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Simulation of day-ahead electricity market prices using a statistically calibrated structural model



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1. Introduction

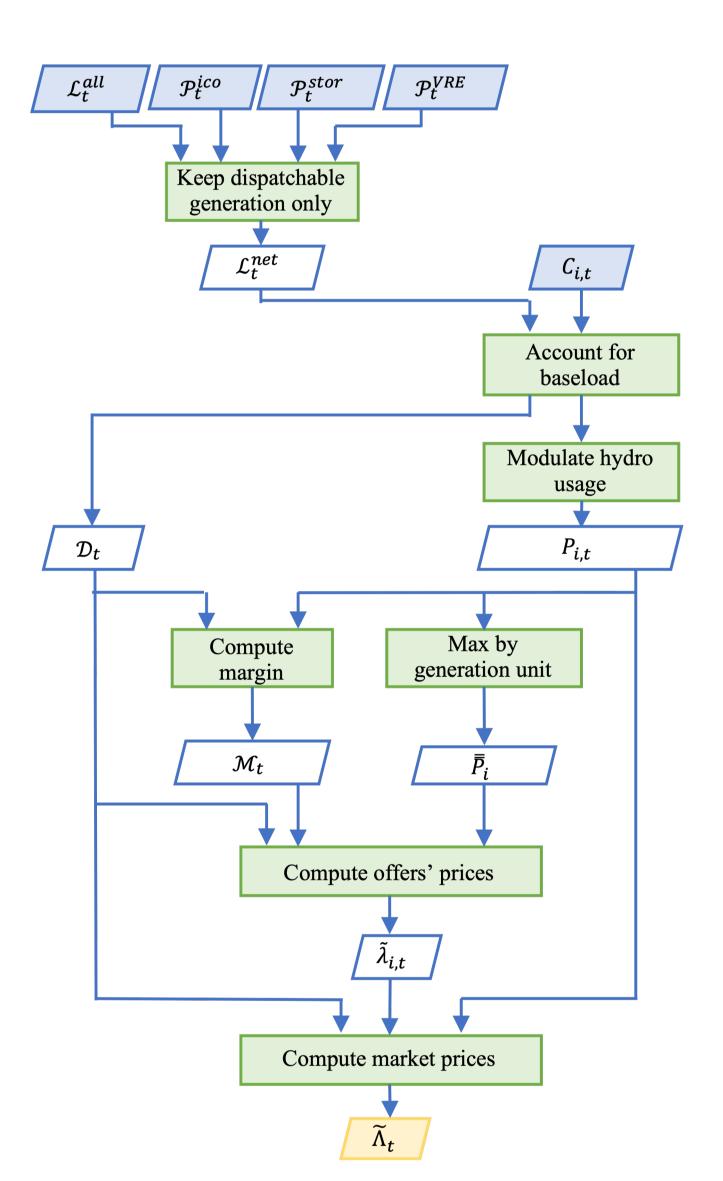
- Power exchanges are playing a central role in electricity trading.
- The number of transactions in Europe keeps growing.
- On day-ahead markets, bids are made one day before delivery.
- This allows to account for the latest consumption and production forecasts, while giving enough time to plan operations at the system level.
- Understanding price formation mechanisms is of key interest:
 - o for companies willing to anticipate their costs or revenues
 - for policy makers and energy regulators, which shall design and enforce suitable regulations.

2. Objectives

- Mathematical models are developed to reveal the link between the state of the power system and day-ahead prices.
- Such model are used to generate price forecasts that support decision processes.
- Our model generates time series for long time scale (i.e at least a year) with hourly resolution.
- This time horizon and resolution is useful for strategic planning.
- A parametrized supply curves, calibrated on real observations, is used to simulate the market clearing prices.
- This model belongs to the category of « structural models ».

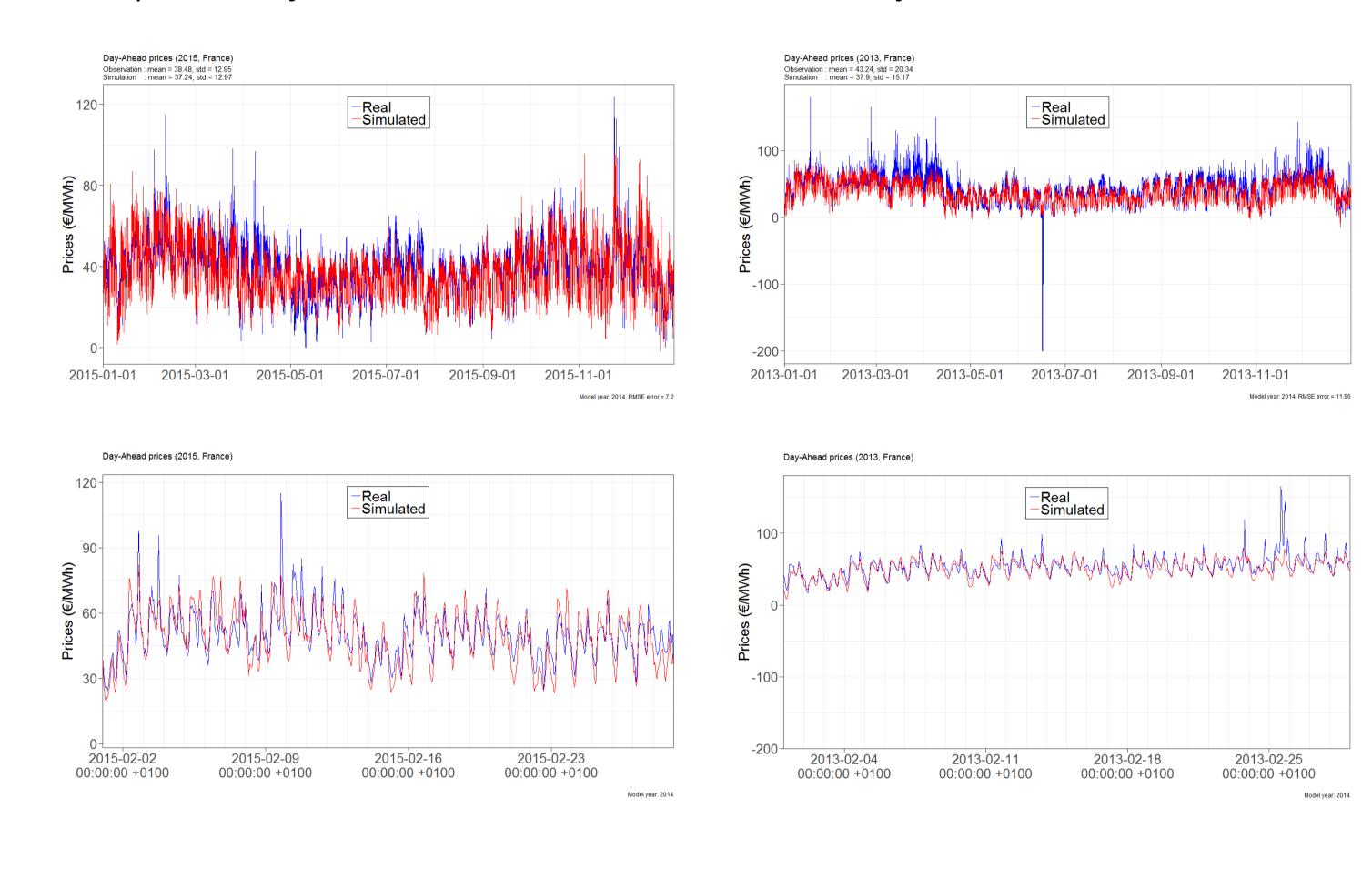
3. Methodology

- We consider an inelastic demand corresponding to the national power consumption covered by the dispatchable generation units, to which we subtract a baseload assumed to not go through the day-ahead market.
- Each offer of the supply curve corresponds to a generation unit with a nominal capacity over 100 MW.
- The offers' volume depends the effective availability of units; the price depends on the reserve margin (i.e. the difference between the load and the generation capacity).
- The strategic use of water ressources, as well as the effect of hours and weekdays on prices, are taken into account.



4. Case study

- A study about the French bidding zone for the period 2013-2015 has been conducted using market data provided by EPEX SPOT and power system data provided by RTE.
- The time series relative to the best and worst performances are presented below (RMSE of 7.2 €/MWh and 12.0 €/MWh).
- For both, it corresponds to the training year 2014, and respectively to 2015 and 2013 for the test years.



5. Conclusion and perspectives

- The model captures the typical price patterns but shows limitations in properly rendering price spikes.
- Other factors, such as the influence of fuel and emission costs, should be taken into account for prospective applications.
- The model will also be extended to offer a more accurate representation of the impact of international interconnections.
- Thanks to the regulation regarding transparency, this
 methodology can also be applied to other European markets.

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About the author



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- M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering from Centrale de Lille (2014)
- Undergraduate degree in Psychology from Université Paris 8 (2014)
 Worked as a project engineer and a software developer in Germany
- 1st year PhD student at the PERSEE Center, MINES ParisTech (FR)

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Data and tools







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