Signal Processing and Communication Challenges for the Internet of Energy

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#### acknowledgement: **M. Alizadeh** R.J. Thomas, G. Kesidis, K. Levitt, A. Goldsmith, M. Van Der Schaar

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# The Internet of Things Age

• A world where *everything* is tagged, monitored and remotely controllable via the Internet



• Let's look at the past and what we can do with it in the future, focusing on Energy Delivery

### Machines are already on the Internet



- Electric Power Systems, Pipelines (Water, Fuel), Building Control, Manifacturing plants...
- Monitoring: Sensor telemetry and databases
- Automation: The discipline focused on the design of automation software is called Hybrid Control

# Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition

- "SCADA " widely used Industrial Control (IC) reference model
- Its birth nest: the Electric Power sector



Very wide area systems (the size of a country) → hierarchical control = "divide and conquer"

# The Programmable Logic Controller

PLC/Digital Relay: an industrial computer control system



• Data Items are identified by object (o), property (p) and time (t). The value (v) is a function of o, p and t

$$v = F(o, p, t)$$

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- Typical values for PLC are input/output single bit (coils) and registers (16/32 bits, analog values)
- PLC activity:
  - Input Scan: Scans the state of the Inputs
  - Program Scan: Executes the program logic
  - Output Scan: Energize/de-energize the outputs
  - 4 Housekeeping: Update the state

# Communications among PLCs



• Intelligent Electr. Devices (IED)



• Originally most controllers used serial communications

# Networking among PLCs



• Today most of them are Ethernet based, but this is changing, wireless being the next big contender

### ZigBee: Industrial Control Gets Personal...



- ZigBee was conceived for low power, low rate, sensor networking in a variety of applications
- Embedded computer are like personal computers...

# A watershed moment?

• The transition from Mainframe to PC changed computation



- In Power Systems SCADA was meant for the grid core
- IoT  $\Rightarrow$  intelligence at the edge of the grid
  - Example: ZigBee Smart Energy V2.0 specifications define an IP-based protocol to monitor, control, inform and automate the delivery and use of energy and water
  - Huge opportunity for change...

# Cognitive Power Systems

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# Decision Space for the Grid



- Plan the generation signal  $G_i(t)$  to be equal exactly to the demand for electricity  $L_i(t)$  (load) (sold on a Retail Market)
- Today tens of large generators serve millions of homes (2 orders of magnitude difference)
- Whole sale optimization objective: over a future horizon  $\Omega$   $\rightarrow \min \sum_{i} \int_{\Omega} Cost(G_{i}(t)) dt$  subject to (1) Power Balance, (2)  $G_{i}(t)$  and  $G'_{i}(t)$  bounds, (3) Thermal constr. <sup>11/61</sup>

# Multi-settlement optimization/market structure

• Wholesale electricity market  $\rightarrow$  a centralized optimization (run by an Independent System Operator – ISO)



SCUC = Security Constrained Unit Commitment (who we buy from) LMP = Local Marginal Prices (at what price at each bus and time) OPF = Optimal Power Flow (how much)

# Optimizing the power flow



• Suppose  $\Omega = t$  one time instant. We have the Optimal Power Flow (OPF) problem:

 $\rightarrow \min C(G_i(t))$  subject to

(1) Demand = Supply + Losses, (2)  $G_i(t)$  and  $G'_i(t)$  below capacity,

(3) Thermal constr.

### IoT = millions of control knobs



• Everything works without controlling them....why do we need to do it?

# Cognitive Electric Consumption

- For consumers the grid is  $plug \ and \ play \to {\rm at\ most\ good\ appliances\ reduce\ energy\ consumption}$
- The moment at which we draw power is chosen carelessly
  - $\rightarrow$  we need to generate just in time
  - $\rightarrow$  we depend on fossil fuels to do that
- Demand is random but not truly inflexible, but today there is no widespread standard appliance interface to modulate it





• Demand Response (DR) programs tap into the flexibility of end-use demand for multiple purposes

# The role of flexible demand

• Large generator ramps + reserves for dealing with uncertainty blow up costs and pollution



If we can modulate the load (via Demand Response Programs), we can increase renewables and reduce reserves (cleaner, cheaper power)

# The Smart Grid vision



Distributed generation

• Intelligent homes will be price responsive

#### IoT that shifts demand in space and time

• Electric Vehicles! Where and when they charge can be modulated...



### IoT that shifts demand in space and time

• Clouds!

Computation can shift swiftly where renewable power is abundant and power is cheap...



# The Smart Grid System Challenge



• Designing the price...

# Challenges for Demand Response (DR)



- Aggregation is needed (Whole Sale Market blind below 100MW)
- Challenge 1: Heterogenous population of appliances
- Challenge 2: Real time control of millions of them
- Challenge 3: Modeling their aggregate response in the market

# The Smart Grid model that was really emerging

 $\bullet$  Price sensitive demand and Measurement & Verification



- Customers have a baseline load (measured with smart-meters)
- LMP prices are communicated (via smart-meters)
- Customers shed a certain amount of the baseline
- The diminished demand is verified with smart-meters
- Customers are paid LMP for the Negawatts (or punished)
- This is what the Smart-Grid was going to be
  - Advocated by utilities, promoted by a FERC order (law) 745...
  - ....blocked by the courts (DC Circuit Court)

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# Alternatives?...

- The notion of baseline and negawatts price is ill posed:
  - How can I measure what you will be able to not consume and verify that you have not consumed it?
  - What is a good model for a price for lack of demand?
- Alternatives? Differentiating via **Quantized Population Models** 
  - Cluster appliances and derive an aggregate model
  - The Internet of Energy: appliances that say what they want
  - (Hide customers with differentially private codes)

[Chong85], [Mathieu, Koch, Callaway, '13], [Alizadeh, Scaglione, Thomas, '12]...



# Population Load Flexibility

#### Definition of Flexibility

The potential shapes that the electric power consumption (load) of an appliance or a population of appliances can take while providing the sought economic utility to the customer

#### Categories of appliances covered

 $\blacksquare$  Interruptible rate constrained EVs with deadlines and V2G  $\checkmark$ 

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- @ Thermostatically Controlled Loads  $\checkmark$
- O Deferrable loads with dead-lines  $\checkmark$

# Example of Load flexibility: Ideal Battery

One ideal battery indexed by  $\boldsymbol{i}$ 

- Arrives at  $t_i$  and remains on indefinitely
- No rate constraint
- Initial charge of  $\mathbf{S}_i$
- Capacity  $\mathbf{E}_i$

The flexibility of battery i is defined as

$$\mathcal{L}_i(t) = \{L_i(t) | L_i(t) = dx_i(t)/dt, x_i(t_i) = S_i, 0 \le x_i(t) \le E_i, t \ge t_i\}.$$

In English:

Load (power) = rate of change in state of charge x(t) (energy)

• Set  $\mathcal{L}_i(t)$  characterized by appliance category v (ideal battery) and 3 continuous parameters:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_i = (t_i, S_i, E_i)$$

But how can we capture the flexibility of thousands of these batteries?

### Aggregate flexibility sets

We define the following operations on flexibility sets  $\mathcal{L}_1(t)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_2(t)$ :

$$\mathcal{L}_1(t) + \mathcal{L}_2(t) = \left\{ L(t) | L(t) = L_1(t) + L_2(t), (L_1(t), L_2(t)) \in \mathcal{L}_1(t) \times \mathcal{L}_2(t) \right\}$$

$$n\mathcal{L}(t) = \left\{ L(t)|L(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{n} L_k(t), \ (L_1(t), ..., L_n(t)) \in \mathcal{L}^n(t) \right\},\$$

where  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $0\mathcal{L}_1(t) \equiv \{0\}$ .

• Then, the flexibility of a population  $\mathcal{P}^{v}$  of ideal batteries is

$$\mathcal{L}^{v}(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}^{v}} \mathcal{L}_{i}(t)$$
(1)

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flexibility of population = sum of individual flexibility sets

What if we have a very large population?

### Quantizing flexibility

• Natural step  $\rightarrow$  quantize the parameters:  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i = (t_i, S_i, E_i)$ 

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} \mapsto \boldsymbol{\vartheta} \in \text{Finite set } \mathcal{T}^v$$

- Quantize state and time uniformly with step  $\delta t = 1$  and  $\delta x = 1$
- Discrete version (after sampling + quantization) of flexibility:

$$\mathcal{L}_{i}(t) = \{L_{i}(t) | L_{i}(t) = \partial x_{i}(t), x_{i}(t_{i}) = S_{i}, x_{i}(t) \in \{0, 1, \dots, E_{i}\}, t \ge t_{i}\}.$$

- $\mathcal{L}^{v}_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}(t) =$  Flexibility of a battery with discrete parameters  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$
- Let  $a_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}^{v}(t) \triangleq$  number of batteries with discrete parameters  $\boldsymbol{\vartheta}$

$$\mathcal{L}^{v}(t) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta} \in \mathcal{T}^{v}} a_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}^{v}(t) \mathcal{L}_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}^{v}(t), \qquad \sum_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta} \in \mathcal{T}^{v}} a_{\boldsymbol{\vartheta}}^{v}(t) = |\mathcal{P}_{v}|.$$
(2)

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#### Bundling Batteries with Similar Constraints

- Population  $\mathcal{P}_E^v$  with homogenous E but different  $(t_i, S_i)$
- Define arrival process for battery i

 $a_i(t) = u(t - t_i) \rightarrow \text{indicator that battery } i \text{ is plugged in}$ 

- We prefer not to keep track of individual appliances
- Random state arrival process on aggregate

$$a_x(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}_E^v} \delta(S_i - x) a_i(t), \quad x = 1, \dots, E$$

• Aggregate state occupancy

$$n_x(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}_E^v} \delta(x_i(t) - x) a_i(t), \quad x = 1, \dots, E$$

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#### Activation process from state x' to x:

 $d_{x,x'}(t) = \#$  batteries that go from state x to state x' up to time t

Naturally,  $\partial d_{x,x'}(t) \leq n_x(t)$ .



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#### Lemma

The relationship between occupancy, control and load are:

$$n_x(t+1) = a_x(t+1) + \sum_{x'=0}^{E} [d_{x',x}(t) - d_{x,x'}(t)]$$
$$L(t) = \sum_{x=0}^{E} \sum_{x'=0}^{E} (x'-x) \partial d_{x,x'}(t)$$

Notice the linear and simple nature of L(t) in terms of  $d_{x,x'}(t)$ 

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# Bundling Batteries with Non-homogeneous Capacity

- $\bullet\,$  Results up to now are valid for batteries with homogenous capacity E
- The capacity changes the underlying structure of flexibility
- We divide appliances into **clusters**  $q = 1, ..., Q^v$  based on the quantized value of  $E_i$



#### Quantized Linear Load Model

Load flexibility of heterogenous ideal battery population

$$\mathcal{L}^{v}(t) = \left\{ L(t) | L(t) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \sum_{x=0}^{E^{q}} \sum_{x'=0}^{E^{q}} (x'-x) \partial d_{x,x'}^{q}(t) \\ \partial d_{x,x'}^{q}(t) \in \mathbb{Z}^{+}, \sum_{x'=1}^{E^{q}} \partial d_{x,x'}^{q}(t) \le n_{x}^{q}(t) \right\}$$

$$n_x^q(t) = a_x^q(t) + \sum_{x'=0}^{E^q} [d_{x',x}^q(t-1) - d_{x,x'}^q(t-1)]$$

Linear, and scalable at large-scale by removing integrality constraints Aggregate model= Tank Model [Lambert, Gilman, Lilienthal,'06]

# Rate controlled, Interruptible charge, V2G (EVs)

- The canonical battery can go from any state to any state and has no deadline or other constraints.
- What about real appliances? Some are simple extensions
- Rate-constrained battery chage, e.g., V2G



• Interruptible consumption at a constant rate, e.g., pool pump, EV 1.1kW charge



#### Deadlines

- You can add deadlines using the same principle: cluster appliances with the same deadline  $\chi^q$
- Then, you simply express the constraint inside the flexibility set

$$\mathcal{L}^{v}(t) = \left\{ L(t) | L(t) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q^{v}} \sum_{x=0}^{E^{q}} \sum_{x'=0}^{E^{q}} (x'-x) \partial d_{x,x'}^{q}(t) \\ \partial d_{x,x'}^{q}(t) \in \mathbb{Z}^{+}, \forall x, x' \in \{0, 1, \dots, E^{q}\} \\ \sum_{x'=1}^{E^{q}} \partial d_{x,x'}^{q}(t) \le n_{x}^{q}(t), \forall x < E^{q} \to n_{x}(\chi^{q}) = 0 \right\}$$
(3)

### Non-interruptible Appliances - Individual flexibility

- Loads that can be shifted within a time frame but cannot be modified after activation, e.g., washer/dryers
- $x_i(t) \in \{0, 1\}$  = state of appliance *i* (wainting/activated)
- Impluse response of appliance *i* if activated at time  $0 = g_i(t)$
- Laxity (slack time) of  $\chi_i$

$$\mathcal{L}_{i}(t) = \{ L_{i}(t) | L_{i}(t) = g_{i}(t) \star \partial x_{i}(t), x_{i}(t) \in \{0, 1\}, \qquad (4)$$
$$x_{i}(t) \ge a_{i}(t - \chi_{i}), \ x_{i}(t - 1) \le x_{i}(t) \le a_{i}(t) \}.$$

Load = change in state convolved with the load shape  $g_i(t)$ 

$$\xrightarrow{x_i(t)} \partial \xrightarrow{g_i(t)} L_i(t) = g_i(t) \star \partial x_i(t)$$

Note:  $d_{0,1}^q(t) \equiv d^q(t) \equiv x^q(t)$
## Non-interruptible Appliances - Aggregate flexibility

- We assign appliances to cluster q based on quantized pulses  $g^q(t)$
- $a^q(t) = \text{total number of arrivals in cluster } q$  up to time t
- $d^{q}(t) = \text{total number of activations from cluster } q$  up to time t



$$\mathcal{L}^{v}(t) = \left\{ L(t) | L(t) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q^{v}} g^{q}(t) \star \partial d^{q}(t), d^{q}(t) \in \mathbb{Z}^{+}$$

$$d^{q}(t) \geq a^{q}(t - \chi^{q}), \ d^{q}(t - 1) \leq d^{q}(t) \leq a^{q}(t) \right\}$$

$$(5)$$

- State-space parametric description of the set L<sub>i</sub>(t) of possible load injections of specific appliance i
- **2** Event-driven: Appliances are available for control after  $t_i$  with initial state  $S_i$ ; (arrival is  $a_i(t) = u(t t_i)$  unit step)
- Divide and conquer: Define a representative set  $\mathcal{L}_q^v(t)$  for a given appliances cathegory (v), quantizing possible parameters (q) and, if continuous, quantize the state (x)
- Aggregate and conquer: Describe total flexibility  $\mathcal{L}^{\nu}(t)$  using: Aggregate arrival and state occupancy

$$a_x^q(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}^{v,q}} \delta(S_i - x) a_i(t), \quad n_x^q(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}_F^v} \delta(x_i(t) - x) a_i(t)$$

Aggregate control knob

- State-space parametric description of the set  $\mathcal{L}_i(t)$  of possible load injections of specific appliance i
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Aggregate control knob

 $d_{x,x'}^q(t) = \# \text{ appliance moved from } x \text{ to } x' \text{ before time } t$  $\partial d_{x,x'}^q(t) = d_{x,x'}^q(t+1) - d_{x,x'}^q(t) = \# \dots \text{ at time } t$ 

- State-space parametric description of the set  $\mathcal{L}_i(t)$  of possible load injections of specific appliance i
- **②** Event-driven: Appliances are available for control after  $t_i$  with initial state  $S_i$ ; (arrival is  $a_i(t) = u(t t_i)$  unit step)
- **Over the state**  $\mathcal{L}_q^v(t)$  for a given appliances cathegory (v), quantizing possible parameters (q) and, if continuous, quantize the state (x)
- Aggregate and conquer: Describe total flexibility L<sup>v</sup>(t) using: Aggregate arrival and state occupancy

$$a_x^q(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}^{v,q}} \delta(S_i - x) a_i(t), \quad n_x^q(t) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{P}_E^v} \delta(x_i(t) - x) a_i(t)$$

Aggregate control knob

 $d_{x,x'}^q(t) = \# \text{ appliance moved from } x \text{ to } x' \text{ before time } t$  $\partial d_{x,x'}^q(t) = d_{x,x'}^q(t+1) - d_{x,x'}^q(t) = \# \dots \text{ at time } t$ 

## Real-time: How do we activating appliances?

#### Arrival and Activation Processes

 $a_q(t)$  and  $d_q(t) \to$  total recruited appliances and activations before time t in the q-th queue

• Easy communications: Broadcast time stamp  $T_{act}$ :  $a_q(t - T_{act}) = d_q(t)$ 



• Appliance whose arrival is prior than  $T_{act.}$  initiate to draw power based on the broadcast control message

## **Differential Privacy**

- $\bullet\,$  One can use a biased coin to add noise to the activation of a certain appliance in cluster q
- This will hide the identity of who is active at a certain time
- With large aggregation the bias can be easily removed



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### **Ex-ante Planning**

- From historical data forecast statistics of arrivals in clusters (e.g. [Alizadeh, Scaglione, Kurani, Davies 2013] for PHEVs)
- Use a Model Predictive Control (MPC) framework with Sample Average Approximation (SAA) to make market purchase decisions

#### **Real-time Control**

- $\blacksquare$  We perform DLS
- Decide the profit maximizing schedule
- Activate appliances
- Refresh future arrival forecasts based on new observations



## **Ex-ante Stochastic Population Models**

- In DLS, appliance arrival event is explicitly communicated
- Modeling challenge is similar to that of forecasting and serving non-stationary traffic for a call-center...

PHEV charging events studied in [Alizadeh, Scaglione, Davies, Kurani 2013]







## Day Ahead Market Level Simulation

- Population of 40000 PHEVs + 1.1 kW non-interruptible charging
- Tank model = PHEVs effectively modeled as canonical batteries



• Real-world plug-in times and charge lengths • 15 clusters (1-5 hours charge + 1-3 hours laxity) • PHEV demand = 10% of peak load • DA= Day Ahead • PJM market prices DA  $10/22/2013 \bullet \text{Real time}$ prices = adjustments cost20% more than DA • DA = LP + SAA with 50 random scenarios +tank model • RT = ILP + Certaintyequivalence + clustering

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### Proposed scheme

- Quantized Deferrable EV model
- Load following dispatch very closely when using our model



- Same setting
- DA = LP + Sample Average  $\approx \mathbb{E}\{a^q(t)\}$  (50 random scenarios) + clustering
- Real Time Control = ILP + Certainty equivalence + clustering

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## Regulation through TCL loads

### Regulation market:

- To participate the aggregator must be able to

  - O Hold the demand at that value for a certain duration  $\xi$  (follow the AGC signa)
- We evaluated  $\xi$  to be the 97 % quantile of the zero-crossing time from historical AGC signals (19 min. based on PJM signals)
- Capacity estimated for the population of 10000 home air conditioners is 2.05 MWs

$$M' = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} \min_{t} M^{q}(t)$$

where  $M^{q}(t)$  is the maximum deviation m from the baseline that a load in cluster q can tolerate at time t with 0.05m error (determined simulating the response of each cluster using  $\mathcal{L}^{q}(t)$ )

## Regulation through TCL loads

- Real Time the TCLs are controlled for 6 h based on *clustering deadlines* (60 clusters)
- Temperature is Jan 29th 2012 in Davis;
- $\Xi_i = \xi_i \sim U([2000, 4000])$  Btu/h,  $k_i = \sim U([50, 200])$  W/C,  $x_i^* \sim U([69, 75]), B_i \sim U([2, 4])$  F



# Pricing specific flexible uses



## Dynamically Designed Cluster-specific Incentives

- $\bullet\,$  Characteristics in  $\vartheta$  have 2 types: intrinsic and customer chosen
- We cluster appliances based on intrinsic characteristics
- Cu<br/>stomer picks operation mode m, e.g., laxity<br/>  $\chi$  based on price

We design a set of incentives  $c_m^{v,q}(t), m = 1, \dots, M^{v,q}$  for each cluster



[Alizadeh, Xiao, Scaglione, Van Der Schaar 2013], see also [Bitar, Xu 2013], [Kefayati, Baldick, 2011]

## The advantage of differentiating pricing...



Figure : Differentiated Pricing and Scheduling (top) and Dynamic Retail Pricing (bottom).

Both schemes harness a subset of the *true* flexibility of demand

 $\mathcal{L}^{DR}(t) \subseteq \mathcal{L}(t)$ 

## Incentive design

• Optimal posted prices? The closest approximation is the "optimal unit demand pricing" (modes are correlated)



- Independent incentive design problem for different categories vand clusters  $q \rightarrow$  Let's drop q, v for brevity
- Aggregator designs incentives:

$$\mathbf{c}(t) = [c_1(t), c_2(t), \dots, c_M(t)]^T,$$

• Customers respond by *arriving* in a cluster. The Aggregator profit depends on the *mode selection average probability*:

$$P_m(\mathbf{c}(t);t) = \frac{\mathbb{E}\{a_m(\mathbf{c}(t);t)\}}{|\mathcal{P}(t)|}$$
  

$$\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{c}(t);t) = [P_0(\mathbf{c}(t);t), \dots, P_M(\mathbf{c}(t);t)]^T \to \text{what we need}$$

## Modeling the customer's decision

Approaches to model  $\mathbf{p}(\mathbf{c}(t); t)$ ? (average probability that the aggregator posts  $\mathbf{c}(t)$  and a customer picks each mode m)



- Bayesian model-based method: rational customer good for simulations and theory
- Model-free learning method: customers may only be boundedly rational. We need to learn their response to prices

## The whole picture

Pricing Incentive design:

• Design incentives to recruit appliances

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- Forecast arrivals in clusters for different categories
- Make optimal market decisions based on forecasted flexibility



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### Pricing Incentive design:

• Design incentives to recruit appliances

### Planning:

- Forecast arrivals in clusters for different categories
- Make optimal market decisions based on forecasted flexibility

### Real-time:

- Observe arrivals in clusters
- Decide appliance schedules  $d^{q}(t)$  to optimize load



## Residential charging...

- Aggregator schedules 620 uninterruptible PHEV charging events
- Prices from New England ISO DA market Maine load zone on Sept 1st 2013
- How many do we recruit (out of 620) and with what flexibility?



• More savings in the evening...

## Welfare Effects in Retail Market

- Welfare generate via Direct Load Scheduling (DLS) vs. idealized Dynamic Pricing (marginal price passed directly to customer - no aggregator)
- Savings summed up across the 620 events (shown as a function of time of plug-in)



## Conclusion

- We have discussed an information, decision, control and market models for responsive loads
- These models allow to use high level data and convert them in models of load flexibility for mapping data into models and for scalable simulations
- Extension: Model **prosumers assets** such as distributed renewable resources, like roof-top solar



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