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# Coordinated active and reactive power operation of multiple dispersed resources for flexibility improvement

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The purpose of this paper is to reach the optimal active and reactive power operation of multiple dispersed resources consisting of mobile energy storage system (MESS), demand response (DR) and photovoltaic (PV), for flexibility improvement of distribution network with uncertain PV and DR, minimization of power loss and operation cost whilst satisfaction of both power factor and voltage variation requirement. Especially, the flexibility aspect of distribution network is focused due to its significance for supporting economic operation without voltage rise issue during high PVs integration. Firstly, the active and reactive power operation spaces of MESS and PV inverter are discussed under power factor constraint. Then, the stochastic characteristics of PV generation and DR of microgrids are investigated using probability distribution. After that, the optimization framework coordination with dispersed MESS, PV inverter and DR to ensure operational flexibility of distribution network is proposed. Finally, the total cost minimization based flexibility improvement approach is presented by optimizing power loss, uncertain risk, operation cost of distribution network and MESS, satisfying operation constraints of both distribution network and dispersed resources. Simulation results conducted on the IEEE 69-bus system demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed approach for PV accommodation, voltage quality improvement as well as peak load shaving.

## KEYWORDS

multiple dispersed resources, mobile energy storage, flexibility improvement, demand response, voltage regulation

## 1 Introduction

With concerning about issues of environmental emissions and depletion of fossil fuels, the solar photovoltaic (PV) has experienced rapid growth in the last decades. For instant, at the end of 2030, the global total installed capacity of PV estimated at roughly 3000 GW, about 2000 GW of which will be installed during 2020–2030 [Adib et al. \(2015\)](#). Generally, the maximum PV output happens with a low level of load demand, a high proportion PV integration might create reverse power flow in distribution network, and thus feeders are more likely to experience overvoltage problem, especially in weak distribution grids [Tonkoski et al. \(2012\)](#); [Li et al. \(2021\)](#). Besides, the reverse power flow will inevitably increase the power loss of weak distribution grids.

In the past few years, different kinds of approaches have been conducted to mitigate the undesirable voltage rise on the increasing of the proportion of PV integration in distribution network. The most effective strategy for handling voltage rise is grid reinforcement by increasing the radius of the feeder. However, the investment cost of this approach is very expensive

Shayani and de Oliveira (2011); Jiao et al. (2019). Another strategy to address voltage rise is using on-load tap changing transformers at the secondary winding. However, this strategy cannot well deal with the voltage rise at the terminal node of distribution network. Additionally, this strategy requires the tap to change frequently, which inevitably reduces the service life and in turn increases operational and maintenance cost of transformer Wang et al. (2012).

Recently, curtail active power or consume reactive power were investigated to address the voltage rise problem Demirok et al. (2011); Tonkoski et al. (2011). Although the active power curtailment is effective to regulate voltage rise, it may not be an economically attractive solution. Because this approach reduced the penetration level of the PV resource, and adversely affects on PV owner revenue Weckx et al. (2014). As for the approach to consume reactive power, it might bring additional power losses in feeders due to the higher current flows Cortés-Cacedo et al. (2021). In Liu et al. (2012), authors have discussed the limitations of the reactive power in addressing voltage rise. However, in some low voltage distribution grids, as the ratio of R/X is high, overconsume reactive power is not a good way to prevent overvoltage under a high PV penetration level. Therefore, investigate the optimal operation strategy of active and reactive generation of dispersed PVs is necessary. But, the optimal operation of dispersed PVs also faces the challenges of randomness and volatility of PV generation Jiao et al. (2021).

In the past few years, the concept of using energy storage system (ESS) to prevent overvoltage is a cost-effective method for the replacement of the power curtailment Hashemi and Østergaard (2018); Prabpal et al. (2021). Besides, the ESS also performs a good performance in shaving peak power as well as backup power. Moreover, smoothing the output changes of PV can be realized by ESS Kabir et al. (2014). In von Appen et al. (2014), the authors investigate several local control strategies for sizing the ESS in low voltage distribution grids. The intelligent charging/discharging strategies of the ESS have been discussed in Gao et al. (2021); Xiang et al. (2018) for mitigating voltage rise/drop problems. These strategies have been shown to be very robust with respect to overvoltage and have significant advantages of non-communication and high computation efficiency. The main issue for deploying ESS is the economic, which limits large-scale access to ESS. The dispersed PVs are installed at different locations of distribution network. This means that the voltage rise issue can occur at different locations, and it is not practical to install multiple distributed ESS to address this issue.

Mobile energy storage system (MESS) is with the advantage of transportability, and can realize the space-time transfer of energy. MESS has become a good alternative to the traditional ESS in addressing the voltage rise caused by the dispersed Qu et al. (2021); Jeon and Choi (2022). For example, the authors in Sun et al. (2021) proposed a two-stage MESS control strategy to relieve voltage violation. In addition to mitigating the voltage violation, the MESS can also reduce the investment, operating and emission cost in weak distribution grids with high PVs Ahmed et al. (2021). In Saboori and Jadid (2022), the authors investigated the optimal spatio-temporal scheduling of MESS in recovering the variable renewable energy. From the above discussion, MESS is a promising technology that will contribute to improve flexibility of distribution network with high PVs integration. However, few work in the literature studies the coordinated active and reactive power operation of dispersed MESS, PV inverters and demand response (DR). Moreover, most

of the studies in the literature on MESS ignore its reserve service for addressing the randomness and volatility of PV generation and DR.

In view of the above discussion, we propose a coordinated active and reactive power operation model of multiple dispersed resources for flexibility improvement, to address the voltage issue, power loss as well as randomness and volatility of PV generation and DR. In the model, the operation spaces of MESS and PV inverters are fully discussed considering power factor requirement. Then, the stochastic characteristics of PVs generation and DR of microgrids are studied by expected power not served (EPNS) and expected power curtailment (EPC). Finally, by optimizing power loss, demand response cost, and operation cost of both MESS and distribution network, the flexibility improvement based coordinated operation model is proposed and optimized by a novel evolutionary algorithm.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 gives the problem formulation. The operation characteristics of PV inverter and MESS are discussed in Section 3. The quantitative evaluation of uncertain PV and DR is developed in Section 4. The coordinated optimization model is presented in Section 5, Section 6, Section 7 present the experimental study and conclusion, respectively.

## 2 Problem formulation

In a low voltage distribution network, the ratio between resistance  $R$  and reactance  $X$  is relatively high, and a high proportion PV may cause voltage rise and drop during peak and off-peak PV generation. To analyze the scenario concerning voltage issue, an equivalent two-bus system with PV inverter is shown by Figure 1, which PV inverter denotes the solar power generation with active power  $P$  and reactive power  $Q$ .  $U$  denotes the magnitude of voltage phasor at point of common coupling (PCC),  $P_L$  and  $Q_L$  are respectively the active power and reactive power demand at PCC,  $\Delta P$  and  $\Delta Q$  are respectively the active and reactive power provided by PV inverter to power grid, and  $U_s$  represents the voltage magnitude. Then, we can easily derive the following relationships:

$$\begin{cases} \Delta P = P - P_L \\ \Delta Q = Q - Q_L \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

and magnitudes of the voltage at PCC without and with PV integration can be expressed by Eqs 2, 3, respectively

$$U_0 = U_s - \frac{P_L R + Q_L X}{U_0} \quad (2)$$

$$U = U_s + \frac{\Delta P R + \Delta Q X}{U} \quad (3)$$

thus, the voltage deviation at PCC with and without PV integration is

$$\Delta U = U - U_0 = \frac{PR + QX}{U} + (P_L R + Q_L X) \left( \frac{1}{U_0} - \frac{1}{U} \right) \quad (4)$$

note that the second item of Eq. 4 is much smaller than the first item Divshali and Söder (2017), and Eq. 4 can be rewritten into

$$\Delta U \approx \frac{PR + QX}{U} \quad (5)$$

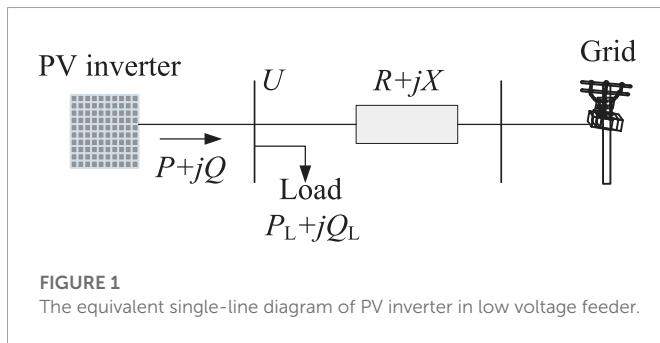


FIGURE 1 The equivalent single-line diagram of PV inverter in low voltage feeder.

Generally, in the case of the voltage of injecting node not exceed the bound, the PV is suggested to provide power to the line with an almost unity power factor. That is, the voltage deviation is mainly affected by the active power:

$$\Delta U \approx \frac{PR}{U} \tag{6}$$

Suppose  $\Delta U_{\max}$  denotes the maximum voltage deviation, corresponding to the maximum voltage  $U_{\max}$  and the maximum active power  $P_{\max}$ . If PV inverter's active power satisfies  $P' > P_{\max}$ , in order to prevent overvoltage, it requires active power curtailment or reactive power consumption, satisfying:

$$\Delta U_{\max} = \frac{P_{\max}R}{U_{\max}} = \frac{P'R - P_1R - Q_1X}{U_{\max}} \tag{7}$$

where

$$P_1R + Q_1X = (P' - P_{\max})R \tag{8}$$

On the other hand, suppose the minimum allowed voltage deviation is  $\Delta U_{\min}$ , corresponding to the minimum active power output of PV inverter,  $P_{\min}$ , and minimum voltage of PCC,  $U_{\min}$ . If the active power output of PV system  $P'' < P_{\min}$ , in order to prevent undervoltage, it requires active power injection or reactive power compensation, satisfying:

$$\Delta U_{\min} = \frac{P_{\min}R}{U_{\min}} = \frac{P''R + P_2R + Q_2X}{U_{\min}} \tag{9}$$

where

$$P_2R + Q_2X = (P_{\min} - P'')R \tag{10}$$

Thus, the problem of voltage rise and drop could be controlled by coordinating active and reactive power. Note that it is not allowed to curtail customer-owned PV power in certain counties, as in Denmark. In this paper, therefore, a coordinated operation framework for investigating the optimal MESS and PV inverter is developed to solve the voltage issue in a high-level PV integrated distribution network.

### 3 Operation characteristics of PV inverter and MESS

#### 3.1 PV inverter operation space

In this subsection, we will discuss the maximum allowed power output in the presence of overvoltage and undervoltage. As discussed

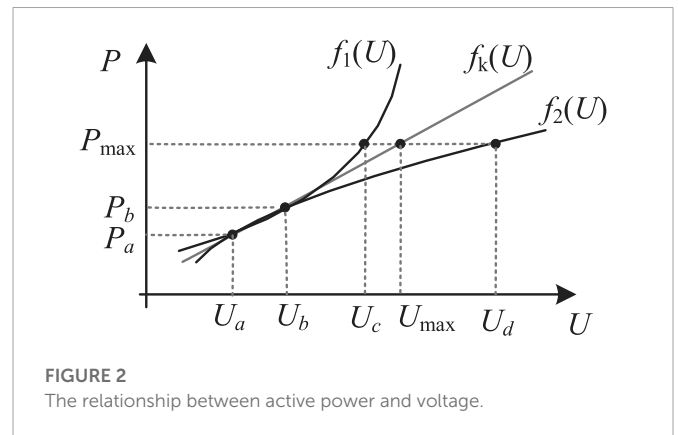


FIGURE 2 The relationship between active power and voltage.

in the above section, a high PV inverter penetration will cause voltage rise. Then, it is necessary to determine the maximum deliverable power limit to avoid overvoltage. Figure 2 gives two possible relationships between voltage and active power, which are described by  $f_1(U)$  and  $f_2(U)$ .

As shown by Figure 2, suppose  $(U_a, P_a)$  and  $(U_b, P_b)$  are two points on  $f_1(U)$  and  $f_2(U)$  at time  $t_a$  and  $t_b$ , respectively. Let  $\Delta t = t_b - t_a, t_b \rightarrow t_a$ , then the  $P-U$  curve can be expressed by  $f_k(U)$  approximately, where the slope factor  $k$  of  $f_k(U)$  is

$$k = \frac{P_b - P_a}{U_b - U_a} \tag{11}$$

Thus, the maximum active power  $P_{\max}$  corresponds to the maximum allowed voltage  $U_{\max}$  shown as follows

$$P_{\max} = k(U_{\max} - U_a) + P_a \tag{12}$$

In Figure 2,  $f_1(U)$  and  $f_2(U)$  are two possible curves between active power and voltage. In  $f_1(U)$ , it indicates that  $dU/dP > 0$ , and  $d^2U/dP^2 < 0$ ; while in  $f_2(U)$ , it implies that  $dU/dP < 0$ , and  $d^2U/dP^2 > 0$ . From the figure, we can reach that in  $f_1(U)$  the maximum active power  $P_{\max}$  corresponds to voltage  $U_c (< U_{\max})$ , which means the determined maximum active power by Eq. 12 satisfies voltage limitation; while in  $f_2(U)$  the maximum active power  $P_{\max}$  corresponds to voltage  $U_d (> U_{\max})$ , which indicates Eq. 12 cannot be used for  $f_2(U)$  to determine the maximum active power.

Actually, according to Eq. 5, we can derive the following equations:

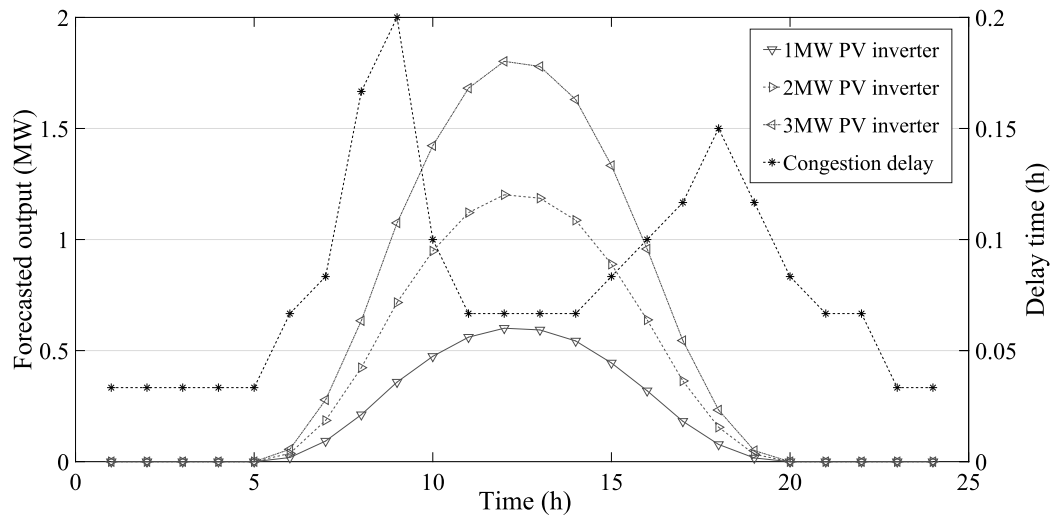
$$\begin{cases} \frac{dU}{dP} = \frac{R}{U + \Delta U} = \frac{R}{U_0 + 2\Delta U} > 0 \\ \frac{d^2U}{dP^2} = \frac{-2R^2}{(U + \Delta U)^3} = \frac{-2R^2}{(U_0 + 2\Delta U)^3} < 0 \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

therefore, the relationship between voltage and active power illustrated by  $f_2(U)$  does not exist and Eq. 12 can be used to investigate  $f_1(U)$ . The upper limit of active power in distribution grid from PV inverter can be expressed as

$$P^{\text{PV,max}} = \min \{P_{\max}, P_{\text{MPPT}}\} \tag{14}$$

where  $P_{\text{MPPT}}$  denotes the maximum tracked power of the PV inverter.

Given apparent power  $S^{\text{PV}}$  of PV inverter, the operating space of the inverter is  $\{(P^{\text{PV}}, Q^{\text{PV}}): 0 \leq P^{\text{PV}} \leq S^{\text{PV}}, |Q^{\text{PV}}| \leq \sqrt{S^{\text{PV}2} - P^{\text{PV}2}}\}$ . Besides, if the allowed power factor belongs to  $(0, C_{\text{PV}})$ , then the



**FIGURE 3**  
Hourly output of PV inverter and traffic congestion delay time of MESS.

reactive power of PV inverter is constrained  $|Q^{PV}| \leq P^{PV} \sqrt{1/C_{PV}^2 - 1}$ , and the maximum allowed reactive power of PV inverter satisfies:

$$Q^{PV,max} = \min \left\{ \sqrt{S^{PV^2} - P^{PV,max^2}}, P^{PV,max} \sqrt{1/C_{PV}^2 - 1} \right\} \quad (15)$$

### 3.2 Operation characteristic of MESS

The temporal-spatial characteristic is a commonly used modeling method for transportation network, which has been successfully employed to address vehicle routing and scheduling in power system optimizing problem (Qu et al., 2021). In this paper, this method is developed to simulate temporal-spatial charging/discharging of MESS in distribution network. All possible transportation routes of MESS are modeled by moving arcs and holding arcs. The moving arcs represents a movement associated with a spatial and time location. As for the holding arcs, it indicates that MESS is with the charging/discharging service during the operation period.

Suppose  $m$  and  $n$  are two nodes of distribution network, the transportation time  $\zeta_{n,m}(t)$  between these two nodes can be modeled as Abdeltawab and Mohamed (2017):

$$\zeta_{n,m}(t) = \begin{cases} k_{\text{delay}}(t) + D_{n,m}/v_{\text{MESS}} + \epsilon_{\text{MESS}}^{\text{ins}}, n \neq m \\ 0, n = m \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where  $k_{\text{delay}}(t)$  denotes the traffic congestion delay during time  $t$ ,  $D_{n,m}$  represents the traveling distance between nodes  $m$  and  $n$ ,  $v_{\text{MESS}}$  is the transportation speed of MESS and  $\epsilon_{\text{MESS}}^{\text{ins}}$  represents the required installation time.

Equation 16 indicates that MESS departing from node  $m$  at time  $t$  cannot move to destination node  $n$  until time  $t + \zeta_{m,n}(t)$ . Here,  $u_{\text{MESS}}(t) \in \{0, 1\}$  is the binary variable, which is defined as the indicator of MESS state, where  $u_{\text{MESS}}(t) = 1$  means that MESS is in the charging/discharging state during time  $t$ , while  $u_{\text{MESS}}(t) = 0$  represents

that MESS is in the transportation state during time  $t$ .  $\zeta_{m,n}(t)$  denotes the time period required to transport from nodes  $m$  to  $n$  at time  $t$ . Thus, the relationship between  $u_{\text{MESS}}(t)$  and  $\zeta_{m,n}(t)$  satisfies:

$$u_{\text{MESS}}(t) + \frac{1}{N \cdot \Gamma} \sum_{0 \leq \delta_{n,m}(t) \leq \zeta_{n,m}(t)} \sum_{m \neq n} u_{\text{MESS}}(t + \delta_{n,m}(t)) \leq 1, \quad \forall n, \forall m \quad (17)$$

where  $N$  is the node number,  $\Gamma = \max\{\zeta_{n,m}(t)\}$ , and  $\delta_{n,m}(t) \in \{0, 1, \dots, \zeta_{n,m}(t)\}$ .

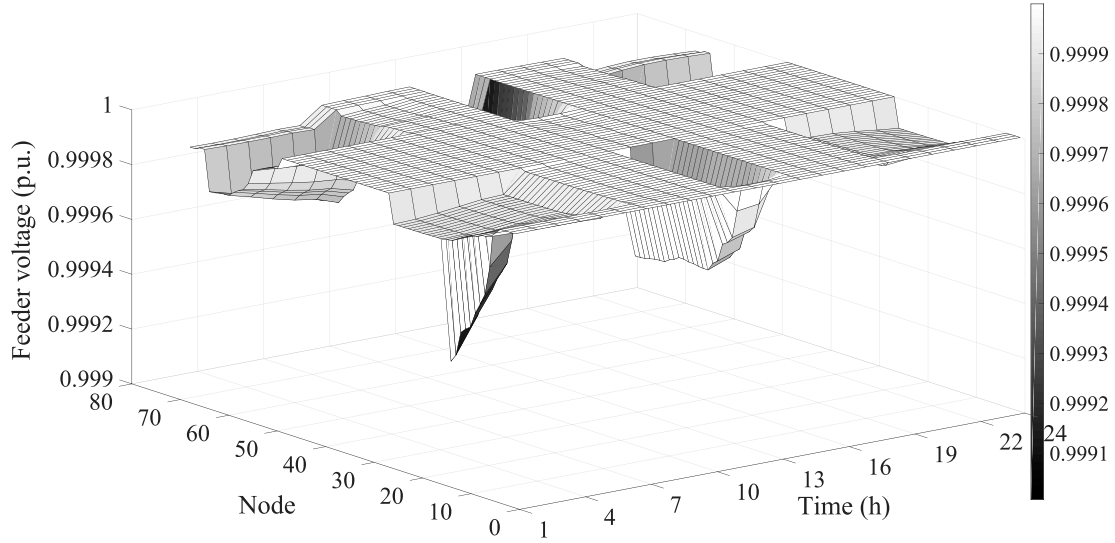
Based on Eq. 17, the transit-time matrix  $M$  of MESS can be formulated by Dijkstra's algorithm (Kwon et al., 2019):

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{Y}_1^1 & \mathbf{Y}_2^1 & \dots & \mathbf{Y}_\Gamma^1 & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{Y}_1^2 & \mathbf{Y}_2^2 & \dots & \mathbf{Y}_\Gamma^2 & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} & \dots & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{Y}_1^{\Gamma-1} \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

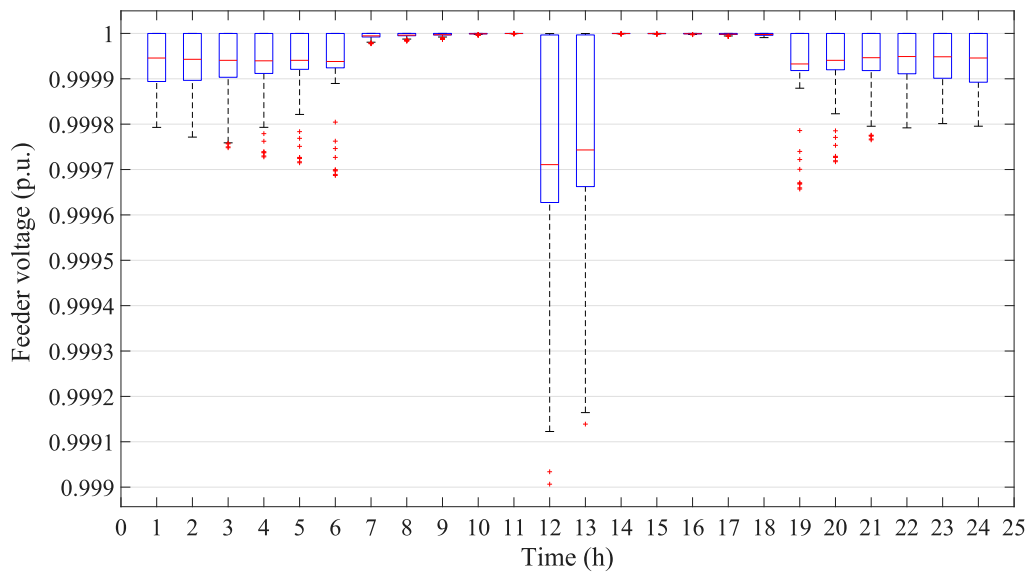
where

$$\mathbf{Y}_\tau^t = \frac{1}{N \cdot \Gamma} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & y_{\tau,1,2}^t & \dots & y_{\tau,1,N}^t \\ y_{\tau,2,1}^t & 0 & \dots & y_{\tau,2,N}^t \\ \vdots & \vdots & y_{\tau,n,m}^t & \vdots \\ y_{\tau,N,1}^t & y_{\tau,N,2}^t & \dots & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \forall \tau \in \{0, 1, \dots, \zeta_{n,m}(t) \dots, \Gamma\} \quad (19)$$

$$y_{\tau,n,m}^t \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \forall n, \forall m, \forall t, 0 \leq \tau \leq \Gamma \quad (20)$$



**FIGURE 4**  
The feeder voltage of the test system over 24-h.



**FIGURE 5**  
The feeder voltage box of the test system over 24-h.

$\mathbf{I}$  and  $\mathbf{0}$  are respectively the identity matrix and zero matrix,  $T$  is the daily dispatching periods, and  $y_{\tau,n,m}^t$  is a binary variable, satisfying  $y_{\tau,n,m}^t = 1$  when  $0 \leq \tau \leq \zeta_{n,m}(t)$ ; otherwise,  $y_{\tau,n,m}^t = 0$ .

In the whole dispatching period, the MESS should satisfy the following operation constraints:

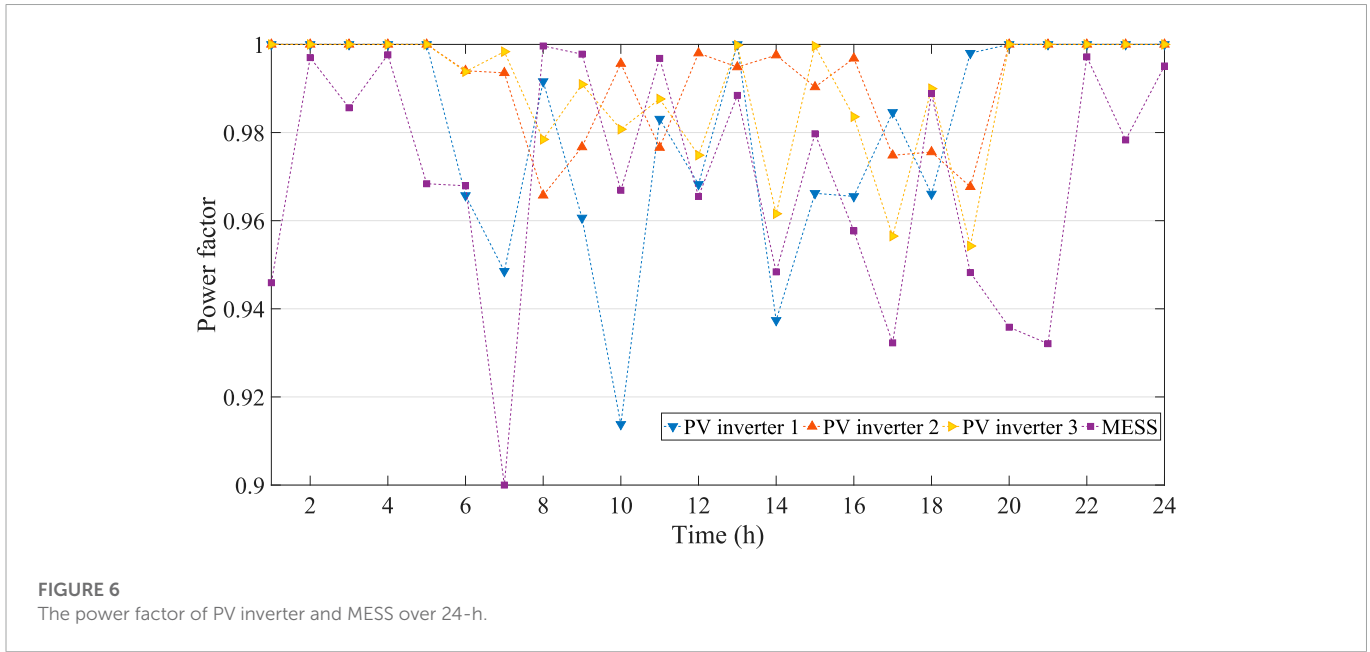
$$SOE(0) = SOE(T) \tag{21a}$$

$$SOC_{\min} \leq SOC(t) = \frac{SOE(t)}{E_{MESS}} \leq SOC_{\max} \tag{21b}$$

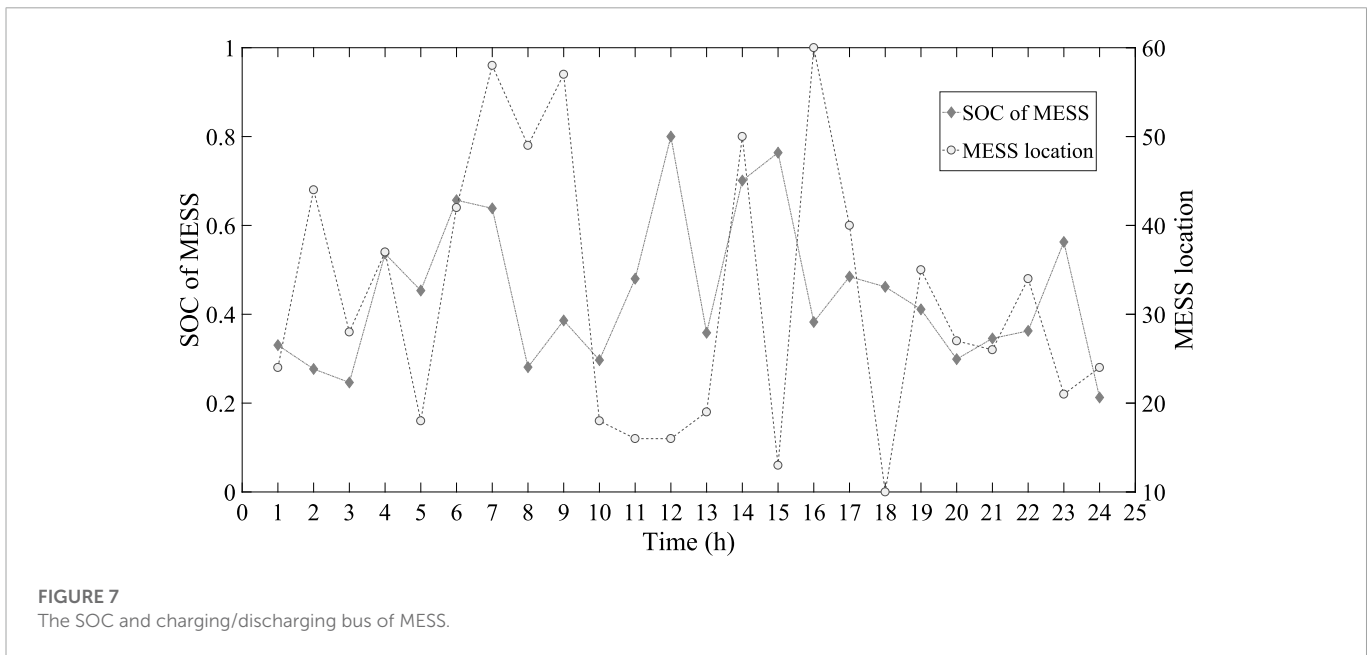
$$E_{MESS} = \frac{SOE_{\max} - SOE_{\min}}{SOC_{\max} - SOC_{\min}} \tag{21c}$$

$$SOE(t) = SOE(t-1) + (1 - u_{MESS}(t)) P_{MESS}^{ch,t} \eta_{MESS}^{ch} + \frac{u_{MESS}(t) P_{MESS}^{dch,t}}{\eta_{MESS}^{dch}} \tag{21d}$$

$$|P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}| \leq P_{MESS}^{\max} \tag{21e}$$



**FIGURE 6**  
The power factor of PV inverter and MESS over 24-h.



**FIGURE 7**  
The SOC and charging/discharging bus of MESS.

Equation 21a describes the MESS available energy at the start and end time which should be equal, where  $SOE(0)$  and  $SOE(T)$  are respectively the state of energy (SOE) at start and end time; Eq. 21b denotes the state of charge (SOC) of MESS,  $SOC(t)$  denotes the state of the charge at time  $t$ ,  $E_{MESS}$  is the capacity of MESS, and  $SOC_{max}$  and  $SOC_{min}$  denote the maximum and minimum SOC, respectively; Eq. 21c is employed to determine the capacity of MESS, where  $SOE_{max}$  and  $SOE_{min}$  indicate the maximum and minimum SOE, respectively; Eq. 21d denotes the relationship between charging/discharging power and SOE during time  $t$ , where  $\eta_{MESS}^{ch/dch}$  and  $P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}$  are respectively the charging/discharging efficiency and power; Eq. 21e represents the maximum power constraint, where  $P_{MESS}^{max}$  denotes the maximum charging/discharging power of MESS.

As for MESS, if the allowed power factor is  $C_{MESS}$ , then the operating space is represented as:

$$\left( P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}, Q_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t} \right) \in \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{|P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}|}{\sqrt{\left( P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t} \right)^2 + \left( Q_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t} \right)^2}} \\ \geq C_{MESS}, \left( P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t} \right)^2 + \left( Q_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t} \right)^2 \leq E_{MESS}^2 \end{array} \right\} \quad (22)$$

where  $Q_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}$  represents reactive power of MESS during time  $t$ .

**TABLE 1** The optimal hourly time-of-use price, charging/discharging power of MESS, output of PV inverter, DR and power loss obtained by the proposed method.

| Time | Time-of-use price         |                             | MESS                          |                                 | PV inverter         |                       | DR                  |                       | Power loss            |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|      | $\lambda_p(t)$<br>(\$/MW) | $\lambda_Q(t)$<br>(\$/MVar) | $P_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}$<br>(MW) | $Q_{MESS}^{ch/dch,t}$<br>(MVar) | $P^{PV}(t)$<br>(MW) | $Q^{PV}(t)$<br>(MVar) | $P^{DR}(t)$<br>(MW) | $Q^{DR}(t)$<br>(MVar) | $P^{Loss}(t)$<br>(MW) |
| 1    | 261.80                    | 70.43                       | -0.2970                       | 0.1019                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1260              | 0.0705                | 0.1563                |
| 2    | 366.47                    | 67.18                       | 0.1096                        | 0.0085                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1257              | 0.0704                | 0.1545                |
| 3    | 281.64                    | 54.62                       | 0.0620                        | 0.0106                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1256              | 0.0703                | 0.1542                |
| 4    | 349.29                    | 70.68                       | -0.7310                       | 0.0502                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1255              | 0.0702                | 0.1560                |
| 5    | 281.71                    | 63.36                       | 0.1696                        | -0.0437                         | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1255              | 0.0702                | 0.1539                |
| 6    | 220                       | 44                          | -0.5129                       | -0.1331                         | 0.1056              | -0.0047               | -0.0204             | -0.0055               | 0.1792                |
| 7    | 220                       | 44                          | 0.0375                        | 0.0182                          | 0.7780              | 0.0897                | -0.0205             | -0.0055               | 0.1260                |
| 8    | 220                       | 44                          | 0.7300                        | -0.0196                         | 1.4408              | 0.3093                | -0.0206             | -0.0055               | 0.0692                |
| 9    | 144.98                    | 9.67                        | -0.2650                       | -0.0177                         | 2.3741              | 0.4567                | -0.1329             | -0.1422               | 0.0711                |
| 10   | 135.21                    | 7.52                        | 0.7883                        | 0.2081                          | 3.4978              | -0.2213               | -0.1334             | -0.1428               | 0.0564                |
| 11   | 99.75                     | 8.98                        | -1.2103                       | -0.0967                         | 3.3730              | 0.1825                | -0.1337             | -0.1430               | 0.0640                |
| 12   | 52.19                     | 3.20                        | -0.8066                       | 0.2176                          | 4.2253              | -0.3976               | -0.1337             | -0.1431               | 0.0590                |
| 13   | 80.55                     | 0.04                        | 0.9020                        | -0.1384                         | 4.4378              | 0.0744                | -0.1337             | -0.1430               | 0.0391                |
| 14   | 84.36                     | 0.10                        | -0.8638                       | 0.2888                          | 3.2589              | -1.489                | -0.1337             | -0.1431               | 0.0919                |
| 15   | 121.66                    | 0.04                        | -0.1584                       | 0.0324                          | 3.7228              | .3811                 | -0.1337             | -0.1431               | 0.1027                |
| 16   | 220                       | 44                          | 0.7786                        | -0.2340                         | 2.5821              | 0.0869                | -0.0208             | -0.0056               | 0.0366                |
| 17   | 220                       | 44                          | -0.2576                       | 0.1000                          | 1.3624              | 0.0309                | -0.0208             | -0.0056               | 0.0917                |
| 18   | 220                       | 44                          | 0.0468                        | 0.0070                          | .4660               | -0.100                | -.0208              | -0.0056               | 0.1652                |
| 19   | 368.22                    | 50.24                       | 0.1035                        | -0.0347                         | .1053               | -0.233                | 0.1278              | 0.0715                | 0.1553                |
| 20   | 324.05                    | 50.04                       | 0.2289                        | 0.0862                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1277              | 0.0715                | 0.1610                |
| 21   | 339.82                    | 49.47                       | -0.1175                       | 0.0457                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1277              | 0.0715                | 0.1595                |
| 22   | 321.09                    | 59.36                       | -0.0428                       | 0.0032                          | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1278              | 0.0715                | 0.1595                |
| 23   | 266.02                    | 57.08                       | -0.5047                       | -0.1068                         | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1274              | 0.0713                | 0.1733                |
| 24   | 356.23                    | 54.54                       | 0.7148                        | .0710                           | 0                   | 0                     | 0.1265              | 0.0708                | 0.1680                |

### 4 Quantitative evaluation of uncertain PV and DR

As stated by Zhang et al. (2019); Chen et al. (2017b), the forecasting errors of PV generation and DR always exist, and thus the forecasting errors should be considered in distribution network scheduling with high proportion PV penetration by using Gaussian distribution Preda et al. (2018); Chen et al. (2017a).

Without loss of generality, at a specified time period, we assume that there are two nodes installed PV inverters and two nodes participated in DR. Here, the forecasting errors of PV inverter and DR are assumed to follow multivariate normal distribution, i.e.,  $\Delta P^{PV} = (\Delta P^{PV,1}, \Delta P^{PV,2}) \sim N(0, B^{PV})$ , and  $\Delta P^{DR} = (\Delta P^{DR,1}, \Delta P^{DR,2}) \sim N(0, B^{DR})$ , where  $\Delta P^{PV}$  and  $\Delta P^{DR}$  represent the forecasting error vectors of PV inverter and DR, respectively and  $B^{PV} = Cov(\Delta P^{PV})_{2 \times 2}$  and  $B^{DR} = Cov(\Delta P^{DR})_{2 \times 2}$  are respectively the covariance matrixes with respected to the error vector  $\Delta P^{PV}$  and  $\Delta P^{DR}$ . Then, the actual output of PV inverter  $P^{PV} = (P^{PV,1}, P^{PV,2})$ , and actual DR power  $P^{DR} = (P^{DR,1}, P^{DR,2})$  can be expressed according to

the forecasting value and the standard deviation as follows:

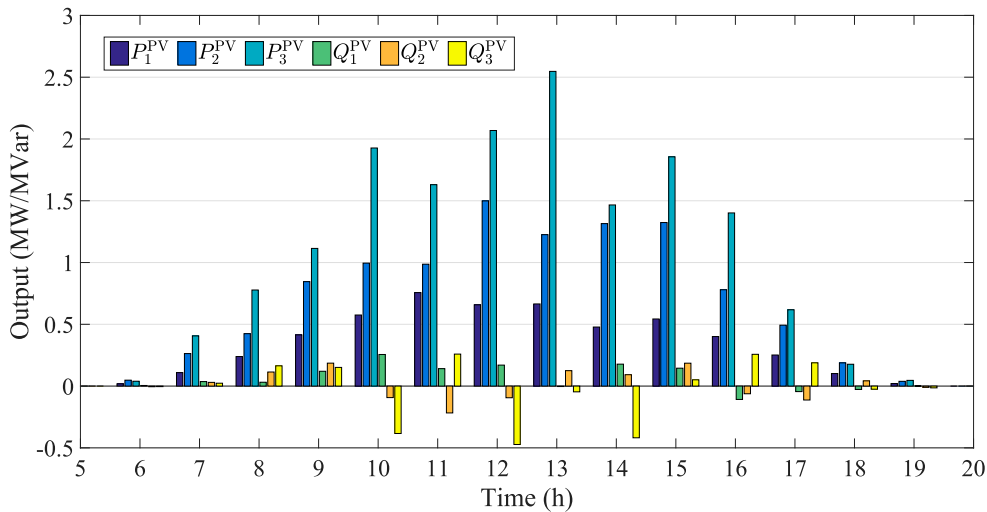
$$P^{PV} = \mu^{PV} + \Delta P^{PV}, P^{DR} = \mu^{DR} + \Delta P^{DR} \tag{23}$$

where  $\mu^{PV} = (\mu^{PV,1}, \mu^{PV,2})$  and  $\mu^{DR} = (\mu^{DR,1}, \mu^{DR,2})$  are respectively the forecasting value vectors of PV inverter and DR.

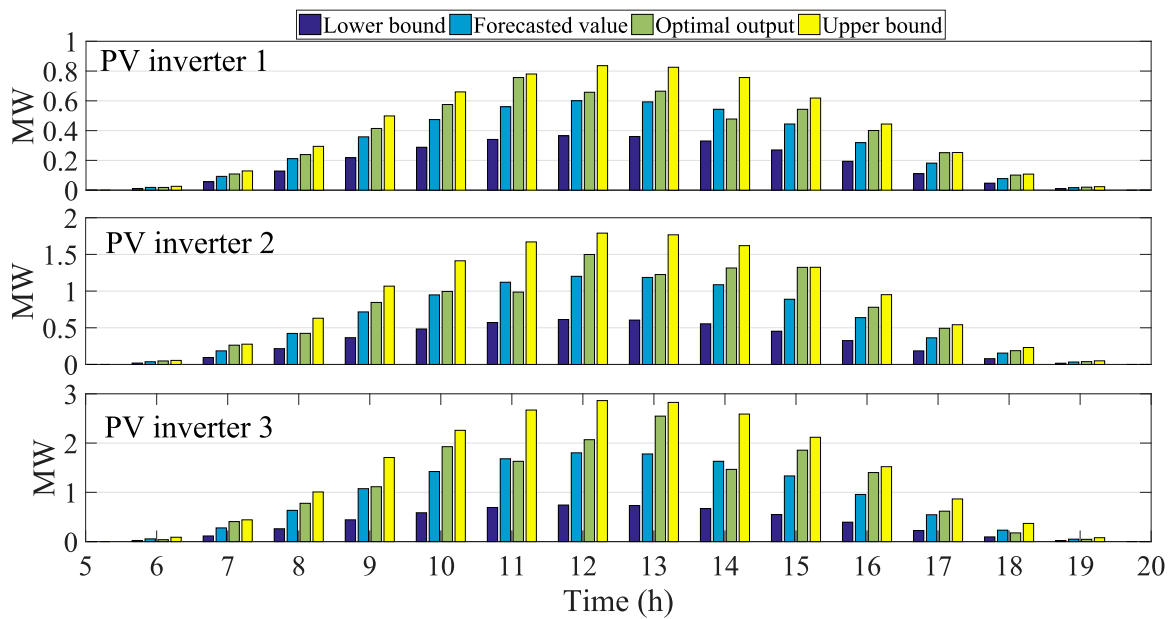
Then, let  $\phi(P^{PV})$  and  $\phi(P^{DR})$  represents the joint probability density (JPD) functions of PV inverter and DR, respectively. Then,  $\forall x \in (0, P^{PV,i}), i \in \{1, 2\}$ , the expected power not served (EPNS) of PV inverter can be evaluated by Eq. 24:

$$P_{EPNS}^{PV,i} = \int_0^{P^{PV,i}} (P^{PV,i} - x) \phi(x) dx \tag{24}$$

where  $P_{EPNS}^{PV,i}$  denotes the EPNS value of the  $i$ th PV. Suppose the actual reactive power outputs of PV is  $Q^{PV} = (Q^{PV,1}, Q^{PV,2})$ . The Jacobi



**FIGURE 8**  
The optimal active and reactive power of PV inverter.



**FIGURE 9**  
The optimal output, forecasted value, and lower and upper bound of PV inverter over 24-h.

determinant associated with  $Q^{PV}$  can be expressed as follows:

$$J(Q^{PV,1}, Q^{PV,2}) = \begin{vmatrix} \frac{\partial P^{PV,1}}{\partial Q^{PV,1}} & \frac{\partial P^{PV,1}}{\partial Q^{PV,2}} \\ \frac{\partial P^{PV,2}}{\partial Q^{PV,1}} & \frac{\partial P^{PV,2}}{\partial Q^{PV,2}} \end{vmatrix} = \frac{Q^{PV,1} Q^{PV,2}}{\sqrt{(P^{PV,1}/C_{PV,1})^2 - (Q^{PV,1})^2} \sqrt{(P^{PV,2}/C_{PV,2})^2 - (Q^{PV,2})^2}} \quad (25)$$

given as:

$$Q_{EPNS}^{PV,i} = \int_0^{Q^{PV,i}} (Q^{PV,i} - x) \phi(x) |J(x)| dx \quad (26)$$

Let  $P_{EPC}^{PV,i}$  and  $Q_{EPC}^{PV,i}$  denote the expected power curtailment (EPC) of active and reactive power of  $i$ th PV under uncertainty, respectively, and their expressions can be easily derived and shown by Eqs 27, 28, respectively.

$$P_{EPC}^{PV,i} = \int_{P^{PV,i}}^{\infty} (x - P^{PV,i}) \phi(x) dx \quad (27)$$

and the JPD function of  $Q^{PV} = (Q^{PV,1}, Q^{PV,2})$  is  $\phi(Q^{PV})|J(Q^{PV,1}, Q^{PV,2})|$ . Accordingly, the EPNS associated with PV reactive power is



$$Q_{EPC}^{PV,i} = \int_{Q^{PV,i}}^{\infty} (x - Q^{PV,i}) \phi(x) |J(x)| dx \quad (28)$$

Similar to PV inverter,  $\forall y \in (0, P^{DR,j}), j \in \{1, 2\}$ , the EPNS and EPC of  $j$ th DR considering response error can be derived by the following equations:

$$P_{EPNS}^{DR,j} = \int_0^{P^{DR,j}} (P^{DR,j} - y) \phi(y) dy \quad (29)$$

$$Q_{EPNS}^{DR,j} = \int_0^{Q^{DR,j}} (Q^{DR,j} - y) \phi(y) |J(y)| dy \quad (30)$$

$$P_{EPC}^{DR,j} = \int_{P^{DR,j}}^{\infty} (y - P^{DR,j}) \phi(y) dy \quad (31)$$

$$Q_{EPC}^{DR,j} = \int_{Q^{DR,j}}^{\infty} (y - Q^{DR,j}) \phi(y) |J(y)| dy \quad (32)$$

where  $P_{EPNS}^{DR,j}$  and  $Q_{EPNS}^{DR,j}$  denote the  $j$ th DR's active and reactive power EPNS values, respectively, and  $P_{EPC}^{DR,j}$  and  $Q_{EPC}^{DR,j}$  represent the  $j$ th DR' active and reactive power EPC values, respectively.  $Q^{DR} = (Q^{DR,1}, Q^{DR,2})$  represents the actual reactive power response, and the JPD function of  $Q^{DR}$  is  $\phi(Q^{DR})|J(Q^{DR,1}, Q^{DR,2})|$ .

## 5 Proposed optimization model

On the one hand, a high penetration of PV will contribute to distribution network to reduce the pollution emission and operation cost [Chen et al. \(2017a, 2020\)](#). However, the distribution network will inevitably experience the voltage issue and power loss problems. On the other hand, though coordination operation can efficiently mitigate voltage issue, the PV inverter and MESS face the challenges of power factor requirement and forecasting uncertainty. To well describe the issues of security and economic, in the proposed active and reactive coordination optimization model, flexibility objectives associated with power loss, EENS and EEC of PV inverter and DR, and operation cost of MESS and distribution network are considered under various of practical security constraints, which aims to minimize the power loss and operation cost in the predefined dispersed resources physical limits, voltage level as well as power factor requirement.

Suppose the scheduling time interval is  $T$ , and the numbers of PV inverter, DR user and MESS are respectively  $N^{PV}$ ,  $N^{DR}$  and  $N^{MESS}$ . The optimization objective  $F$  is formulated as follows:

$$F = \sum_{t=1}^T \lambda_p(t) \left( P^{Load,0}(t) + P^{Loss}(t) - \sum_{i=1}^{N^{PV}} P_i^{PV}(t) - \sum_{j=1}^{N^{DR}} P_j^{DR}(t) - \sum_{k=1}^{N^{MESS}} \left( P_{MESS,k}^{dch,t} \eta_{MESS}^{dch} - \frac{P_{MESS,k}^{ch,t}}{\eta_{MESS}^{ch}} \right) \right) \quad (33a)$$

$$+ \sum_{t=1}^T \lambda_Q(t) \left( Q^{Load,0}(t) - \sum_{i=1}^{N^{PV}} Q_i^{PV}(t) - \sum_{j=1}^{N^{DR}} Q_j^{DR}(t) - \sum_{k=1}^{N^{MESS}} \left( Q_{MESS,k}^{dch,t} - Q_{MESS,k}^{ch,t} \right) \right) \quad (33b)$$

$$+ \sum_{t=1}^T \left( (\lambda_{p0}(t) P^{Load,0}(t) - \lambda_p(t) P^{Load}(t)) + (\lambda_{Q0}(t) Q^{Load,0}(t) - \lambda_Q(t) Q^{Load}(t)) \right) \quad (33c)$$

$$+ \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \lambda_P^{\max} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N^{PV}} P_{EPNS}^{PV,i}(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{N^{DR}} P_{EPNS}^{DR,j}(t) \right) + \lambda_Q^{\max} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N^{PV}} Q_{EPNS}^{PV,i}(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{N^{DR}} Q_{EPNS}^{DR,j}(t) \right) \right) \quad (33d)$$

$$- \sum_{t=1}^T \left( \lambda_P^{\min} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N^{PV}} P_{EPC}^{PV,i}(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{N^{DR}} P_{EPC}^{DR,j}(t) \right) + \lambda_Q^{\min} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N^{PV}} Q_{EPC}^{PV,i}(t) + \sum_{j=1}^{N^{DR}} Q_{EPC}^{DR,j}(t) \right) \right) \quad (33e)$$

$$+ \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{k=1}^{N^{MESS}} (\lambda_{FC}(1 - u_{MESS,k}(t)) D_k(t) + \lambda_{MC}(P_{MESS,k}^{ch,t} + P_{MESS,k}^{dch,t})) + C_{LC} \quad (33f)$$

where (Eq. 33a) represents the active power cost,  $\lambda_p(t)$  is the active power time-of-use price,  $P^{Load,0}(t)$  denotes the active power demand without implementing DR at time  $t$ , and  $P^{Loss}(t)$  represents power loss of distribution network; (Eq. 33b) denotes the reactive power cost,  $\lambda_Q(t)$  is the reactive power time-of-use price at time  $t$ ,  $Q^{Load,0}(t)$  denotes the reactive power demand without implementing DR at time  $t$ ; (Eq. 33c) denotes the cost of implementing DR,  $\lambda_{p0}(t)$  and  $\lambda_{Q0}(t)$  are respectively the active and reactive power price without implementing DR at time  $t$ ,  $P^{Load}(t)$  and  $Q^{Load}(t)$  represent active and reactive load demand after DR, respectively; (Eq. 33d) represents reserve requirement cost to address the forecasting errors of PV inverter and DR,  $\lambda_P^{\max}$  and  $\lambda_Q^{\max}$  are the active and reactive power reserve cost coefficients, respectively, which are set to the maximum active and reactive power time-of-use price; (Eq. 33e) represents the EEC cost of PV inverter and DR, denoting the revenue by injecting power to the upper grid, and  $\lambda_P^{\min}$  and  $\lambda_Q^{\min}$  are respectively the minimum time-of-use price of active power and reactive power; (Eq. 33f) represents the transportation cost of MESS,  $\lambda_{FC}$  is the fuel cost during driving,  $D_k(t)$  is the transportation distance of  $k$ th MESS during time  $t$ , and  $C_{LC}$  denotes the truck labor cost of all MESS.

Besides the active and reactive power feasible areas of PV inverter and MESS discussed in [Section 3](#), constraints of the proposed coordination scheduling are also constrained by the following constraints.

$$P_i^{Load}(t) + P_{MESS,i}^{ch}(t) / \eta_{MESS}^{ch} - P_i^{PV}(t) - P_{MESS,i}^{dch}(t) \eta_{MESS}^{dch} = U_{i,t} \sum_{j=1}^N Y_{ij} U_{j,t} \cos(\delta_{i,t} - \delta_{j,t} - \theta_{ij}) \quad (34)$$

$$Q_i^{Load}(t) + Q_{MESS,i}^{ch}(t) / \eta_{MESS}^{ch} - Q_i^{PV}(t) - Q_{MESS,i}^{dch}(t) \eta_{MESS}^{dch} = U_{i,t} \sum_{j=1}^N Y_{ij} U_{j,t} \sin(\delta_{i,t} - \delta_{j,t} - \theta_{ij}) \quad (35)$$

$$U^{\min} \leq U_{i,t} \leq U^{\max} \quad (36)$$

$$|S_{i,t}| \leq S_i^{\max} \quad (37)$$

Equations 34, 35 are respectively power balance constraints of distribution grid, where  $P_i^{Load}(t)$  and  $Q_i^{Load}(t)$  denote the injected

TABLE 2 The hourly EPNS and EPC of PV inverter and DR.

| Time | EPNS of PV inverter        |                              | EPC of PV inverter        |                             | EPNS of DR                 |                              | EPC of DR                 |                             |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
|      | $P_{EPNS}^{PV}(t)$<br>(MW) | $Q_{EPNS}^{PV}(t)$<br>(MVar) | $P_{EPC}^{PV}(t)$<br>(MW) | $Q_{EPC}^{PV}(t)$<br>(MVar) | $P_{EPNS}^{DR}(t)$<br>(MW) | $Q_{EPNS}^{DR}(t)$<br>(MVar) | $P_{EPC}^{DR}(t)$<br>(MW) | $Q_{EPC}^{DR}(t)$<br>(MVar) |
| 1    | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0220                     | 8.33e-5                      | 0.0192                    | 0.0002                      |
| 2    | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0225                     | 8.51e-5                      | 0.0189                    | 0.0002                      |
| 3    | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0220                     | 8.32e-5                      | 0.0191                    | 0.0002                      |
| 4    | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0223                     | 8.42e-5                      | 0.0193                    | 0.0002                      |
| 5    | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0222                     | 8.38e-5                      | 0.0192                    | 0.0002                      |
| 6    | 0.0047                     | 1.58e-12                     | 0.1945                    | 3.57e-9                     | 0.0006                     | 2.15e-10                     | 0.0902                    | 1.52e-7                     |
| 7    | 0.0754                     | 3.41e-9                      | 0.0897                    | 1.02e-6                     | 0.0006                     | 2.15e-10                     | 0.0894                    | 1.54e-7                     |
| 8    | 0.1071                     | 4.01e-7                      | 0.0792                    | 2.35e-5                     | 0.0006                     | 2.10e-10                     | 0.0870                    | 1.50e-7                     |
| 9    | 0.1184                     | 1.09e-6                      | 0.0550                    | 0.0001                      | 0.0211                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1802                    | 0.0003                      |
| 10   | 0.1618                     | 1.95e-6                      | 0.0461                    | 0.0001                      | 0.0210                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1782                    | 0.0003                      |
| 11   | 0.0821                     | 5.59e-7                      | 0.0434                    | 0.0002                      | 0.0210                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1788                    | 0.0003                      |
| 12   | 0.1314                     | 3.21e-07                     | 0.0392                    | 0.0001                      | 0.0207                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1781                    | 0.0003                      |
| 13   | 0.1581                     | 1.36e-10                     | 0.0437                    | 3.08e-07                    | 0.0209                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1786                    | 0.0003                      |
| 14   | 0.0944                     | 5.15e-07                     | 0.0556                    | 0.0002                      | 0.0205                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1758                    | 0.0003                      |
| 15   | 0.2079                     | 1.53e-07                     | 0.0398                    | 6.19e-05                    | 0.0210                     | 0.0029                       | 0.1787                    | 0.0003                      |
| 16   | 0.1840                     | 9.50e-07                     | 0.0517                    | 1.91e-05                    | 0.0006                     | 2.19e-10                     | 0.0890                    | 1.51e-07                    |
| 17   | 0.1047                     | 9.95e-07                     | 0.0668                    | 1.06e-05                    | 0.0006                     | 2.12e-10                     | 0.0876                    | 1.48e-07                    |
| 18   | 0.0273                     | 5.25e-09                     | 0.1201                    | 5.18e-07                    | 0.0006                     | 2.14e-10                     | 0.0883                    | 1.49E-07                    |
| 19   | 0.0049                     | 1.23e-11                     | 0.1965                    | 5.97e-09                    | 0.0224                     | 8.46e-05                     | 0.0188                    | 0.0002                      |
| 20   | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0227                     | 8.58e-05                     | 0.0192                    | 0.0003                      |
| 21   | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0228                     | 8.62e-05                     | 0.0190                    | 0.0003                      |
| 22   | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0226                     | 8.55e-05                     | 0.0190                    | 0.0002                      |
| 23   | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0225                     | 8.52e-05                     | 0.0190                    | 0.0002                      |
| 24   | 0                          | 0                            | 0                         | 0                           | 0.0223                     | 8.45e-05                     | 0.0189                    | 0.0002                      |

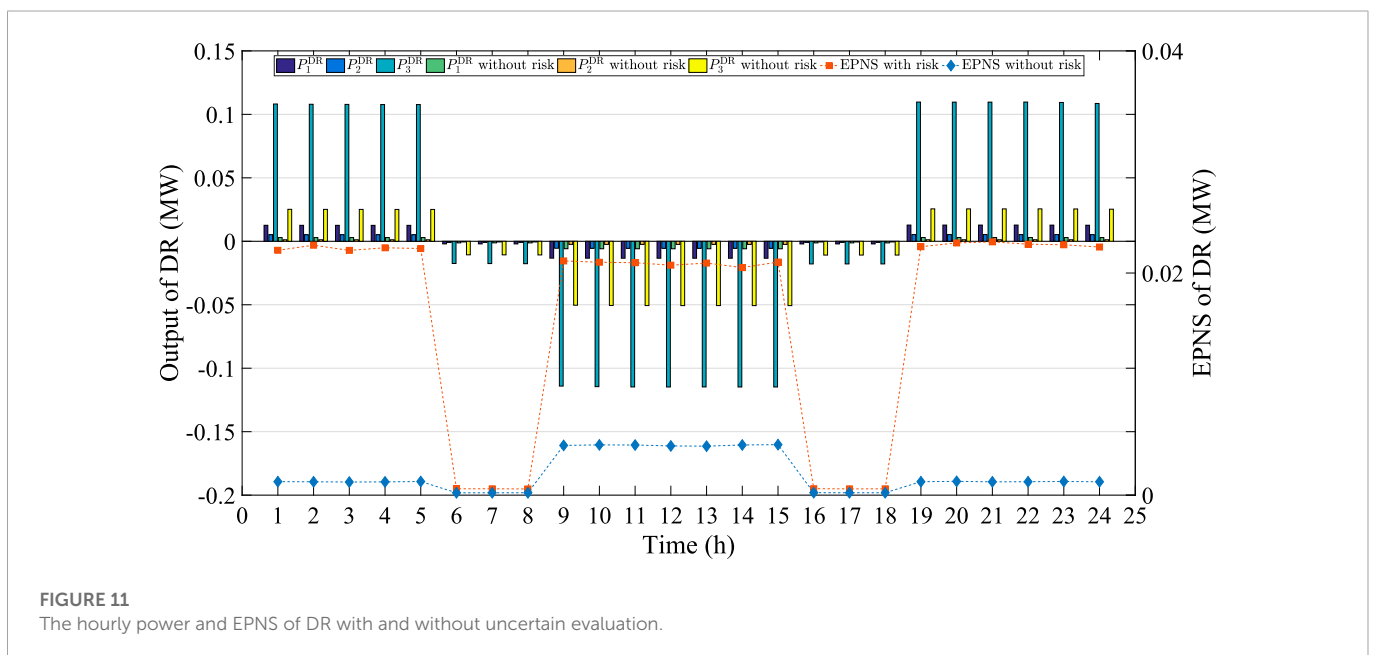
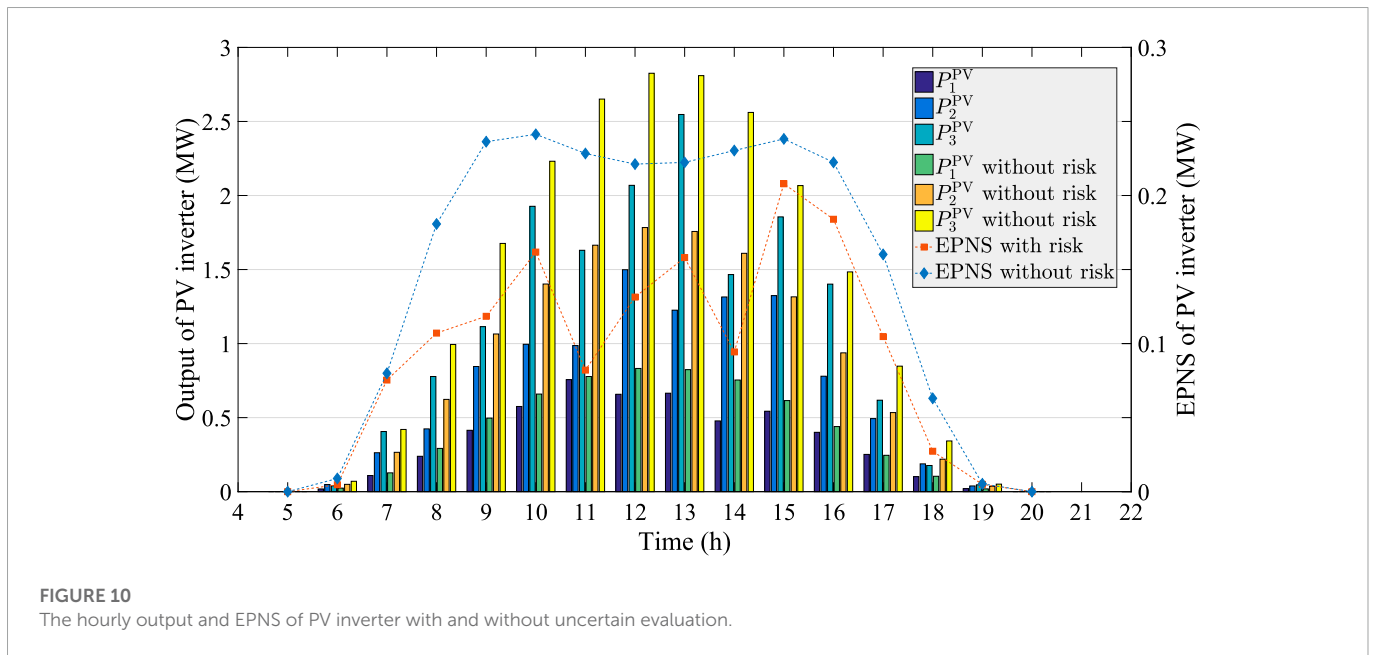
active and reactive power to bus  $i$ , respectively,  $P_i^{PV}(t)$  and  $Q_i^{PV}(t)$  represent the PV inverter active and reactive power to bus  $i$ , respectively,  $P_{MESS,i}^{ch}(t)$  and  $Q_{MESS,i}^{ch}(t)$  denote the absorbed active and reactive power from bus  $i$  by MESS, respectively,  $P_{MESS,i}^{dch}(t)$  and  $Q_{MESS,i}^{dch}(t)$  denote the MESS active and reactive power to bus  $i$ , respectively,  $\theta_{ij}$  and  $Y_{ij}$  denote the angle and magnitude of admittance matrix, respectively,  $\delta_{i,t}$  is the  $i$ th bus voltage angle at time  $t$ . Eq. 36 represents the voltage limit constraint, where  $U^{\max}$  and  $U^{\min}$  are respectively the maximum and minimum bounds of bus voltage. Eq. 37 denotes the power flow constraint, where  $S_i$  and  $S_i^{\max}$  denote apparent power flow and the maximum power flow in the line section between nodes  $i$  and  $i+1$  during time  $t$ , respectively.

## 6 Experimental study

The IEEE 69-bus test system with 12.66 kV with 69 buses and seven laterals is employed Baran and Wu (1989). The substation voltage is considered as 1 p.u. In consideration that the proposed

coordination optimization framework is with the non-convex and non-smooth characteristics, derivation-based approaches face the challenge in searching the optimal solution. Keep this in mind, the evolutionary predator and prey strategy (EPPS) investigated in Chen et al. (2016) is employed in this paper. The EPPS algorithm shows great potentials in balancing global searching and local searching based on the hunting-escaping mechanism, and the investigations carried out in Chen et al. (2016, 2017a); Qu et al. (2021) shown a good global searching ability in solving complex benchmarks and engineering optimization problems.

We consider a typical day with  $T=24$ . The peak period is 10 A.M.–16 P.M. and 20 P.M.–24 P.M., the off-peak period is 6 A.M.–9 A.M. and 17 P.M.–19 P.M., and the valley period is 1 A.M.–5 A.M. Chen et al. (2020). The initial active power price is 240\$/MW, and the peak, off-peak and valley active power price are respectively within the intervals [242, 440], [220, 220], and [0, 198]; the initial reactive power price is 48\$/MW, and the peak, off-peak and valley reactive power price are respectively within the intervals [48.4, 88], [44, 44], and [0, 39.6] Jiao et al. (2021). The DR users are on buses



11, 18, and 61 with maximum PV installed capacity 1 MW, 2 MW and 3 MW, respectively. The forecasting errors of DR are set to 10% of the response values, and the forecasting errors of PV inverters are set to 20%, 25% and 30% of the forecasted values. The power factors of PV inverter and MESS are both set to 0.9. The charging/discharging efficiency of MESS is 90%, the truck labor cost of MESS is 5\$/h, the fuel cost is 2\$/km, and lower and upper limits of SOC are 0.2 and 1.0, respectively [Qu et al. \(2021\)](#). The forecasted hourly output of PV inverter and the traffic congestion delay time of MESS are shown by [Figure 3](#).

[Figure 4](#) shows the optimal voltage files, which are in the range from 0.9990 to 0.9999, satisfying the operation condition of the distribution network. In addition, the box plot of feeder voltages from

different hours are presented in [Figure 5](#). The exceptional value are plotted as outliers using “+”. The bottom and top horizontal lines denote the limit values expect the outliers. As for the rectangular box, it contains half of the voltage, which the red lines within rectangular box show the median of feeder voltage. The voltage rise and drop problems can be well dealt with by the proposed method in distribution network scheduling.

The optimal capacity of MESS is 2.2690 MW, and power factors of PV inverter and MESS are shown by [Figure 6](#), which are in the range from 0.9 to 1.0, satisfying the operation condition of the distribution network. The hourly SOC and charging/discharging location of MESS for distribution network are given by [Figure 7](#), satisfying the operation constraints shown by equation. 21. Additionally, the optimal

time-of-use price, charging/discharging power of MESS, output of PV inverter, DR and power loss are given in **Table 1**.

It is seen from **Table 1** that the PV power can significantly affect time-of-use price. Actually, the correlation coefficient (CC) and the hypothesis of no correlation (HnC) between  $\lambda_p(t)$  and  $P^{PV}(t)$  are respectively  $-0.9091$  and  $7.8981e-10$ , and the CC and the HnC between  $\lambda_Q(t)$  and  $Q^{PV}(t)$  are respectively  $-0.7454$  and  $2.9221e-5$ . These results indicate that the time-of-use price and the PV penetration have a significantly negative correlation. In addition, the PV penetration can also decrease active power loss, where the CC and the HnC between the power loss and the PV inverter active power penetration are  $-0.8947$  and  $3.7190e-9$ , respectively. The CC and the HnC between power loss and PV inverter reactive power penetration are  $-0.6856$  and  $2.1749e-4$ , respectively. On the other hand, the optimal hourly generation of PV inverter is not its upper bound as shown by **Figure 8**. The detailed comparisons among the optimal output, forecasted value and bounds of PV inverter are given by **Figure 9**.

From **Figure 9**, it is interesting to find that the optimal output of PV inverter is higher than the forecasted value in most of the cases. This is because the fact that a large scale integration of PV power can reduce operation cost of distribution network, but it will also bring a high uncertainty, and increase additional operation risk for distribution network. In order to show the relationship more intuitively, **Table 2** lists the optimal hourly EPNS and EPC of PV inverter and DR.

In comparison with the results listed in **Tables 1, 2**, we find that the EPNS is with a positive relationship with PV inverter, where the CC and the HnC between  $P_{EPNS}^{PV}(t)$  and  $P^{PV}(t)$  are respectively  $0.8978$  and  $2.7019e-9$ . The reactive power of PV inverter and DR are less affected by the forecasting errors. The main reason for this phenomenon is that the reactive power price is much less than the active power price. Additionally, the indexes of EPNS and EPC are conflicted with each other, and a higher value of EPNS corresponds to a lower EPC both in PV inverter and DR. Therefore, the proposed model can well balance the penetration level of PV inverter and corresponding EPNS, in the manner of risk aversion. To further investigate the proposed model in evaluating the uncertain risk, the optimal outputs of PV inverter with and without considering uncertain evaluation are given by **Figure 10**.

From **Figure 10**, we can see that the hourly penetration level of PV power without considering risk is much higher than that of our proposed model. The total output of PV inverter without risk is  $40.5046$  MW, which is  $27.6548\%$  higher than  $31.7298$  MW of the proposed model with risk. However, the EPNS of the proposed model is  $1.4621$  MW, which is  $59.9549\%$  lower than  $2.3387$  MW obtained without considering the uncertain risk. In addition, the optimal outputs of DR with and without considering uncertain evaluation are given by **Figure 11**.

The results illustrated in **Figure 11** show that the hourly DR and EPNS obtained by our proposed model are both higher than these without considering uncertain risk. This is because that a high PV power comes to a low electricity price, and very few power participates in DR. On the contrary, a relatively low penetration of PV power leads to a high electricity price, and more power would like to participate in DR. These comparisons further demonstrate the proposed model can well coordinate active and reactive power of multiple dispersed resources for flexibility improvement of distribution network under forecasting errors.

## 7 Conclusion

In this paper, a coordinated operation of MESS, DR and PV inverter is proposed to improve flexibility of distribution network with uncertain PV and DR. We first investigate the effect of active and reactive power coordination to regulate voltage issue, and then the operation spaces of active and reactive power under power factor constraint are derived. After that, the flexibility objective consisting of power loss, operation cost, uncertain risk, DR cost and MESS cost is formulated. The experimental study conducted on the IEEE 69-bus system draws the followings conclusions.

- 1) The instantaneous penetration level of PV power ( $4.4378$  MW at time 13) can be as high as  $111.13\%$  of the load demand ( $3.9932$  MW). Based on the active and reactive power coordination of dispersed resources, the voltage files are in the range from  $0.9990$  to  $0.9999$ .
- 2) The uncertain risk caused by forecasting errors of PV inverter and DR should be considered in distribution network operation, where a high PV power or DR power corresponds to a large EPNS value and a small EPC value. The proposed EPNS and EPC indexes show a good performance in evaluating the uncertain risk and determine the optimal PV power and DR power.
- 3) It is interesting to find that a large PV power can reduce time-of-use price, but limits the DR power. This further verifies the necessity of coordination optimization of multiple dispersed resources to exploit the flexibility for distribution system operation under uncertainty.

## Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary materials, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

## Author contributions

YC: Conceptualization, methodology and investigation, Funding acquisition; WL: Writing—review, editing and supervising. Both authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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## Conflict of interest

Authors YC, and WL were employed by Guangzhou Power Supply Bureau of Guangdong Power Supply Company Ltd.

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