

1 Reactive Power Provision by the DSO to the TSO
2 considering Renewable Energy Sources Uncertainty
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14 ABSTRACT

15 The current coordination between the transmission system operator (TSO) and the distribution system operator
16 (DSO) is changing mainly motivated by the continuous integration of distributed energy resources (DER). The
17 DER technologies are able to provide reactive power services helping the DSOs and TSOs in network operation.
18 This paper follows this trend by proposing a methodology for the reactive power management by the DSO
19 under renewable energy sources (RES) forecast uncertainty, allowing the DSO to coordinate reactive power
20 services to the TSO. The proposed method entails the use of a stochastic AC-OPF, ensuring reliable solutions
21 for the DSO. RES forecast uncertainty is modeled by a set of spatial-temporal trajectories. A 37-bus distribution
22 grid considering realistic generation and consumption data is used to validate the proposed method. An
23 important conclusion is that the method allows the DSO to take advantage of DER full capabilities to provide
24 a new service to the TSO.
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26 KEYWORDS: Decision-aid; distributed energy resources; distribution system operator; reactive power
27 management; uncertainty.
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29 **Nomenclature**

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<i>Parameters</i>		<i>Subscripts</i>	
ΔP	Power deviation in each scenario ω	ω	Index of scenarios
B	Imaginary part in admittance matrix	cb	Index of capacitor bank units
C	Cost	CB	Capacitor bank abbreviation
G	Real part in admittance matrix	g	Index of generators units
N	Number of unit resources	i, j	Bus index
P	Penalty for external supplier's flexibility	l	Index of load consumers
T	Time horizon	L	Load consumers abbreviation
\bar{y}	Series admittance of line that connects two l	lv	Index of levels (tap changing) for capacitor bank transformers
\bar{y}_{sh}	Shunt admittance of line that connects two l	su	Index of external supplier units
<i>Variables</i>		SU	External supplier abbreviation
θ	Voltage angle	t	Time index
P	Active power	trf	Index of transformer units
Q	Reactive power	TRF	Transformer abbreviation
r	Reactive power flexibility used in the operat	<i>Superscripts</i>	
rlx	Reactive power relaxation in the operating s	act	Activation cost of resources in real-time stag
R	Reactive power flexibility contracted at day-	cut	Generation curtailment power for energy res
RLX	Reactive power relaxation at day-ahead stag	Max	Maximum limit
S	Apparent power	Min	Minimum limit
V	Voltage magnitude	new	Proposed reactive power policy
\bar{v}	Voltage in polar form	op	Operating point of the power resource
V_{sb}	Voltage at slack bus	Q_{DW}	Downward reactive power flexibility
ΔV	Voltage level activated by the DSO in the tr.	Q_{UP}	Upward reactive power flexibility
X	Binary variable	DR	Demand response of consumer l
Z	Auxiliary variable for absolute function line	$standard$	Standard reactive power policies

60 **1. Introduction**

61 The distribution grid has been continuously evolving, especially with the deployment of DER, mainly RES.
62 Operating a distribution grid considering RES requires the adaption of current practices and the development
63 of new methodologies to deal with the uncertain and variable behavior of RES [1]. These new methodologies
64 may require a more active/preventive behavior of DSOs, by contracting/controlling DER flexibilities to solve
65 potential congestion and voltage problems [2].

66 The traditional and new methods for operating and managing the distribution system should be conciliated
67 to foster the power system transition, in which DERs play a vital role [3]. In fact, the new preventive/proactive
68 management methods may be compatible with the conventional network management in a way that complement
69 the needs of the DSO facing the challenges of RES penetration.

70 Bearing this in mind, it is crucial to define coordination methodologies between system operators to optimize
71 the use of the existing flexibilities. Some DSOs are actually changing the way of operating and managing the
72 distribution system considering the inclusion of forecast in operational planning tools and doing contracts to
73 reduce network operating problems [4]. DERs can contribute to solve congestion and voltage problems by
74 providing flexibility to change their expected operating point. The flexibility can be designed either in active

75 or reactive power, allowing the DSO to solve network problems at a certain cost [5]. By using the DER
76 flexibility, the actual role of the DSO remains intact, which is ensuring network access to all users (consumers
77 and producers) with proper levels of security, safety and stability, as well as the required service quality [6].

78 This management allows the coordination between TSOs and DSOs in order to avoid voltage constraints in
79 transmission and distribution systems. To this end, proactive reactive power management in the distribution
80 grid is essential, especially given the important role played by DERs. The DSO establishes the bands and limits
81 for reactive power provision by DER, accounting for their type of generation and intrinsic characteristics, and
82 following the rules and policies established in each country [7]. Thus, preventive reactive power management
83 methodologies are crucial to the DSO to improve the coordination with the TSO by assuring better levels of
84 voltage control in the power system, as shown in deliverable 1.2 of TDX-ASSIST project [8].

85 The literature is very rich on reactive power management approaches considering that active power injections
86 are precisely known and remain unchanged during the reactive power control [9,10]. However, such assumption
87 is not compatible for distribution grids with a strong penetration of RES. Still, several works have been
88 integrating the uncertain and variable behavior of RES in the reactive power management. A stochastic
89 framework for reactive power management considering the reactive power injection of controllable DER units
90 is modeled in [11] by using a linearization of the nonconvex nonlinear AC OPF problem through second-order
91 cone programming. On top of this, [12,13] implement and compare the two-stage stochastic and robust
92 approaches. It decomposes and solves the second-stage problem in several sub-problems through column-and-
93 constraint generation algorithm method. In contrast, [14] models an active and reactive power management
94 considering an complete AC OPF with individual and independent offers for active and reactive power support.
95 Similarly, an linear active and reactive power management based on unit commitment problem is proposed in
96 [15]. The reactive power management is limited to the provision of reactive power from generating units,
97 disregarding the use of static equipment's. A stochastic algorithm for reactive power dispatch is proposed by
98 [16]. The methodology is based on a sequential procedure where a linear deterministic reactive power dispatch
99 is solved considering point-estimated method for wind generation, and then the solution is validated for network
100 constraints through the Gauss-Seidel method. A two-stage stochastic corrective voltage control model is
101 addressed in [17] for transmission networks assuming total upward and downward active power controllability
102 of the generating units (including wind turbines) and considering demand response to support reactive power
103 control. A stochastic voltage and reactive power control is modeled by [18], based on sampling from a sequence
104 of probability distributions of all possible settings of transformers with on-load tap-changer (OLTC) and
105 capacitor banks. A discrete-time stochastic process is proposed by [19] to deal with the uncertain production of
106 PV units on a decentralized and full linearized active and reactive power control. While [20] proposes a
107 stochastic multi-objective reactive power dispatch, the costs for contracting reactive power in advance of the
108 operating stage are disregarded, being the reactive power dispatch only dependent of the active power operating
109 costs.

110 Most of these works rely on linear approximations of the AC OPF to ensure optimality, however, the set of
111 feasible convex solutions deviate from solutions of the original problem. Thus, the accuracy of modelling the
112 real behavior of distribution systems is skewed and non-optimal.

113 In this context, this work proposes a two-stage stochastic reactive power management model for supporting
114 decision-making of a DSO under the uncertain and variable behavior of RES at the distribution grid. The model
115 addresses an innovative trend of procuring reactive power flexibility ahead of the operating stage to ensure
116 proper levels of reactive power in the TSO/DSO boundaries. The reactive power flexibility is obtained
117 considering the assumption that the DSO can have specific contracts with DER to control the reactive power in
118 case of network constraints. Thus, this tool supports the DSO with solutions able to mitigate voltage problems,
119 ultimately providing reactive power support for coordination services with the TSO. The main contributions of
120 the study are fourfold:

- 121 • To propose a distinct model for supporting the DSO reactive power management under uncertain and
122 variable power production, considering the use of reactive power flexibilities;
- 123 • To model a local reactive power service to be provided by the DSO to meet TSO needs in advance of
124 the operating stage;
- 125 • To improve the full AC OPF tool developed by [21], adding stochastic optimization to cope with RES
126 power forecast uncertainty;
- 127 • To analyze and compare different types of flexibility contracts considering the present policies in
128 Portugal and France.

129 This paper is structured as follows. Section II describes the reactive power management problem faced by
130 DSOs, accounting for current and future trends. Section III presents the formulation of the stochastic approach
131 for reactive power management. Section IV assess the proposed model based on a 37-bus distribution network
132 with real data. Section V highlights the most important conclusions.

133 2. Framework for Reactive Power Management

134 2.1. Current Reactive Power Policies

135 Typically, DSOs use static equipment's (e.g. transformers with OLTC and capacitor banks) for controlling
136 voltage levels and reactive power injection throughout the distribution grid. As generating units were not so
137 present in the distribution system their impact on the reactive power was mitigated by imposing grid code
138 policies (defined by the system operators) which generating units must follow to avoid penalties. Note that
139 reactive power injection/absorbing has a direct impact on the voltage levels [22], and therefore their control is
140 essential to maintain the security and quality of supply.

141 The reactive power policies designed by the DSOs concerns the inherent characteristics of their distribution
142 system, as well as the characteristics of the different types of generators, especially RES units.

143 In Portugal, the reactive power policy at the distribution grid is based on the summation of inductive and
144 capacitive reactive energy produced by a generating unit in one single hour [23]. The cumulative reactive energy
145 must be within a range of the $\tan \phi$. The reactive power depends on the $\tan \phi$ in function of the active power
146 injected by the generating units into the grid. The $\tan \phi$ varies according to the time of the day and must be met
147 within a range of +/- 5%. The day is classified in four periods, namely (peak, full, valley and super valley).
148 However, the periods for the reactive power policy consider only two classifications, which are peak (peak and

149 full hours) and off-peak (valley and super valley). In addition, there are two different schemes to classify
 150 different generating units connected to the distribution system: the ordinary and special schemes. The special
 151 scheme comprises all generating units that produce energy from RES, industrial and urban waste, cogeneration
 152 and micro-producers. In contrast, the ordinary scheme comprises the conventional units.

153 The relation between active and reactive energy in the ordinary scheme for the peak period (from 7 am to 12
 154 am) has $\tan \phi=0.4$, while $\tan \phi=0$ for off-peak hours (from 12 am to 7 am). In the special scheme, the relation
 155 between active and reactive energy is in accordance to Table I [23]. Both schemes comprise the flexibility range
 156 (+/- 5%) of the $\tan \phi$.

157 **Table I:** Reactive power policy for the special scheme.

Voltage level	$\tan \phi$	
	Peak period	Off-peak period
HV	0	0
MV (P>6MW)	0	0
MV (P≤6MW)	0.3	0
LV	0	0

158

159 At the upstream connection, the DSO must maintain the reactive energy within a specific range imposed by
 160 the TSO, otherwise a penalty for violating the limits is applied to the DSO. More precisely, the $\tan \phi$ must be
 161 kept within -0.3 and 0.3. The penalties are modeled through steps of $\tan \phi$ infringement for peak hours.
 162 Currently, the violation of the limits of the inductive reactive power concerns three steps penalties [24,25]:

- 163
- $0.3 \leq \tan \phi < 0.4$;
 - $0.4 \leq \tan \phi < 0.5$;
 - $0.5 \leq \tan \phi$

164
 165
 166 where the first step has a penalty factor in the cost of 0.33, the second set has a penalty factor of 1, and the third
 167 a factor of 3.

168 In France, the reactive power policy comprises two different schemes for DERs depending on their
 169 characteristics. The first scheme considers the use
 170 of a fixed $\tan \phi$ with specific lower and upper limits defined in [26]. The $\tan \phi$ varies from producer to producer,
 171 according to the agreement established with the DSO when the generator is connected to the grid [26]. The
 172 DSO evaluates the needs of reactive power at the connection node and sets a fixed $\tan \phi$ that should be met
 173 within the predefined lower and upper limits by the generating unit at any time. The DSO can set any fixed \tan
 174 ϕ from the range -0.35 to 0.4, and in case of generator being able to reach -0.5, the DSO can set the fixed $\tan \phi$
 175 within the range of -0.5 to 0.4. The second scheme defines that the reactive power injection/absorbing is
 176 determined through a function depending on the deviation of voltage at the node of the generating unit [26,27].
 177 That is, the reactive power injected/absorbed by the generating unit is adjusted according to the deviation in
 178 percentage between the nominal and measured voltage at the connection point as shown in Figure 1 [27].

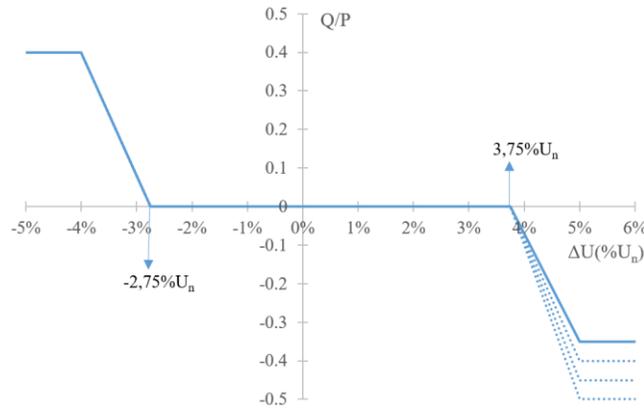


Fig. 1. Reactive power regulation scheme in France – $Q=f(U)$ [24].

In case of negative voltage deviation, higher than 2.75%, inductive reactive power is injected. Otherwise, the generator absorbs reactive power in the case of a positive voltage deviation, higher than 3.75%.

The main differences between the Portuguese and French policies rely on the establishment of reactive power values. In the Portuguese case, the reactive power comes as a function of the active power through the establishment of $\tan \phi$. On the other hand, a case-by-case study is carried out in the French case at each connection point, where a fixed reactive power value Q or a function of the voltage $Q=f(U)$ is established at the moment of the connection agreement.

2.2. Future Reactive Power Management

Current reactive power policies do not fully consider the characteristics and flexibility of DER, especially RES units, which bring uncertain and variable power production. In this scope, the current practices for reactive power management are no longer 100% adapted to the distribution system with high levels of variable production, and therefore must be adapted to include new ways of addressing this problem. One way is to introduce a new type of reactive power flexibility contracts allowing the DSO to use a reactive power band (upward and downward flexibility) from each generating unit within its technical capabilities. The DSO is therefore able to set a new reactive operating point for the DER unit, which can come in the form of $\tan \phi$ or a Q value. This new reactive power flexibility is described and modeled in this study, allowing the DSO to take advantage of DER for purposes of reactive power management. Note that the new reactive power flexibility is inspired on the Portuguese and French reactive power policies, but not directly applied to them. That is, it requires specific adaptations to be integrated in the Portuguese or French policies.

Recent developments in wind turbines and PV panels brought the ability to control the active and reactive power production, to some extent. In fact, [28] have proved that RES can provide reactive power control within a range limit considering acceptable levels of accuracy. Such provision reinforces the use of optimization and management methods able to cope with the uncertain RES production. Thus, the use of DER to assist in the reactive power management of the DSO is a possibility that must be taken into account.

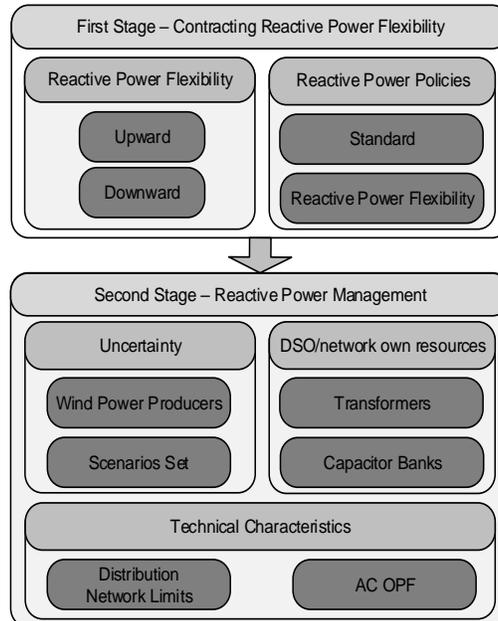
In this context, a new approach for solving the reactive power management problem under RES forecast uncertainty and provide the service to the TSO is illustrated in Fig. 2.

The methodology is based on a two-stage stochastic programming model considering an OPF. The aim is to

208 allow the DSO to provide a reactive power service to the TSO, by contracting reactive power flexibility to the
 209 DER in advance of the operating stage. Thus, the model is divided into two stages.

210 In the first stage, the DSO contracts upward and downward reactive power flexibility to be used during the
 211 operating stage. The upward and downward flexibility stands for the maximum reactive power that can go up
 212 or down from the expected reactive operating point of the DER, either at inductive or capacity operating point.

213 In the case of generating units under a standard reactive power policy, they are not available for participating
 214 in the service. Thus, the upward and downward flexibility are zero. Still, in this stage, the DSO can request the
 215 change of the reactive power policy to the DER (at a certain cost), to overcome potential reactive power needs.
 216 In this case, the full technical capabilities of the generating units for upward and downward flexibility are
 217 considered. Despite these assumptions, generating units are remunerated (as long as scheduled) for the capacity
 218 of providing a change in their operating point of reactive power [29]. The first-stage is performed one day-
 219 ahead of the operating stage.



220 **Fig. 2.** Proactive reactive power management.

221 In the operating stage (second stage), the flexibility of reactive power contracted in the day-ahead stage is
 222 activated depending on the system needs, which are scenario dependent. The DSO only activates the reactive
 223 power flexibility from the DER after determining the convenient set points of its internal resources (such as,
 224 transformers and capacitor banks). It is assumed that the DSO has manual control of the OLTC of transformers,
 225 which is not applied to the French case since the control is made defining the voltage set point of MV bus bar
 226 (secondary of HV/LV power transformer). As a standard policy, a fixed $\tan \phi$ has been set for every DER with
 227 a +/- 5% flexible band (i.e., the DER can operate within this range). However, in the present methodology is
 228 assumed that the DSO determines the optimal point within that range, which promptly sends to the DER. In
 229 case of requiring a new operating point outside the boundaries, the new reactive power flexibility policy is used.
 230 In this case, the DSO determines the new operating point of reactive power considering the full technical limits
 231 of the DER. The DSO requires this new operating point to the DER and is willing to pay significant higher fee.
 232

233 Notwithstanding, the DSO may activate any contract with generating units, as long as it is required for managing
 234 the reactive power in the distribution system at minimum cost.

235 3. Methodology

236 The optimization methodology proposed is based on a single-period two-stage stochastic programming to
 237 cope with the uncertain behavior of RES and solve the reactive power management in a distribution grid. The
 238 problem aims to minimize the operating costs of the DSO by contracting reactive power flexibility in the first-
 239 stage to be used eventually during the operating stage. The DSO contracts reactive power from DER in
 240 expectation to cope with the uncertain behavior of RES and the reactive power needs of the distribution system,
 241 under the limits requested by the TSO in the upstream connections of the distribution grid. Therefore, the DSO
 242 is ready to face the uncertain reactive power production of RES, as well as the limits requested by the TSO.

243 3.1. Objective function

244 The reactive power management problem is modeled as a mixed-integer nonlinear optimization problem,
 245 since it considers a full AC OPF for a single period. It is assumed that the minimum daily operating costs is
 246 obtained by the minimum cost in each single period. The objective function (1) includes two parts, in which the
 247 first part (F^{DA}) is related to the first-stage problem, while the second part (F^{RT}) represents the recourse stage
 248 considering the realization of the scenarios. Hence,

$$\min F^{DA} + F^{RT}, \quad (1)$$

249 where F^{HA} stands for the contracting of reactive power flexibility in the first-stage decision. The first-stage part
 250 of the objective function is modelled as

$$F^{DA} = \sum_{g=1}^{N_G} \left(C_{DER(g)}^{Q,UP} R_{DER(g)}^{Q,UP} + C_{DER(g)}^{Q,DW} R_{DER(g)}^{Q,DW} + X_{DER(g)}^{new} C_{DER(g)}^{new} \right) + \sum_{su=1}^{N_{SU}} \left(p_{TSO}^{Q,UP} RLX_{TSO}^{Q,UP} + p_{TSO}^{Q,DW} RLX_{TSO}^{Q,DW} \right), \quad (1.1)$$

251 where DER provide upward and downward reactive power flexibility under a specific cost. Furthermore, the
 252 DSO can change the policy for reactive power provision from DER. X^{new} is a binary variable stating if a new
 253 policy is applied or not depending on the system needs for reactive power. When the new policy is applied to a
 254 certain generator, this is now forced to operate in a different $\tan \phi$ range. In addition, a mathematical relaxation
 255 (represented by RLX) of the Q value requested by the TSO is assumed under a penalty. This mathematical
 256 relaxation is used to model the +/- 5% deviation that the requested Q value may vary at the upstream connection.

257 In parallel, F^{RT} stands for the recourse function of the objective function. The second-stage part of the
 258 objective function considers the costs for operating the distribution system in real-time, taking into account the
 259 realization of each of the scenarios under a predefined probability. Hence,

$$F^{RT} = \sum_{\omega=1}^{\Omega} \pi_{(\omega)} \left[\begin{aligned} & \sum_{g=1}^{N_G} \left(C_{DER(g)}^{act} \left(r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,UP} - r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,DW} \right) + C_{DER(g)}^{cut} P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \right) + \\ & p_{TSO}^{rlx,act} \left(rlx_{TSO(\omega)}^{Q,UP} - rlx_{TSO(\omega)}^{Q,DW} \right) + p_{TSO}^{Extra} rlx_{TSO(\omega)}^{Extra} + \sum_{l=1}^{N_L} \left(C_{(l)}^{Cut} P_{(l,\omega)}^{Cut} \right) + \\ & \sum_{cb=1}^{N_{CB}} \sum_{lv=1}^{N_{levels}} C_{CB(cb)} Z_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)} + \sum_{trf=1}^{N_{TRF}} \sum_{lv=1}^{N_{levels}} C_{TRF(trf)} Z_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)} \end{aligned} \right] \quad (1.2)$$

260 where generators change their operating point of reactive power at an activation price. Generation curtailment
 261 power is available at a greater cost for relaxing situations, in which the active power produced by the generators
 262 is creating problems in the distribution grid. Alternatively, load curtailment (energy not supplied) is also
 263 considered, allowing the DSO to decrease the active power consumption at a higher cost (penalization), and
 264 therefore the reactive power consumption. The cost of these contingencies of generation and consumption
 265 should be greater than the penalties for relaxing the TSO request. Thus, the DSO will always prioritize the DER
 266 and consumers, instead of providing the reactive power service to the TSO. The OLTC ability of transformers
 267 (not applied in the French case) and capacitor banks is also considered. The change in the tap is associated with
 268 a cost that considers the degradation in lifetime of the equipment when changing the set point [30]. In cases of
 269 higher need of flexibility (when the DSO cannot entirely provide the service), a different relaxation is activated
 270 through the variable rlx^{Extra} allowing the DSO to provide part of the TSO request.

271 3.2. First-stage constraints

272 The first-stage constraints comprise the ones that are not dependent of the uncertainty, like the minimum and
 273 maximum bounds of the DER for provision of reactive power flexibility. Thus, the boundaries of contracted
 274 upward and downward reactive power flexibility offered by DER are presented by (2.1) and (2.2), respectively.

$$R_{DER(g)}^{Q,UP,Min} \leq R_{DER(g)}^{Q,UP} \leq R_{DER(g)}^{Q,UP,Max}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\} \quad (2.1)$$

$$R_{DER(g)}^{Q,DW,Min} \leq R_{DER(g)}^{Q,DW} \leq R_{DER(g)}^{Q,DW,Max}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\} \quad (2.2)$$

275 Similar constraints are also applied to the mathematical relaxation of the reactive power at the upstream
 276 connection.

277 3.3. Second-stage constraints

278 The second-stage constraints comprise the ones associated with the uncertainty. The active power of the
 279 DER is related with the operating point that they have from the energy schedule. The operating point for RES
 280 is assumed to be fixed taking the value of the conditional mean forecast for active power generation. Therefore,
 281 the curtailment of active power in the operating stage is limited by

$$P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \leq P_{DER(g)}^{op} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.1)$$

282 where ΔP is the difference of active power between the realization scenario and the expected forecast in each
 283 scenario. It is worth mentioning that ΔP is zero for conventional DERs, since these resources are assumed to
 284 be fully-controllable disregarding any uncertainty in their production.

285 On the other hand, the energy flowing through TSO/DSO connection is limited by the contracts in the
 286 TSO/DSO boundaries, and ultimately by the transformer's capacity at the connection substation. In terms of
 287 active power, it is assumed that, from time to time, the TSO can inject or absorb active power, thus being limited
 288 by its maximum capacity of injecting or absorbing active power in the distribution network.

$$-P_{TSO(\omega)}^{Max} \leq P_{TSO(\omega)} \leq P_{TSO(\omega)}^{Max}, \quad \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.2)$$

289 In addition, the second-stage also includes the bounds of the second-stage variables and the non-anticipativity
 290 constraints. The non-anticipativity constraints relates both first-stage and second-stage variables for upward
 291 and downward flexibilities of DER. More precisely, the activation of the reactive power flexibility is
 292 constrained by the contracted reactive power flexibility, thus

$$r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,UP} \leq R_{DER(g)}^{Q,UP}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.3)$$

$$r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,DW} \leq R_{DER(g)}^{Q,DW}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.4)$$

293 Constraints (3.3) and (3.4) are also applied to the mathematical relaxation represented through external
 294 suppliers. The ability for all generators to provide inductive/capacitive reactive power is also assumed. In this
 295 scope and for the sake of simplicity, it is assumed that all DERs can provide reactive power under a specific
 296 range constrained by the $\tan \phi$ of the active power produced by the generator. This represents a simplification
 297 of the full spectrum diagram that relates P and Q for the DER. Thus, equations (3.5) and (3.6) model the reactive
 298 power control from the DER. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(-\left(P_{DER(g)}^{op} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)} - P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \right) \tan^{standard} \phi \right) (1 - X_{DER(g)}^{new}) \leq Q_{DER(g)}^{op} + r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,UP} - r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,DW} \leq \\ & \left(\left(P_{DER(g)}^{op} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)} - P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \right) \tan^{standard} \phi \right) (1 - X_{DER(g)}^{new}), \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(-\left(P_{DER(g)}^{op} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)} - P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \right) \tan^{new} \phi \right) X_{DER(g)}^{new} \leq Q_{DER(g)}^{op} + r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,UP} - r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,DW} \leq \\ & \left(\left(P_{DER(g)}^{op} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)} - P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \right) \tan^{new} \phi \right) X_{DER(g)}^{new}, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

299 where (3.5) models the reactive power control for the use of the standard reactive power control policy, while
 300 the modelling of the new reactive power policy is established through (3.6). X^{new} is a binary variable setting if
 301 the resource g uses the standard ($X^{new}=0$) or the new ($X^{new}=1$) policy for reactive power control. This decision
 302 variable assists the DSO to activate the new policy for a certain generator g in a specific period as required.

303 In contrast, reactive power provision from external suppliers represents the TSO request, i.e., a fixed Q value.
 304 Equations (3.7) and (3.8) give the upward and downward activation of the mathematical relaxation for external
 305 suppliers. However, this mathematical flexibility has a high penalty, since the goal is to meet the TSO request.

$$rlx_{TSO(\omega)}^{Q,UP} \leq RLX_{TSO}^{Q,UP}, \quad \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.7)$$

$$rlx_{TSO(\omega)}^{Q,DW} \leq RLX_{TSO}^{Q,DW}, \quad \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.8)$$

306 For all generators and TSO, the active and reactive power production is limited by the apparent power

307 capacity of the DER and transformers at the substation (in the case of the external suppliers), respectively.

$$S_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Max}{}^2 \geq \left(P_{DER(g)}^{op} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)} - P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut} \right)^2 + \left(Q_{DER(g)}^{op} + r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,UP} - r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,DW} \right)^2, \quad \forall g \in \{1, \dots, N_G\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.9)$$

308 As the last resource to mitigate congestion and voltage problems, the DSO can use demand response, and
309 this is constrained by

$$P_{L(l,\omega)}^{DR} \leq P_{L(l)}, \quad \forall l \in \{1, \dots, N_L\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.10)$$

310 Thus, the reactive power consumption depends on the actual active power consumption under a $\tan \phi$, given by

$$Q_{L(l,\omega)} = \left(P_{L(l)} - P_{L(l,\omega)}^{DR} \right) \tan \phi, \quad \forall l \in \{1, \dots, N_L\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.11)$$

311 where the $\tan \phi$ can be settled at 0.4 like in [31]. In addition to the flexibility that generating units can provide
312 to the DSO, the current assets in the DSO management are also considered. Particularly, capacitor banks and
313 transformers with OLTC are modeled. Capacitor banks and transformers are located at the substations and are
314 owned by the DSO, which knows their intrinsic characteristics. The capacitor banks are used to provide reactive
315 power to the transformer. Usually, capacitor banks are modelled by levels of reactive power production, given
316 by

$$Q_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)} = Q_{CB(cb,lv)}^{levels} X_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)}, \quad \forall cb \in \{1, \dots, N_{CB}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \forall lv \in \{1, \dots, N_{levels}\} \quad (3.12)$$

$$\sum_{lv=1}^{N_{levels}} X_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)} = 1, \quad \forall cb \in \{1, \dots, N_{CB}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.13)$$

317 The objective function (1.2) considers the cost of changing the tap for capacitor banks. The cost is multiplied
318 by Z_{CB} , which represents the linearization of an absolute function considering the difference between the tap
319 selection in the present period with the previous one. Therefore, Z_{CB} is constrained by

$$X_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)}^{t-1} - X_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)} \leq Z_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)}, \quad (3.14)$$

$$X_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)} - X_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)}^{t-1} \leq Z_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)}, \quad \forall cb \in \{1, \dots, N_{CB}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \forall lv \in \{1, \dots, N_{levels}\} \quad (3.15)$$

320 In parallel, transformers with OLTC ability assure voltage control in the substation. The OLTC constraints
321 are modeled as

$$\Delta V_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)} = V_{TRF(trf,lv)}^{levels} X_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)}, \quad \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \forall trf \in \{1, \dots, N_{TRF}\}, \forall lv \in \{1, \dots, N_{levels}\}, \quad (3.16)$$

$$\sum_{lv=1}^{N_{levels}} X_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)} = 1, \quad (3.17)$$

$$V_{sb(\omega)} = V_{sb(\omega)}^{ref} + \sum_{lv=1}^{N_{levels}} \Delta V_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)}, \quad \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \forall trf \in \{1, \dots, N_{TRF}\} \quad (3.18)$$

322 where ΔV_{TRF} represents the voltage level to be activated in the transformer by the DSO. V_{TRF}^{levels} is a parameter
323 representative of all possible taps of the transformer, and X_{TRF} is the binary variable for selection of a unique

324 tap level. V_{sb}^{ref} is the reference of voltage magnitude at the substation before use of OLTC ability by the
 325 transformer, while the final voltage value at the substation is denoted by V_{sb} . In addition, the cost for changing
 326 the tap of the transformer is included in the objective function (1.2), where Z_{TRF} is the linearization of the
 327 absolute function, similar to the capacitor banks. Thus, the constraints are

$$X_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)}^{t-1} - X_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)} \leq Z_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)}, \quad (3.19)$$

$$X_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)} - X_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)}^{t-1} \leq Z_{TRF(trf,\omega,lv)}, \forall trf \in \{1, \dots, N_{TRF}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \forall lv \in \{1, \dots, N_{levels}\} \quad (3.20)$$

328 Furthermore, a full AC OPF model is considered in the problem to characterize the power flow in a
 329 distribution grid. This includes the modelling of the active power balance in each bus as

$$\sum_{g=1}^{N_G} (P_{DER(g)}^{op,i} + \Delta P_{DER(g,\omega)}^i - P_{DER(g,\omega)}^{cut}) + P_{TSO}^i + \sum_{l=1}^{N_L} (P_{L(l,\omega)}^{cut,i} - P_{L(l)}^i) = G_{ii} V_{i(\omega)}^2 + V_{i(\omega)} \sum_{j \in TL^i} V_{j(\omega)} (G_{ij} \cos \theta_{ij(\omega)} + B_{ij} \sin \theta_{ij(\omega)}) \quad (3.21)$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, N_{Bus}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \theta_{ij(\omega)} = \theta_{i(\omega)} - \theta_{j(\omega)}$$

330 where the energy balance between the active power produced by every type of energy resource and the load
 331 consumption is met. Additionally, the reactive power balance is given by

$$\sum_{g=1}^{N_G} (Q_{DER(g,\omega)}^{op,i} + r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,UP,i} - r_{DER(g,\omega)}^{Q,DW,i}) - \sum_{l=1}^{N_L} Q_{L(l,s)}^i + \sum_{cb=1}^{N_{CB}} \sum_{lv=1}^{N_{levels}} Q_{CB(cb,\omega,lv)}^i +$$

$$Q_{TSO(\omega)}^{op,i} + r_{TSO(\omega)}^{Q,UP,i} - r_{TSO(\omega)}^{Q,DW,i} + r_{TSO(\omega)}^{Extra,i} = V_{i(\omega)} \sum_{j \in TL^i} V_{j(\omega)} (G_{ij} \sin \theta_{ij(\omega)} - B_{ij} \cos \theta_{ij(\omega)}) - B_{ii} V_{i(\omega)}^2 \quad (3.22)$$

$$\forall i \in \{1, \dots, N_{Bus}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, \theta_{ij(\omega)} = \theta_{i(\omega)} - \theta_{j(\omega)}$$

332 where the reactive power production of all energy resources including the capacitor banks and consumers are
 333 considered. It worth mentioning that generators can provide inductive and capacitive reactive power, i.e.
 334 generators can produce or consume reactive power, depending on the system needs. Complementary, the energy
 335 flowing through the distribution lines has a thermal limit that should not be exceeded. Thus, the power flow
 336 through the distribution lines from bus i to bus j , and vice-versa is constrained by

$$\left| \overline{V_{i(\omega)}} \left[\overline{y_{ij} V_{j(\omega)}} + \overline{y_{sh(i)} V_{i(\omega)}} \right] \right|^2 \leq S_{TL}^{Max}, \overline{V_{ij(\omega)}} = \overline{V_{i(\omega)}} - \overline{V_{j(\omega)}} \quad (3.23)$$

$$\left| \overline{V_{j(\omega)}} \left[\overline{y_{ij} V_{j(\omega)}} + \overline{y_{sh(j)} V_{j(\omega)}} \right] \right|^2 \leq S_{TL}^{Max}, \overline{V_{ji(\omega)}} = \overline{V_{j(\omega)}} - \overline{V_{i(\omega)}} \quad (3.24)$$

$$\forall i, j \in \{1, \dots, N_{Bus}\}, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\}, i \neq j$$

337 The voltage magnitude must prevail within the minimum and maximum limits established by the DSO. In
 338 addition, it is assumed that the voltage magnitude for the slack bus is fixed. Finally,

$$V_{Min}^i \leq V_{i(\omega)} \leq V_{Max}^i, \forall \omega \in \{1, \dots, \Omega\} \quad (3.23)$$

339 **4. Assessment of Reactive Power Management**

340 This section presents a case study illustrating the application and performance of the developed model. The
 341 simulation has been carried out with MATLAB and GAMS.

342 *4.1. Outline*

343 The case study is based on a 37-bus distribution network (originally presented in [32]) adapted to support
 344 five DER, namely 3 CHPs and 2 wind turbines. **Error! Reference source not found.** depicts the distribution
 345 network, connected to a high voltage network through two power transformers of 10 MVA each. There are 22
 346 consumption points distributed throughout the network. The consumption points consider 1908 consumers
 347 (1850 residential consumers, 2 industrial consumers, 50 commercial stores, and 6 service buildings) [32]. The
 348 consumption characteristics and profile are imported from [33], and therefore summarized in Table II.

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Table II: Load characteristics.

Load	Bus	Active power consumption P_L (kW)		
		Min	Mean	Max
1	3	373.2	677.9	1190.5
2	4	206.1	591.2	1015.6
3	6	88.4	599.0	1029.8
4	7	394.7	716.9	1259.1
5	9	539.0	761.8	1089.0
6	10	298.7	636.6	1040.9
7	12	323.0	586.5	1030.1
8	14	387.0	1110.4	1.9074
9	16	745.6	1589.1	2598.3
10	18	509.7	720.3	1029.8
11	20	88.4	599.0	1029.8
12	21	373.2	677.9	1190.5
13	23	365.1	778.1	1272.3
14	24	539.0	761.8	1089.0
15	26	323.0	586.5	1030.1
16	28	178.3	511.6	878.8
17	29	74.4	503.8	866.2
18	31	314.0	570.2	1001.4
19	32	290.4	618.9	1011.9
20	34	93.5	633.4	1089.0
21	36	217.9	625.3	1074.1
22	37	323.0	586.5	1030.1

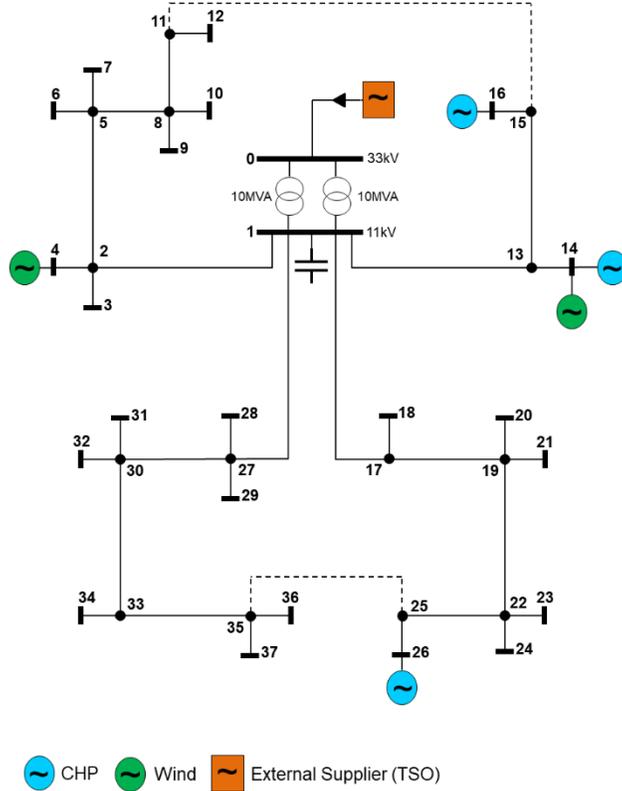


Fig. 3. 37-Bus distribution network (adapted from [29]).

Two transformers and capacitor banks are considered in the network with the characteristics presented in Table III. More precisely, the transformers have OLTC ability with maximum voltage deviation of 0.1 p.u. In addition, the capacitor banks also have tap-changing with a total capacity of reactive power production of 0.8 MVar. The cost reflecting the use of the transformers and capacitor banks (with the OLTC ability that reduces the equipment lifetime) is determined based on [30], respectively. It is assumed that both equipment are owned and managed by the DSO.

Table III: Transformer and capacitor bank characteristics.

Equipment	Number of units	Number of Tap-changing N_{levels}	Tap-changing capacity $V_{TRF}^{levels}, Q_{CB}^{levels}$	Cost C_{TRF}, C_{CB} (m.u. per change)
Transformer	2	21	0.1 p.u.	0.19
Capacitor Bank	2	5	0.2 MVar	0.47

The network comprises 3 CHPs and 2 wind turbines. All resources are able to provide reactive power flexibility, according to their technical limits. Following standard regulation, it is assumed that the DER active power generation should be fully absorbed by the network. Therefore, Table IV shows the generic characteristics of the DER, including the expected operating point (e.g., wind power forecast).

Table IV: General characteristics and operating point for DER.

DER	Number of units	Total installed power	Operating point P^{op} (MW)		
			Min	Mean	Max
CHP	3	2.5 (MVA)	1.0	1.15	1.5
Wind	2	20 (MVA)	11.31	14.01	15.34
TSO	1	-	-	-	-

368 In addition, the cost for upward and downward reactive power flexibility is given in Table V. The cost for
 369 changing the reactive power policy between the DSO and the DER is also included. This cost enables the DSO
 370 to change the standard policy ($\tan \phi$) of each DER to a new policy considering a different $\tan \phi$. The new $\tan \phi$
 371 level is enforced by the DSO, according to the DER technical limits.

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Table V: reactive power costs.

DER	Upward cost C^{up} (m.u./kVAr)			Downward cost C^{dw} (m.u./kVAr)			New policy cost C^{new} (m.u.)
	Min	Mean	Max	Min	Mean	Max	
CHP	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.01
Wind	0.02	0.025	0.03	0.02	0.025	0.03	0.01
TSO	1	1	1	1	1	1	-

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Table VI gives the activation cost of the reactive power flexibility for each type of aggregator. It also includes
 376 the curtailment costs for each type of DER, as well as the cost related to the use of demand response.

377
 378

Table VI: DER Activation and curtailment costs.

DER	Activation cost C^{act} (m.u./kVArh)			Curtailment C^{cut} / demand response C_L^{DR} (m.u./kWh)
	Min	Mean	Max	
CHP	0.01	0.02	0.03	10.0
Wind	0.01	0.13	0.15	10.0
TSO	0.5	0.5	0.5	10.0
Load	-	-	-	10.0

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RES are modeled through stochastic variables. Thus, upward and downward reactive power flexibility is
 381 constrained by the upper and downward flexibility they offer to the DSO, and therefore by their technical limits.
 382 The uncertainty of wind power forecast is modelled in the form of scenarios over 24-hour periods, which can
 383 be found in [34,35]. A set of 10 scenarios were extracted for each wind generator. These scenarios are
 384 representative of the wind power distribution, and therefore, sufficient to test the simulator. In this case study,
 385 the standard reactive power policy of the DER are subjected to the Portuguese regulation, following Table I.

386
 387

At the upstream connection, the TSO can establish the required reactive power to inject or absorb of the
 388 distribution grid. In this case, a time series of Q values has been established, as shown in Table VII. It is
 389 important to mention that in the present study the transmission system is not analyzed and the proposed values
 are defined only to test the methodology to be used by the DSO.

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Table VII: TSO request throughout 24h in MVar.

hour	Q	hour	Q	hour	Q	hour	Q
1	1.9527	7	1.2319	13	2.3057	19	2.9387
2	1.7911	8	1.5124	14	2.2661	20	3.2163
3	1.5520	9	1.8706	15	2.2404	21	3.1441
4	1.3429	10	2.1405	16	2.2539	22	2.9496
5	1.2264	11	2.2426	17	2.3603	23	2.6494
6	1.1073	12	2.3143	18	2.6624	24	2.3518

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This test case was constructed assuming that active power from DER can be greater or less than the load in
 394 the grid. Thus, the TSO can either inject or absorb active power depending on the realization of wind generation
 395 over time.

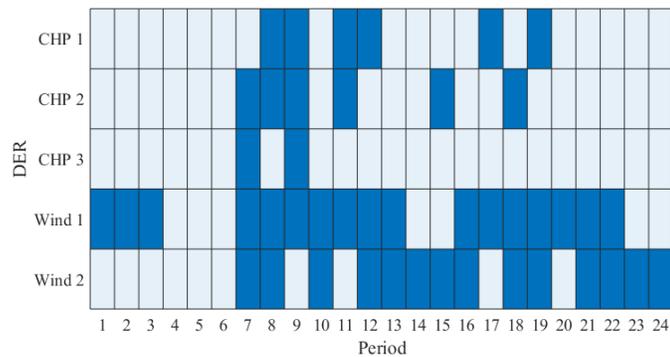
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4.2. Results

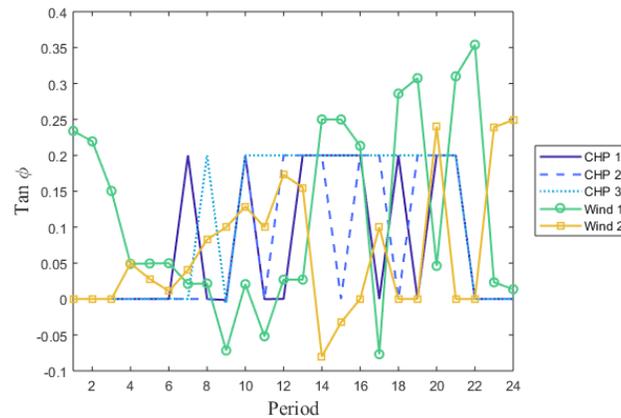
397 As previously mentioned, the main goal of this methodology is to support the reactive power management
 398 activity of the DSO, allowing it to provide an additional service to the TSO. This management considers the
 399 reactive power needs of the grid, and the request from the TSO at the interface substation. Therefore, the DSO
 400 can activate the new reactive power policy with DER, allowing them to support reactive power (beyond the
 401 standard regulatory framework), in case the internal DSO equipment (capacitor banks) is insufficient.

402 Thus, the tool optimally allocates each DER, taking into consideration the cost curve of each one, and the
 403 capacitor banks. Fig. 4 shows the potential activation of the new reactive power policy by the DSO to each DER
 404 throughout the day. The darkest color means that the DSO activates the new policy to a certain DER in the
 405 specific period. Otherwise, the lightest color is show, meaning that the DSO maintains the standard reactive
 406 power policy with the DER.

407 Note that, both wind power plants are called to change most of the times their $\tan \phi$ to the values under the
 408 new policy. The expected $\tan \phi$ for all DER and period is depicted in Fig. 5. Through this figure, the DSO has
 409 an estimate of the $\tan \phi$ that can be established in the new policy with the DER, accounting for +/- 5% of
 410 allowable deviation from the DER. As expected, the wind power producers are the ones with greater volatility
 411 and changes in the policy (which occurs several times per day), since they are the cheapest generators after the
 412 capacitor banks.



413 **Fig. 4.** Scheduling of new contract for reactive power provision by DER.
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 415



416 **Fig. 5.** Expected $\tan \phi$ of each DER throughout the day.
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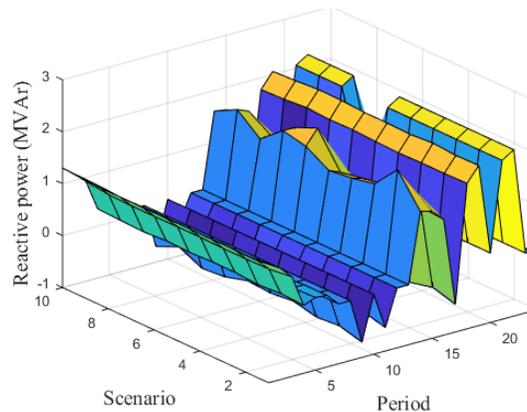
416 Note that the methodology relies first on capacitor banks capacities to cover the reactive power production,
 417 and then on the DER. In this test case, capacitor banks are allocated to their maximum reactive power
 418
 419
 420

421 production.

422 Furthermore, it worth mention that the Q value required by the TSO can be violated in case of insufficient
423 reactive power capacity by the generators, or because it is not technically feasible. In such cases, the TSO
424 requirement is relaxed, and the extra amount of scheduled reactive power is determined. In such case the DSO
425 reports to the TSO the extra amount of reactive power that is required, i.e., the DSO only supports part of the
426 actual TSO request.

427 In addition, the proposed tool provides a range of solutions for each resource, accounting for 10 scenarios.
428 Each solution is indicative of the expected behavior of the resources, when facing a certain expected wind
429 power realization scenario. The $\tan \phi$ of each wind power producer in each scenario throughout the day is
430 depicted in **Error! Reference source not found.** and Fig. 7, respectively. One can check through **Error!**
431 **Reference source not found.** and Fig. 7 that reactive power provision slightly varies from scenario to scenario
432 in most of the periods. In the first periods, wind power producer 1 (Fig. 6), provides higher reactive power to
433 the system than wind power producer 2 (Fig. 7), since a new policy is assigned. In the remaining periods, both
434 wind power producers present similar patterns of reactive power provision, since they are the cheapest DER to
435 provide extra reactive power needs.

436 Nevertheless, the aim of this tool is to provide an answer of the service to the TSO. In this case, the DSO
437 replies with success to the TSO. That is, the DSO is able to control / contract sufficient reactive power flexibility
438 from capacitor banks and DER to meet the TSO request of reactive power in every hour. Though the request is
439 fully meted, cases in which the DSO cannot entirely provide the request may occur, and therefore, the tool will
440 reply with the amount of Q that the DSO can support. The cost the TSO should pay for the service in each hour
441 is given in Table VIII. Note that, the cost varies with the use of the resources, and activation of the reactive
442 power flexibilities. It is also important to mention that the used costs are indicative, and more studies should be
443 performed to better definition of these values.



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Fig. 6. Reactive power production by scenario and period for wind 1.

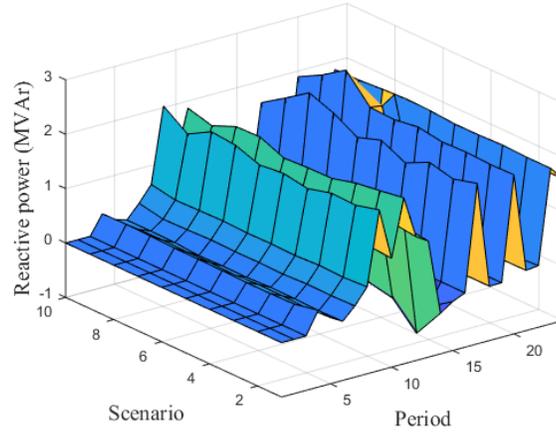


Fig. 7. Reactive power production by scenario and period for wind 2.

Table VIII: Service cost to the DSO throughout 24h in m.u.

hour	Cost	hour	Cost	hour	Cost	hour	Cost
1	0.0487	7	0.3560	13	2.2434	19	0.4027
2	0.0439	8	1.5101	14	0.5671	20	0.7549
3	0.0371	9	0.3650	15	0.4118	21	3.3724
4	0.7710	10	0.9397	16	0.5275	22	3.3827
5	0.0213	11	1.1094	17	0.4399	23	0.5696
6	0.0161	12	1.6527	18	0.3977	24	2.1859

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452 5. Conclusions

453 This work proposes a new tool for reactive power management by the DSO considering the flexibility that
454 can be provided by the DER. This tool allows the DSO to provide reactive power service to the TSO at a certain
455 cost, which can be used as an alternative to investments in reactive power control equipment in the transmission
456 network. It is also assumed that the DSO is able to change the standard reactive power policies of each DER at
457 a given cost. Changing to the new policy allows the DSO to establish a new reactive operating point for the
458 DER (or a range of reactive power operation) concerning their technical limits.

459 Simulation results for a 37-bus test distribution network demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed tool to
460 provide the service to the TSO. To this end, the tool defines the capacitor banks level and selects the DER that
461 should provide reactive power flexibility under different operating conditions to support the service. The main
462 result is the reply of the DSO to the TSO request with the amount of reactive power provided and the respective
463 cost for the service.

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