Relaxed Alternating Direction Method of Multipliers for Hedging Communication Packet Loss in Integrated Electrical and Heating System

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Abstract—Integrated electrical and heating systems (IEHSs) are promising for increasing the flexibility of power systems by exploiting the heat energy storage of pipelines. With the recent development of advanced communication technology, distributed optimization is employed in the coordination of IEHSs to meet the practical requirement of information privacy between different system operators. Existing studies on distributed optimization algorithms for IEHSs have seldom addressed packet loss during the process of information exchange. In this paper, a distributed paradigm is proposed for coordinating the operation of an IEHS considering communication packet loss. The relaxed alternating direction method of multipliers (R-ADMM) is derived by applying Peaceman-Rachford splitting to the Lagrangian dual of the primal problem. The proposed method is tested using several test systems in a lossy communication and transmission environment. Simulation results indicate the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed R-ADMM algorithm.

Index Terms—Alternating direction method of multipliers (ADMM), communication failure, distributed optimization, integrated energy systems, packet loss.

NOMENCLATURE

A. Indices and Sets

\( \mathcal{O}_{\text{EPS}} \) Feasible region of electrical power system (EPS)

\( \mathcal{O}_{\text{DHS}} \) Feasible region of district heating system (DHS)

\( T \) Index set of scheduling periods

\( A_{\text{DHS}} \) Index set of areas in DHS

\( I_{\text{EB}} \) Index set of electric boilers (EBs)

\( I_{\text{HES}} \) Index set of heat exchanger stations

\( I_{\text{HS}} \) Index set of heat sources

\( I_{\text{HST}} \) Index set of heat storage tanks (HSTs)

\( I_{\text{node}} \) Index set of nodes in the heating network

\( I_{\text{pipe}} \) Index set of pipelines in the heating network

\( k \) Index set of number of iterations

\( N_{\text{DHS}} \) Index set of nodes connected to heat exchanger station \( v \)

\( N_{\text{HS}} \) Index set of nodes connected to heat sources \( \mu \)

\( S_{\text{bus}}^{\text{CHP}} \) Index set of buses in EPS

\( S_{\text{line}}^{\text{CHP}} \) Index set of combined heat and power (CHP) units connected to DHS \( j \)

\( S_{\text{line}} \) Index set of lines in EPS

\( S_{\text{pipe}^+} \) Index set of pipelines starting at node \( i \)

\( S_{\text{pipe}^-} \) Index set of pipelines ending at node \( i \)

\( S_{\text{TU}} \) Index set of thermal units

\( S_{\text{wind}} \) Index set of wind farms

B. Input Parameters and Functions

\( \eta_{\text{h}} \) Efficiency of CHP unit \( h \)

\( \eta_{\text{EB}} \) Efficiency of EB \( e \)

\( \tau_{n}^{\text{sup}} / \tau_{n}^{\text{return}} \) Minimum/maximum temperatures at node \( n \) in the supply network

\( \tau_{m}^{\text{sup}} / \tau_{m}^{\text{return}} \) Minimum/maximum temperatures at node \( m \) in the return network

\( \Delta t \) Time interval per period

\( \lambda_{b} \) Heat transfer coefficient of pipeline \( b \)

\( \phi_{h} / \phi_{h} \) Number of time periods denoting time delays of pipeline \( b \) in period \( t \)
In recent years, integrated electrical and heating systems (IEHSs) have drawn extensive attention because of their potential to enhance the flexibility of accommodating more wind power. Equipped with combined heat and power (CHP) units, an IEHS can reuse the waste heat energy generated by power systems and supply heat and power loads simultaneously. The operation flexibility of CHP units is restricted in the heat-led operation mode [1]. During off-peak
hours in winter nights, the electricity demands are low while the heat loads are high. This situation leads to the poor utilization of wind power generation, which is seriously prominent in northern China [2]. Additional equipment investment can increase the utilization of wind power, such as heat pumps [3], electric boilers (EBs) [4], [5], and heat storage tanks (HSTs) [6]. Electric heater and heat storage device are integrated into power system to accommodate more extra wind power to improve economic benefit in [7]. Another way is to exploit pipelines or build energy storage in district heating systems (DHSs). Reference [8] proposes a dynamic temperature model of a DHS with time delay and heat loss. In [9], the thermal inertia of buildings is considered in the secondary heating network.

The solution methods for optimizing the IEHS can be classified into the metaheuristic algorithms and the mathematical programming techniques. The metaheuristic algorithms, such as the genetic algorithm [10], the particle swarm optimization [11], the group search optimization [12], and the differential evolution [13], have recently been improved to solve the IEHS problems. However, the computation time is long and premature convergence easily plunges into local minima for these algorithms. The electrical power systems (EPSs) and DHSs are controlled by different independent system operators (ISOs). Pertaining to privacy and confidentiality of data, each ISO is unwilling to disclose financial information, system topology, or control regulations to others. It is therefore not practical to gather all required information and perform operation decisions in a centralized pool. As an alternative approach to meet the challenges of centralized optimization methods, distributed optimization [14]-[26] have recently drawn more attention [16]. Reference [17] adopts enhanced Benders decomposition to solve the collaborative operation problem of networked microgrids with the local utility grid. This specific type of Benders cuts need to be formulated skillfully, and the decoupling manner is not intuitive to express the physical meaning of the system. Reference [18] employs a feasible region method to solve the dispatch problems of EPSs and DHSs independently. It is expected that the shape of the simplified and narrowed feasible region is as large as the exact feasible region, because it affects the conservativeness of the method distinctly. Based on the decentralized-agent communication mode, [19] introduces a $K-1$ algorithm to evaluate the reliability of systems with radial structure, but the effectiveness of the $K-1$ algorithm is not discussed in a loop structure [19]. Reference [20] applies the Lagrangian relaxation to optimal power flow scheduling of multi-area power systems. Moreover, a dynamic multiplier updating strategy is presented in [21]. Due to its convergence issues, the Lagrangian relaxation may impede practical applications in production.

The decentralized framework of the alternating direction method of multipliers (ADMM) can meet the task of contemporary wireless communications and networking [22]. This framework has been practically employed in optimization problems in recent years [23]-[26]. A power-heat-gas-coupling problem is solved by a novel distributed-consensus-ADMM in [23]. A dynamic average consensus algorithm is developed in this method for estimating the global information to overcome the drawback of conventional ADMM. Most of the papers mentioned above focus on the calculation performance of distributed algorithms. However, little attention is paid to the realistic process of communication and transmission. According to [16] and [27], most of the 42 disruption events affecting California ISOs were caused by failures of applications and communication from January 2012 to February 2012. This type of disruption event could lead to security risks and financial losses, and a poor customer experience could be bombarded with customer complaints. As a remedy, these operation risks can be potentially reduced by considering the instability or potential malfunctioning of the communication channels in a distributed algorithm. The classical distributed algorithms rely on limited available data offered by neighboring areas, and might not converge if the communication links are prone to failure. Communication delay is considered in [28], and the multi-area optimal power flow problem is solved by the asynchronous ADMM. Considering the different timescales of EPSs and DHSs, [29] proposes a distributed algorithm based on event-trigger to adapt the pattern of distributed calculation and asynchronous communication. A noisy ADMM is proposed in [30] with the presence of nodal errors during transmission, but the practical application effects are not yet discussed. An edge-based algorithm is provided in [31] for the network with unconnected union. The improvement is achieved at the cost of additional complexity and the convergence is guaranteed only in a milder and more practical connectivity condition.

Considering the need for a decentralized solution to the IEHS coordination and the possibility of communication packet loss, this paper proposes the relaxed ADMM (R-ADMM) for an IEHS over a lossy communication network. The contributions of this paper are summarized as follows.

1) This paper proposes a distributed coordination model for an IEHS to adapt to independent operation of different operators of the EPS and DHS. The R-ADMM is developed by applying the relaxed Peaceman-Rachford (P-R) splitting method to the Lagrangian dual of the original problem. While preserving the dispatch independence and guaranteeing the privacy of data, the proposed method can reach the same optimal solution as the centralized method. In contrast to the existing centralized algorithms, the distributed manner requires less computation resources, memory, and communication burden.

2) Considering the instability or potential malfunctioning of the communication channels, a binary probabilistic distribution model is used to describe communication failures caused by packet loss between neighboring areas. The R-ADMM still converges and shows faster convergence rates than the classical ones, embodying the calculation efficiency and robustness of the proposed method.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. The coordination optimization model of an IEHS is introduced in Section II. In Section III, the coordination of an IEHS is formulated and solved in a decentralized manner using the distributed R-ADMM considering the impact of packet loss. In
Section IV, case studies are conducted to validate the robustness and effectiveness of the proposed distributed algorithm. Finally, conclusions are given in Section V.

II. INTEGRATED ELECTRICAL AND HEATING SYSTEM COORDINATION

The typical configuration of an IEHS is shown in Fig. 1. The IEHS is composed of an EPS and several DHSs with the characteristics of multiple agents. As different sub-systems are owned and controlled by different entities, it is not practical to solve problems in a centralized pool. The coordination model of an IEHS is presented in this section, and the distributed method is developed in the next section.

A. Coordination Model of an IEHS

The coordination model of an IEHS minimizes the operation cost of the whole system, i.e., the sum of the EPS cost and DHS cost. The formulation of the coordination model of an IEHS can be expressed as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{x^{\text{EPS}}, y^{\text{DHS}}} & \quad f(x^{\text{EPS}}) + \sum_{j \in A^{\text{DHS}}} g_j(y_j^{\text{DHS}}) \\
\text{s.t.} & \quad A x^{\text{EPS}} + B y_j^{\text{DHS}} = 0 \quad j \in A^{\text{DHS}}
\end{align*}
\]

Equation (2) is the coupling constraint of the EPS and DHS. It is assumed that gas turbine CHP units, whose power output is linearly proportional to the heat production, are installed in this paper. Then, (2) can be expressed as:

\[
p^{\text{CHP}, h}_{k, j} \leq \eta^{\text{CHP}, h}_{k} q^{\text{CHP}, h}_{j} \quad \forall h \in S^{\text{CHP}, j}, j \in A^{\text{DHS}}, t \in T
\]

Detailed models of the EPS and DHS are given in the following subsections.

B. Electric Power System Model

A typical EPS is composed of power generators, wind farms, and electric power loads. A DC power flow model is employed in the EPS, and the EPS model is subject to its physical and security constraints. The feasible region of an EPS is \( \Omega^{\text{EPS}} = \{ p^{\text{CHP}, h}_{k, j}, p^{\text{TU}, g}, r^{\text{wind}}, r^{\text{end}}, r^{\text{end}}, \forall h \in S^{\text{CHP}, j}, g \in S^{\text{TU}}, w \in S^{\text{wind}}, n \in S^{\text{bus}}, t \in T, f \in A^{\text{DHS}} \} \) subject to (4)-(13):

\[
\sum_{j \in A^{\text{DHS}}} \sum_{k \in A^{\text{CHP}}} p^{\text{CHP}, h}_{k, j} + \sum_{g \in A^{\text{TU}}} p^{\text{TU}, g} + \sum_{w \in S^{\text{wind}}} p^{\text{wind}, w} = \sum_{n \in S^{\text{bus}}} D_n
\]

\[
F_t \leq \sum_{n \in S^{\text{bus}}} SF_{t, n} \left( p^{\text{CHP}, h}_{h, j} + \sum_{g \in S^{\text{TU}}} p^{\text{TU}, g} + \sum_{w \in S^{\text{wind}}} p^{\text{wind}, w} \right) \leq \bar{F}_t
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\bar{p}^{\text{CHP}} - p^{\text{CHP}} & \leq \bar{p}^{\text{CHP}} - \bar{h}^{\text{CHP}} \\
\bar{p}^{\text{TU}} - p^{\text{TU}} & \leq \bar{p}^{\text{TU}} - \bar{h}^{\text{TU}} \\
0 \leq p^{\text{wind}} - \bar{p}^{\text{wind}} & \leq \bar{p}^{\text{wind}} - \bar{p}^{\text{wind}} \\
R^{\text{up, down}} - \Delta t & \leq p^{\text{CHP}} - p^{\text{CHP}} \leq R^{\text{up, down}} - \Delta t
\end{align*}
\]

where \( \forall h \in S^{\text{CHP}, j}, g \in S^{\text{TU}}, w \in S^{\text{wind}}, n \in S^{\text{bus}}, l \in S^{\text{line}}, t \in T. \)

Equation (4) shows that the total power production and electric loads of the system remain balanced at all times. Inequality (5) represents network constraints that the transmission flows cannot exceed the transmission ability. Inequalities (6), (7), and (8) represent the installed capacities of CHP units, thermal units, and wind power generators, respectively. Inequalities (9) and (10) are the ramping rate constraints of CHP units and thermal units, respectively. Inequalities (11) and (12) are upward/downward spinning reserve capacity constraints of thermal units. Inequality (13) describes the system-wide upward and downward spinning reserve capacity requirements.

The coupling connection of CHP is decomposed to the electric power output of CHPs for the EPS and the heat output of CHPs for the DHSs [32]. Note that the weight of coupling coefficient of electric power output and heat output of CHPs is typically small, which can be neglected. The electric generation cost of thermal units and CHP units and the penalty term for wind power spillage can be described by a convex quadratic function. Hence, the total cost of an EPS to be minimized is the sum of these three parts as:

\[
f(x^{\text{EPS}}) = \sum_{h \in S^{\text{CHP}}} \left[ \sum_{g \in S^{\text{TU}}} b^{h, g}_{h, g} + b_{h, g}^{\text{wind}} + b_{h, g} (p^{\text{TU}, g})^2 + \sum_{k \in A^{\text{CHP}}} a^{h, g}_{h, k} + a_{h, k} p^{\text{CHP}, h}_{h, k} + a_{h, k} (p^{\text{CHP}, h}_{h, k})^2 + \right. \\
\left. \sum_{w \in S^{\text{wind}}} \delta_{w} (p^{\text{wind}, w} - \bar{p}^{\text{wind}, w})^2 \right]
\]

C. District Heating System Model

The DHS model consists of heat sources, supply/return heating pipeline networks, and heat loads. Heat is produced by CHP units, EBs and HSTs. Water is heated and transported to heat consumers through pipeline networks. The hydraulic regimes of a DHS are described by the mass flows inside pipelines. The thermal part of a DHS considers the thermal energy and temperature. A node method [33] is used to simulate the temperature dynamics in a DHS, including time delays and heat losses. For each DHS, \( j \in A^{\text{DHS}} \), the feasible region of an EPS is \( \Omega_j^{\text{DHS}} = \{ q^{\text{EB}, h}_{j, l}, q^{\text{HST}, h}_{j, l}, q^{\text{CHP}, h}_{j, l}, q^{\text{HST}, h}_{j, l}, q^{\text{EB}, h}_{j, l}, q^{\text{HST}, h}_{j, l}, \} \)
Equations and inequalities (15)-(19) represent the model of heat sources. The heat output of an EB is linearly related to electricity consumption in (15), and the limit of its electricity consumption is denoted in (16). Inequality (17) represents an abstract model of an HST, described as a three-layer mixing temperature model according to [6]. Then, the heat output of heat sources in a heat station is used to heat the flow in (18). Inequality (19) represents that the temperatures of the heat station in the supply network are limited to avoid steam formation.

Equation (20) and inequality (21) represent the model of heat loads. The heat exchanger stations are modeled as heat loads in (20), and the temperatures of the heat exchanger stations in the return network are bounded in (21).

Equations (22)-(25) are DHS constraints. Equations (22) and (23) describe temperature mixing in the supply and return network due to the law of energy conservation. Additionally, the temperature of the mass flow from a node is equal to that of the water flowing into the pipe, as described in (24) and (25).

Equations (26) - (29) represent temperature dynamics and heat loss constraints. Temperatures change due to time delays in transmission. In (26) and (27), the outlet temperatures can be denoted by the average temperatures outflowing from the pipeline during \( \Delta t \) without heat loss. Besides, the temperature drops pertaining to heat losses are caused by ambient temperatures, as shown in (28) and (29). More details can be found in [9].

The operation cost of DHS \( j, j \in A^{DHS} \), is the heat generation cost of CHPs, which can be expressed as a quadratic function as:

\[
g_j(y_j^{DHS}) = \sum_{r \in T} q_{r, j}^{DHS, CHP}(a_{r, k}^{DHS} + a_{r, k}^{DCHP}) \quad \forall h \in S^{CHP}
\]

### III. DISTRIBUTED R-ADMM CONSIDERING PACKET LOSS

The coordination model of an IEHS is denoted in (1) and (2). For the EPS, the objective function is (14) with constraints (4)-(13). For the DHS, the objective function is (30) with constraints (15)-(29). Note that the coupling constraint in (2) makes it difficult to solve EPS subproblems and DHS subproblems independently. Therefore, a distributed solution is introduced in this section.

#### A. Distributed R-ADMM

The classic ADMM is closely related to the relaxed P-R splitting method [16], [22], which has a faster convergence rate than the classic ADMM [34]. The calculation procedure for the distributed R-ADMM is formulated as follows by employing relaxed P-R splitting.

By relaxing (2), the Lagrangian function of the primal problem is constructed as:

\[
L_j(x_j^{EPS}, y_j^{DHS}, \lambda_j) = f(x_j^{EPS}) + \sum_{j, j \in A^{DHS}} g_j(y_j^{DHS}) + \sum_{j, j \in A^{DHS}} \lambda_j^j (A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS})^T + \frac{\rho}{2} \left\| A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS} \right\|^2 \]

First, given the iterative form of the classic ADMM, for \( j \in A^{DHS} \), the EPS and DHS subproblems are formulated as:

\[
x_j^{EPS}(k+1) = \arg \min x_j^{EPS} \left( A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS}(k), \lambda_j(k) \right)
\]

\[
y_j^{DHS}(k+1) = \arg \min y_j^{DHS} \left( x_j^{EPS}(k+1), y_j^{DHS}(k), \lambda_j(k) \right)
\]

Second, by leveraging the relaxed P-R splitting method to the Lagrangian dual problem of (1) and (2), the R-ADMM is developed. Then, the EPS and DHS subproblems can be reformulated as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{x_j^{EPS} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{EPS}}} & \left( f(x_j^{EPS}) \right) + \sum_{j, j \in A^{DHS}} g_j(y_j^{DHS}) + \sum_{j, j \in A^{DHS}} \lambda_j^j (A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS})^T + \frac{\rho}{2} \left\| A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS} \right\|^2 \\
\min_{y_j^{DHS} \in \mathbb{R}^{n_{DHS}}} & \left( g_j(y_j^{DHS}) \right) - \lambda_j^j (A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS})^T + \frac{\rho}{2} \left\| A_j x_j^{EPS} - B_j y_j^{DHS} \right\|^2
\end{align*}
\]
in this paper and have the same dimension as the Lagrange multipliers \( \lambda \) in the Lagrangian function (31).

The relaxed P-R splitting method converts the original optimization into finding a fixed point of an operator. In fact, the vector \( z \) is the fixed point of the relaxed P-R splitting operator \( T_{\text{PRS}} \), which can be iteratively calculated by \( z(k+1) = (1-\alpha)z(k) + \alpha T_{\text{PRS}}z(k) \) [35]. \( z \) consists of \( z_{\text{EPS}} \) and \( z_{\text{DHS}} \). By applying P-R splitting, the auxiliary multipliers in (34) and (35) can be calculated as (36) and (37), where \( \alpha \in [0, 1] \).

\[
\begin{align*}
\label{eq:36}
z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k+1)} &= (1-\alpha)z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)} - \alpha z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} + 2\rho B_j y_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} \\
\label{eq:37}
z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k+1)} &= (1-\alpha)z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} - \alpha z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)} + 2\rho A_j x_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)}
\end{align*}
\]

It is practically reasonable to assume the communication link between an EPS and a DHS is connected. Note that for an EPS, \( z_{\text{DHS}} \) and \( B_j y_{\text{DHS}} \) are updated by the adjacent DHS \( j \), while for a DHS, \( z_{\text{EPS}} \) and \( A_j x_{\text{EPS}} \) are updated by the EPS. Accordingly, (36) and (37) can be reformulated as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\label{eq:38}
z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k+1)} &= (1-\alpha)z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)} + \alpha U^{(k)}_{\text{EPS}}^{\lambda} \\
\label{eq:39}
U^{(k)}_{\text{EPS}}^{\lambda} &= -z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} + 2\rho B_j y_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} \\
\label{eq:40}
z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k+1)} &= (1-\alpha)z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} + \alpha U^{(k)}_{\text{DHS}}^{\lambda} \\
\label{eq:41}
U^{(k)}_{\text{DHS}}^{\lambda} &= -z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)} + 2\rho A_j x_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)}
\end{align*}
\]

Like most distributed algorithms, the proposed R-ADMM can solve subproblems separately with limited boundary information exchange between an EPS and its adjacent DHSs.

The procedure for solving each subproblem of the R-ADMM is summarized as follows.

**Step 1:** For an EPS, solve the subproblem denoted by (34). Then, update boundary information \( U^{(k)}_{\text{EPS}}^{\lambda} \) by (41), and transmit it to DHS \( j \). After receiving boundary information from a DHS, the EPS updates auxiliary multipliers by (38).

**Step 2:** For each DHS, solve the subproblem denoted by (35). Then, update boundary information \( U^{(k)}_{\text{DHS}}^{\lambda} \) by (39), and transmit it to the EPS. After receiving boundary information from the EPS, the DHS updates auxiliary multipliers by (40).

The R-ADMM maintains a splitting framework of the P-R splitting method. Only requiring minor data to be exchanged, the proposed method decomposes IEHS coordination problems into smaller separable subproblems (34) and (35). It is noteworthy that the distributed R-ADMM degenerates to the classic ADMM for \( \alpha = 0.5 \). If the objective functions \( f \) and \( g_j \) are closed and convex, the Lagrangian dual problem of (1) and (2) has no duality gap. For \( \alpha \in [0, 1] \) and \( \rho > 0 \), the R-ADMM converges to the optimal solution for any \( z_{\text{EPS}}(0) \) and \( z_{\text{DHS}}(0) \) [35].

**B. Communication Packet Loss**

The algorithm illustrated previously works under the assumption of original reliable communication channels. In a lossy communication network, the boundary information may not be received from its neighboring areas. It means the event of packet loss occurs randomly with a probability. The auxiliary multipliers can be updated only if the operators receive the boundary information. The communication failures caused by packet loss can be described using a binary probabilistic distribution as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\mathbb{P}[L_{j}^{\text{e-h}} = 1] &= p_j^{e-h} \\
\mathbb{P}[L_{j}^{\text{e-h}} = 0] &= 1 - p_j^{e-h}
\end{align*}
\]

If the communication between the EPS and the \( j \)th DHS fails with probability \( p_j^{e-h} \), let \( L_{j}^{\text{e-h}} = 1 \), and keep the auxiliary multiplier \( z \) unchanged. Otherwise, let \( L_{j}^{\text{e-h}} = 0 \), and update \( z \) by (38) and (40). Then, (38) and (40) are modified as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\label{eq:42}
z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k+1)} &= L_{j}^{\text{e-h}}(k)z_{\text{EPS}}^{(k)} + \alpha U^{(k)}_{\text{EPS}}^{\lambda} \quad (43) \\
\label{eq:43}
z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k+1)} &= L_{j}^{\text{e-h}}(k)z_{\text{DHS}}^{(k)} + \alpha U^{(k)}_{\text{DHS}}^{\lambda} \quad (44)
\end{align*}
\]

The value of relaxed step size \( \alpha \) is tunable in the R-ADMM, and the influence of the setting of \( \alpha \) is shown in Section IV. Considering packet losses, for \( \alpha \in [0, 1] \) and \( \rho > 0 \), the distributed R-ADMM converges almost surely to the optimal solution of (1) and (2) for any \( z_{\text{EPS}}(0) \) and \( z_{\text{DHS}}(0) \) [35].

The termination criterion is set as follows in terms of the primal residual \( r \) and the dual residual \( s \):

\[
\begin{align*}
\label{eq:45}
\|r(k)\| &= \sum_{j = 0} x_j A_j x_{\text{EPS}} - B_j y_{\text{DHS}} \leq \epsilon_{\text{pr}} \\
\|s(k)\| &= \|\mu A_j B_j (y_{\text{DHS}}(k) - y_{\text{DHS}}(k-1))\| \leq \epsilon_{\text{dual}}
\end{align*}
\]

A flowchart of the distributed R-ADMM considering packet loss is summarized in Fig. 2.

**IV. CASE STUDIES**

Numerical experiments of two IEHSs are conducted to verify the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed distributed R-ADMM. The configurations of the test systems are shown in Table I.

Case I is a test system consisting of an IEEE 6-bus EPS and 6-node DHS. This case is tested to illustrate the computation accuracy of the proposed R-ADMM. In addition, the robustness of the algorithm is tested for different values of relaxed step size \( \alpha \) and packet loss probability \( \rho \). The other
Case is composed of an EPS and several DHSs, whose prototypes are practical systems in the northeastern China. This case is presented to compare the distributed R-ADMM and the classic ADMM in terms of performance in convergence and calculation.

All tests are performed on a computer with four processors running at 3.4 GHz and 8 GB of RAM. The quadratic program is solved by CPLEX running on MATLAB R2018a. The initial values of the parameters of the R-ADMM are set to \( z^{\text{EPS}}(0) = 0 \), \( z^{\text{DHS}}(0) = 0 \), and \( p = 0.02 \). The termination criteria \( \epsilon^\text{pri} \) and \( \epsilon^\text{dual} \) are set to \( 10^{-3} \) and \( 10^{-5} \), respectively.

### TABLE I

#### CONFIGURATIONS OF TEST SYSTEMS

| Case | Bus No. | Line No. | Thermal unit No. | Wind farm No. | Coupling units | DHS |
|------|---------|----------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----|
| I    | 6       | 7        | 2               | 1             | CHP No. 1      | EB No. 1 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | HST No. 1 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | Node No. 1 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | Pipeline No. 1 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | HES No. 1 |
| II   | 319     | 431      | 60              | 34            | 5              | 1 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | 1 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | 6 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | 5 |
|      |         |          |                 |               |                | 3 |

### A. Case I: IEHS with a 6-bus EPS and a 6-node DHS

In Case I, the small-scale IEHS comprises a 6-bus EPS and a 6-node DHS connected by a CHP unit. The EPS contains two thermal units, a wind farm, and a CHP unit connected to Bus 6. In the DHS, heat sources including a CHP unit, an EB and an HST are connected to Node 1 to fulfill heat loads at Buses 4, 5, and 6. The configuration of the system in Case I is provided in Table I and Fig. 3, where the red and blue lines are the supply and return pipes, respectively. More details can be found in [36].

![Configuration of IEHS in Case I](image)

In the R-ADMM, \( \alpha = 1 \), and \( p^{r \to s} = p^{h \to e} = p = 0.05 \). The system is tested for hourly coordination over 24 hours. The primal residuals and dual residuals converge to \( 7.195 \times 10^{-6} \) and \( 2.463 \times 10^{-6} \) in 25 iterations, respectively, consuming 1.084 s. The hourly dispatches of electric power and heating power in Case I are plotted in Fig. 4.

In Fig. 4 (a), the heat loads and available wind power are on-peak at nighttime, while the electricity loads are on-peak at daytime. More electric power of thermal units and CHP units is generated from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in order to satisfy the electricity demand at daytime. By exploiting the heat storage capacities of pipelines and an HST, the heat output of CHP units is reduced at nighttime to accommodate wind integration. Therefore, the sum of heat output is not always equal to the heat loads in each period, as shown in Fig. 4(b).

Different values of \( \alpha \) are set to analyze the impact on convergence rates of the distributed R-ADMM with fixed packet loss probability \( p^{r \to s} = p^{h \to e} = p = 0.05 \). Figure 5 depicts the evolution of relative errors for different values of \( \alpha \) in Case I. The relative errors are computed as the ratio between the absolute errors and the optimal solution of the centralized method. Considering the randomness of the communication packet loss, the tests are performed over 100 Monte Carlo simulations. As shown in Fig. 5, the relative errors fluctuate slightly. This fluctuation is caused by information exchange to mitigate the mismatch with \( x^* \), behaving similarly to the Lagrangian methods. The R-ADMM degenerates into the general ADMM if \( \alpha = 0.5 \) and converges more quickly than the classic ADMM. In addition, the convergence rates are improved with larger \( \alpha \). In other words, by choosing the relaxed step size properly, the convergence performance can be improved.

![Hourly dispatches of electric power and heating power in Case I](image)

(a) Electric output. (b) Heat output.

The communication packet losses occur randomly in the following case. For different values of packet loss probability \( p^{r \to s} = p^{h \to e} = p \) with fixed \( \alpha = 1 \), the evolution of relative errors is reported in Fig. 6. Similarly, 100 Monte Carlo tests are performed. In these
scenarios with stochastic communication failure, the boundary information cannot be updated in time. The packet losses among neighbors affect the computation negatively. The relative error drops the most quickly without any packet loss, as shown in Fig. 6. The convergence performance is deteriorated by the increase of communication failure probability.

![Fig. 5. Effect on evolution of relative errors for different values of a in Case I.](image1)

![Fig. 6. Effect on evolution of relative errors for different values of p in Case I.](image2)

**B. Case II: IEHS with a 319-bus EPS and 5 8-node DHSs**

A large-scale IEHS with a 319-bus EPS and 5 8-node DHSs is investigated. The EPS is equipped with 60 thermal units, 34 wind farms, and 5 CHP units with a total generation capacity of 7.7 GW, 3.7 GW, and 3880 MW, respectively. This EPS is connected to five DHSs through CHP units. Each DHS consists of one heat source, seven pipes, and four heat loads. The system configuration is depicted in Fig. 1. More details can be found in [37] and [38].

With fixed $\alpha = 0.5$ and $\alpha = 1$, the results of the classic ADMM and the R-ADMM with different packet loss probabilities $p_{j}^{h+1} = p_{j}^{h+2} = p$ are compared in Table II. The centralized method is used as the benchmark for the distributed algorithm. The calculation performance is characterized by the number of iterations and CPU time. The computation accuracy is described by relative errors, defined as the absolute errors divided by the optimal solution $x^\star$. The financial expenditure is indicated by the total cost.

With a low probability of communication failures, i.e., $p = 0.05$, both the ADMM and R-ADMM can reach nearly the same solution as the centralized method with favorable convergence performance. In this scenario, the R-ADMM needs 55 iterations to reach the optimal solution, which is less than the ADMM. Compared to the ADMM, the R-ADMM saves 129.9 s of computation time. In this communication scenario with losses, the “out-of-date” boundary messages used in the latest updating affect the computation accuracy. The relative errors of the ADMM are larger than those of the R-ADMM, which verifies that communication failures have a larger negative impact on the ADMM. Therefore, the R-ADMM shows better performance in calculation and convergence than the ADMM.

For a larger packet loss probability, e.g., $p = 0.5$, the R-ADMM converges in 102 iterations, consuming 247.4 s. With $p = 0.8$, the primal residuals and dual residuals present oscillations that make the ADMM not converge. In contrast, the R-ADMM could still achieve nearly the same optimal solution, which validates the robustness of the R-ADMM under negative effects of packet loss. As shown in Table II, more frequent communication failures would lead to the increase of both the calculation time and the number of iterations.

| Method           | Probability | No. of iterations | CPU time (s) | Relative error | Total cost ($) |
|------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Centralized method | $p = 0$    | -                 | 1.594 × 10^3 | -              | -              |
| ADMM ($\alpha = 0.5$) | $p = 0.05$ | 109               | 262.5        | 2.163 × 10^3   | 66645.686      |
|                  | $p = 0.50$ | 209               | 499.7        | 1.969 × 10^3   | 66645.6835     |
|                  | $p = 0.80$ | No convergence    | -            | -              | -              |
| R-ADMM ($\alpha = 1$) | $p = 0.05$ | 55                | 132.6        | 1.446 × 10^3   | 66645.6851     |
|                  | $p = 0.50$ | 102               | 247.4        | 1.390 × 10^3   | 66645.6962     |
|                  | $p = 0.80$ | 298               | 711.2        | 1.759 × 10^3   | 66645.6911     |

In the next test, the probabilities of communication failures for different pairs of sub-systems are set as different values, as shown in Table III.

In this communication scenario, the R-ADMM meets the termination criterion in 165 iterations consuming 401.3 s. The relative errors and total financial expenditures are $4.614 × 10^{-3}$ and $66645.7014$, respectively. Conversely, the classic ADMM does not converge. The effectiveness and robustness of the R-ADMM are further clarified by the evolution of the dual residuals and primal residuals, reflecting the optimality and feasibility, respectively. The evolution of residuals by the R-ADMM and the ADMM is depicted in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, respectively.

As shown in Fig. 7, the primal residuals and dual residuals of the R-ADMM fall below $10^{-3}$ and $10^{-5}$, respectively, after 165 iterations. The R-ADMM is robust to random pack-
et loss. In Fig. 8, the evolution of residuals by the ADMM exhibits unstable oscillation. The classic ADMM may fail to converge in the scenarios with high probability of packet loss.

| Table III |
|-----------|
| VALUES OF DIFFERENT PACKET LOSS PROBABILITIES |
| DHS | Packet loss probability |
| DHS 1 | $p^{t=0} = 0.8$, $p^{t=\infty} = 0.9$ |
| DHS 2 | $p^{t=0} = 0.8$, $p^{t=\infty} = 0.9$ |
| DHS 3 | $p^{t=0} = 0.35$, $p^{t=\infty} = 0.9$ |
| DHS 4 | $p^{t=0} = 0.35$, $p^{t=\infty} = 0.65$ |
| DHS 5 | $p^{t=0} = 0.35$, $p^{t=\infty} = 0.65$ |

Fig. 7. Evolution of primal residuals and dual residuals of R-ADMM ($\alpha = 1$) in Case II.

Fig. 8. Evolution of primal residuals and dual residuals of the ADMM ($\alpha = 0.5$) in Case II.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper proposes a distributed R-ADMM algorithm for hedging communication packet loss in the economic dispatch of IEHS. The quasi-dynamic temperature changes are considered to account for the heat storage of pipelines in a DHS to integrate more wind power generation. The IEHS dispatch procedure is performed in a decentralized manner without any centrally coordinated operators. The R-ADMM is derived by applying the relaxed P-R splitting method to the Lagrangian dual problem. Two test systems with probabilistic communication loss are simulated to validate the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed algorithm, and the following conclusions are drawn:

1) The distributed R-ADMM still converges to the optimal solution of the centralized method even with communication failures. The effectiveness of the proposed R-ADMM is validated in the test results.

2) The convergence rate becomes slower with increasing probability $p$. Besides, suitably choosing $\alpha$ can lead to a better convergence rate for a fixed $p$.

3) The R-ADMM perform outperforms the classic ADMM in terms of computation time and convergence performance. In cases with high probability of packet loss, the R-ADMM can still converge while the classic ADMM probably can not.

Future works will incorporate additional communication and transmission conditions such as nodal errors, time lags, and false data injection attacks, which are of great significance for realizing efficient and robust communication and transmission for multi-agent systems.

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