solution accuracy and solution efficiency. Current cutting-edge research trends indicate that integrating artificial intelligence (AI) with solution methods has become a prominent hotspot. By optimizing branch variable selection, fitting objective functions, or dynamically adjusting algorithm parameters through AI technologies (e.g., machine learning and RL), the solution process can be effectively accelerated and its efficiency improved [95–97,168,162,170,171].

5.2 Future Technical Prospects

5.2.1 Application of Artificial Intelligence in Solving Uncertain Optimization Problems

The integration of AI technology with methods such as SO and RO has demonstrated considerable potential in current research on the optimal dispatch of new power systems. AI can enhance the modeling capability for the uncertainties associated with wind and solar output, thereby improving the adaptability and robustness of optimization strategies. At the level of solution methods, AI has been preliminarily applied to exact solution methods (e.g., improving MILP solving efficiency), decomposition-based algorithms (e.g., subproblem learning in BD), and MAs (e.g., RL to guide the search process). However, existing research mainly focuses on the auxiliary application of single methods and has not yet achieved deep coupling between AI and optimization models. Further exploration is needed for joint modeling and collaborative optimization mechanisms embedded with AI to comprehensively enhance the performance and computational efficiency of optimization problems in complex power systems.

5.2.2 Bottlenecks in Solution Engines and Development of Novel Solvers

As new power systems develop along two key directions: high renewable energy penetration and complex, diversified structure—their optimization problems present challenges such as high dimensionality, nonlinearity, and extreme uncertainty. Existing mainstream commercial solvers (e.g., CPLEX, Gurobi) are gradually encountering bottlenecks in solution efficiency and scalability. In recent years, novel solvers (represented by Alibaba's MindOpt) have made significant progress in underlying algorithm architecture, integer programming processing, and parallel computing, demonstrating superior numerical stability and capability to solve large-scale problems. Future research urgently needs to further develop specialized solution tools for extreme scenarios and enhance the solution reliability and computational performance of optimization models by deeply integrating algorithm innovation with hardware adaptation, thereby supporting the secure and economic operation of new power systems.

5.2.3 Research on Dynamic Modeling of Multi-Source Uncertainties

With the increasing penetration of renewable energy, uncertainties in new power systems exhibit strongly time-varying, multi-source coupled non-stationarity characteristics [173], making traditional uncertainty sets based on static boundaries inadequate for accurately characterizing their dynamic evolution patterns and spatiotemporal correlation features. Therefore, it is imperative to develop more advanced uncertainty modeling methods, such as constructing dynamic uncertainty sets with time-varying dependencies, or combining data-driven techniques with deep reinforcement learning, to achieve adaptive characterization and real-time perception of multi-source uncertainties (e.g., wind and solar output, load fluctuations). Such methods can effectively quantify coupling risks under extreme scenarios, enhance the robustness and

adaptability of optimization decisions, and provide crucial theoretical support for the secure and stable operation of power systems with high renewable energy penetration. However, data-driven methods also have issues that need to be addressed, including reliance on training datasets and model mismatches with actual physical laws [174].

6 Conclusion

This paper focuses on MIP problems in new power systems with uncertainties, systematically sorting out the coupling relationship between uncertainty optimization methods and solution strategies, and filling the gap of isolated modeling and isolated solving in existing studies. The main research conclusions and contributions are as follows:

(1) Aiming at the theoretical gap caused by the coupling of uncertainty and MIP models in new power systems, this paper constructs for the first time a systematic framework for embedding five uncertainty methods—SO, RO, CCO, FO, and IGDT—into MIP. By clarifying the core characteristics and embedding logic of each method, this paper defines the applicable scenario boundaries of each method, while sorting out the key technologies for converting different methods into deterministic MIP models, thus providing a standardized modeling paradigm for subsequent similar studies.

(2) To address the three engineering bottlenecks—variable dimension explosion, disrupted constraint separability, and conflicts in solution logic—caused by the coupling of uncertainty and MIP solution, this paper combs through the advantages, disadvantages, applicable scenarios, and improvement directions of exact solution methods, decomposition-based methods, and meta-heuristic algorithms, and provides an operable technical solution for the engineering implementation of large-scale MIP problems with uncertainties.

(3) Combined with the trends of high-proportion renewable energy integration and diversified structure of new power systems, and based on the previous research foundation, this paper outlines three future research directions: AI-enabled collaborative optimization, development of dedicated solvers for extreme scenarios, and dynamic modeling of multi-source uncertainties. These directions not only align with the core demand of high-proportion renewable energy integration in new power systems but also continue the coupling analysis idea of uncertainty and MIP solution, providing a clear technical direction for subsequent studies and offering references for the safe and economic operation of new power systems.

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