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SPECIALTY SECTION
This article was submitted to Smart
Grids,
a section of the journal
Frontiers in Energy Research

RECEIVED 20 July 2022
ACCEPTED 30 August 2022
PUBLISHED 28 September 2022

CITATION
Shao Y, Hao L, Cai Y, Wang J, Song Z and
Wang Z (2022), Day-ahead joint clearing
model of electric energy and reserve
auxiliary service considering
flexible load.
Front. Energy Res. 10:998902.
doi: 10.3389/fenrg.2022.998902

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Day-ahead joint clearing model of electric energy and reserve auxiliary service considering flexible load

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With the increasing of renewable energy penetration, adequate reserve capacity is more important to modern power system facing with various uncertain factors. Mobilizing the enthusiasm of units and demand response to participate in reserve auxiliary service can reduce the reserve providing pressure of conventional power supplies, which is conducive to the reliable and economical operation of system. The uncertain factors such as system random failure, prediction error of both load and renewable energy output are considered, and taking unit reserve, demand response such as flexible loads as system reserve resources, this paper establishes the risk cost models to optimize system up and down reserve requirement and make optimal allocation among units and flexible loads. A joint market clearing model of day-ahead electric energy and reserve auxiliary service is established in which both the units and flexible loads participate, and is solved by the robust optimization theory. The joint market clearing model takes the reliability and the economy of the system operation into account, and optimizes the clearing scheme for market decision makers, which can provide a decision reference for the market to resist the risk of uncertainty. Finally, the effectiveness of the model and method proposed in this paper is verified by a modified 10-machine 39-bus simulation example system.

KEYWORDS

renewable energy, electric energy market, reserve ancillary service, demand response, uncertainty factors, joint clearing model

1 Introduction

In order to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the modern power system, it is necessary to remain a certain reserve capacity to deal with uncertain factors such as random system failures, prediction error of load and renewable energy output (Li et al., 2022). The access of a large number of random renewable energy sources puts more pressure on the system reserve. Thermal power units have better response capabilities and usually account for a large proportion of installed capacity, therefore, they are easily

selected as the main source of reserve capacity. However, thermal power units operating at low output level usually have a higher cost per unit electricity (Herranz et al., 2012). It is obviously uneconomical or even unreliable whether generators do not respond to the load demand for keeping reserve capacity during periods of high load, or generators start up and operate at a low load rate to provide reserve capacity for a short period of time during periods of low load (Bompaard et al., 2007).

Flexible load can provide reserve capacity for the system by interrupting or transferring part of the load in time, improve the elastic space of power dispatching and reduce the pressure on thermal power units to provide reserve (Anuj et al., 2018). Wen (Wen et al., 2019) has built a cost model of insufficient flexibility to evaluate the risk cost caused by random fluctuation of load demand and generator output for system reserve optimization. Chen (Chen et al., 2017) has comprehensively considered the wind power forecast error, load fluctuation, unplanned outage of units and other uncertain factors, and has integrated the interruptible load and wind curtailment as upper and lower reserve into the day-ahead dispatching to optimize the reserve capacity (Nikolaos et al., 2015). Has built a two-stage stochastic programming model to obtain the system reserve requirement from generation and load sides under the condition of high proportion of wind power penetration.

With the continuous advancement of the electricity market reform, the electricity market trading mechanism in China has become more flexible (Liu et al., 2019). The trading products have transitioned from a single electric energy market to a multi-type market with parallel electricity energy and auxiliary services (Yang et al., 2017). Trading entities have expanded from single generation side resource to multi-type resources of load and generation, and the operation mode has shifted from independent operation in each market to joint operation in multiple markets (Xun, 2010). Under the premise of transparent market information, independent markets can only achieve the best welfare of their respective markets (Shan, 2021). A reserve ancillary market clearing model for dealing with wind power and load uncertainty is established for system operation reliability by (Reddy et al., 2015). The risk cost of the unit failure and the interruptible load failure to provide system required up reserve is considered in the reserve market, meanwhile, a settlement scheme is proposed to reasonably allocate reserve cost between units and interruptible loads by (Luo and Xue, 2007), but it does not take the risk cost caused by insufficient down reserve into account. The reserve ancillary market can get the rational distribution of reserve resources from both the generation and load sides through flexible market forces (Wang et al., 2015), but it cannot obtain the optimal total benefit of the electric energy and reserve markets.

When the electric energy market and the reserve ancillary market are jointly cleared day-ahead, the generation side can bid

the quantity and price based on its own generation cost, start-up cost and reserve dispatch cost (Anthony and Oren, 2014). The flexible load reports the adjustable quantity and price of different time periods day-ahead based on the electricity consumption income and reserve dispatch cost, and the transaction institution will make clearing according to the principle of maximizing social welfare and under certain system constraints (Shi et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2021). The influence of the traditional unit combination model on the utilization efficiency of flexible resources is analyzed (Yang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2021), a joint clearing model of day-ahead electric energy and reserve ancillary market is proposed for system flexibility. Sun (2020) has considered the quantity and price bidding of flexible load to participate in the joint market clearing of electric energy and reserve auxiliary service, but the impact of system uncertainty on the clearing results is not considered. The method of iterative game theory is used to consider the impact of wind power uncertainty on the joint market of electric energy and reserve (Xu et al., 2016). A model of the optimal supply strategy of concentrated solar power plants in the joint market is established, which takes the uncertainty of photovoltaic output into account based on the robust optimization theory (Lazaros et al., 2017). Chen (He et al., 2016) and He (2010) have considered the problem that the generation outage may cause insufficient power supply, and have established a power shortage expectation evaluation model to analyze the impact of interruptible loads on system reliability. Huang (Huang et al., 2019) has proposed a joint operation mode of energy market and multiple ancillary service markets. There are few studies on the joint market of electric energy and reserve auxiliary service with both units and flexible loads involving in system up and down reserve. To sum up, a few studies consider joint clearing model of electric energy and reserve auxiliary service with the participating of both generation and demand response, but most of the existing literatures fail to comprehensively consider the risk caused by insufficient up and down reserve. How to build the risk cost models to optimize the system up and down reserve requirement and make optimal allocation among units and flexible loads during market clearing is crucial. Besides, less joint clearing study of electric energy and auxiliary service has considered the uncertainty of both renewable energy and load. The uncertainty of these forecasting value has a certain impact on market clearing results, and comprehensive consideration of them will greatly enhance the market's ability to resist uncertain risks.

Therefore, in this paper, the flexible load is introduced into the market in the form of bidding quantity and price, and the characteristics of flexible load, the uncertainty of net load and the risk caused by insufficient up and down reserves are comprehensively considered. A day-ahead joint clearing model of electric energy and reserve auxiliary service with the participating of both generation and demand response is established. A robust optimization model considering the uncertainty of net load is

further proposed, which can help market decision makers find out the market clearing scheme under the worst scenario in the system and provide a reference decision for the market to resist the risk of uncertainty. Finally, the effectiveness of the method proposed in this paper is verified by example analyses.

2 Reserve risk model

2.1 Risk model for net load uncertainty

The uncertainty of load demand is an important factor in the analysis of modern power system reserve requirement. Assume that the load prediction errors of each period are independent of each other. It is generally believed that the short-term load prediction error follows the standard normal distribution:

$$\delta_{L,t} : N(0, (\sigma_{L,t})^2) \tag{1}$$

$$\delta_{L,t} = P_{L,t} - P_{L,t}^F \tag{2}$$

Where, $\delta_{L,t}$ is the load prediction error at time t , $\sigma_{L,t}$ is the standard deviation, $P_{L,t}$ is the actual load value at time t , $P_{L,t}^F$ is the load prediction value at time t .

Assume that the prediction error $\delta_{R,t}$ of renewable energy output at time t also follows the standard normal distribution with standard deviation $\sigma_{R,t}$ (Chen et al., 2017), that is:

$$\delta_{R,t} : N(0, (\sigma_{R,t})^2) \tag{3}$$

$$\delta_{R,t} = P_{R,t} - P_{R,t}^F \tag{4}$$

Where, $P_{R,t}$ is the actual output of the renewable energy at time t , and $P_{R,t}^F$ is the forecasting output of the renewable energy at time t .

System net load is defined as the difference between system load and renewable energy output. Since the prediction errors of load and renewable energy output are all subject to independent normal distribution, it can be known from the nature of the normal distribution that the net load forecast error $\delta_{D,t}$ also follows the normal distribution with expectation of 0 and standard deviation of $\sigma_{D,t}$ (Chen et al., 2017), that is:

$$\delta_{D,t} : N(0, (\sigma_{D,t})^2) \tag{5}$$

$$\delta_{D,t} = P_{D,t} - P_{D,t}^F \tag{6}$$

$$\sigma_{D,t} = \sqrt{\sigma_{L,t}^2 + \sigma_{R,t}^2} \tag{7}$$

Where, $P_{D,t}$ is the actual value of the net load at time t , and $P_{D,t}^F$ is the forecasting value of the net load at time t .

2.2 Risk model for system failure

In order to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the modern power system, it is necessary to reserve a certain reserve

capacity to deal with uncertain factors such as random system failures, the load and renewable energy output forecast error (Fang et al., 2019). Thermal power units have better response capability, therefore, they are easily selected as the main source of reserve capacity. If demand response is considered to provide reserve capacity for the modern power system, it will be a beneficial supplement to the reserve of thermal power units, which will reduce the operation cost of the system. Therefore, this paper considers reserve resources from both units and flexible loads at the same time, and introduce risk cost to optimize the system reserve capacity.

2.2.1 Model of flexible load providing reserve

In this paper, flexible load is considered as interruptible load and transferable load. Considering the constraints of interruption capacity and times, the model of interruptible load providing reserve is as follows:

$$\underline{P}_{IL,j} \leq P_{IL,j,t} + r_{IL,j,t}^U \leq \bar{P}_{IL,j} \quad j \in \Omega_{IL} \tag{8}$$

$$\sum_{t \in \Omega_T} u_{IL,j,t} \leq N_{IL,j} \tag{9}$$

Where, $P_{IL,j,t}$ is the power of interruptible load j at time t , $r_{IL,j,t}^U$ is the winning bid up reserve capacity of interruptible load j at time t , $\underline{P}_{IL,j}$ and $\bar{P}_{IL,j}$ are the minimum and maximum values of interruptible load j respectively, Ω_{IL} is the set of interruptible loads, $u_{IL,j,t}$ is the state variable of the interruptible load j at time t , “1” means that load j at time t can be interrupted, and “0” means that it cannot be interrupted, Ω_T is the set of statistical time, $N_{IL,j}$ is the maximum allowable interruption numbers of interruptible load j in the scheduling period.

The total electricity quantity consumption of transferable load in a dispatching cycle remains fixed, but the electricity quantity in each time interval can be flexibly adjusted. The model is as follows:

$$\underline{P}_{SL,k} \leq P_{SL,k,t} \leq \bar{P}_{SL,k} \quad k \in \Omega_{SL} \tag{10}$$

$$\underline{P}_{SL,k} \leq P_{SL,k,t} + u_{k,t}^U r_{SL,k,t}^U + u_{k,t}^D r_{SL,k,t}^D \leq \bar{P}_{SL,k} \tag{11}$$

$$0 \leq u_{k,t}^U + u_{k,t}^D < 2 \tag{12}$$

Where, $P_{SL,k,t}$ is the power consumption of transferable load k at time t , $\underline{P}_{SL,k}$ and $\bar{P}_{SL,k}$ are the minimum and maximum values of transferable load k respectively, Ω_{SL} is the set of transferable load. $r_{SL,k,t}^U$ is the winning bid up reserve capacity of transferable load k at time t , $r_{SL,k,t}^D$ is the winning bid down reserve capacity of the transferable load k at time t , $u_{k,t}^U$ and $u_{k,t}^D$ are the winning bid up and down reserve states of transferable load k at time t , respectively, “1” indicates winning the bid, and “0” means not winning the bid.

2.2.2 Risk cost model of up reserve insufficiency

The risk cost caused by system insufficient up reserve is reflected in the cost of load loss caused by unit failure and net load prediction error.

$$A(R_t^U) = C_L E_t^U \tag{13}$$

Where, C_L is the unit loss of load cost. E_t^U is the expected value of system up reserve shortage at time t .

Combined with the random failure information of each unit, E_t^U of the system under different reserve capacities can be analyzed. The probability of a single unit outage is:

$$PR_{G,i,t} = PR_{i,t} \prod_{y \neq i} (1 - PR_{y,t}) \quad i, y \in \Omega_G \tag{14}$$

Where, $PR_{G,i,t}$ is the probability that only unit i fails at time t , $PR_{i,t}$ is the probability that unit i fails at time t , and Ω_G is the set of all units.

In the above situation, the system reserve shortage $P_{Loss,t}^U$ is:

$$P_{Loss,t}^U = \max\{P_{i,t} + \delta_{D,t} - (R_t^U - r_{i,t}^U), 0\} \tag{15}$$

$$\sum_{j \in \Omega_{IL}} r_{IL,j,t}^U + \sum_{k \in \Omega_{SL}} r_{SL,k,t}^U + \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} r_{i,t}^U = R_t^U \tag{16}$$

Where, $P_{Loss,t}^U$ is the system power shortage when only unit i is out of service at time t , $P_{i,t}$ is the winning bid output of unit i at time t , R_t^U is the system up reserve capacity at time t , $r_{i,t}^U$ is the winning bid up reserve capacity of conventional unit i at time t .

The formula for calculating E_t^U is:

$$E_t^U = \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} PR_{G,i,t} P_{Loss,t}^U \tag{17}$$

2.2.3 Risk cost model of down reserve insufficiency

Considering the unplanned out-of-operation of load and the prediction error of net load, it is necessary for the system to remain enough down reserve capacity. Due to the existence of distributed or centralized power supply recovery equipment or control systems, such as automatic reclosing, standby automatic switching, and feeder automation, even if transformers, lines and other equipment fail, the load may still get continuous power supply. To model the loss due to excess power also needs to consider the substitutability of the equipment and the reserve capacity of the replacement system, which can make the model too complex. For a certain power grid, the occurrence time of load unplanned out-of-operation has certain regularity. Therefore, according to the historical information of load unplanned out-of-operation caused by the reasons other than unit failure at each time interval in the historical observation period, then the monthly average probability of load unplanned out-of-operation at each time interval of a day can be obtained to reflect the down reserve requirement of the system when the load is unplanned out.

In this paper, in the historical observation period of the month which time t belongs to, the ratio of cumulative load outage by the reasons other than unit failure to the total load demand is defined as the probability of load unplanned out-of-operation:

$$PR_{L,t} = \frac{q_C}{q_C + q_L} \tag{18}$$

Where, $PR_{L,t}$ is the probability of load unplanned out-of-operation at time t , q_C is the accumulated electrical quantity of the outage load in the historical observation period of the month which time t belongs to, q_L is the power supply quantity in the historical observation period of the month which time t belongs to.

According to the load unplanned out-of-operation in the historical observation period, when the load unplanned out-of-operation occurs at the time t , the average proportion of the outage load $\varepsilon_{L,t}$ is defined as:

$$\varepsilon_{L,t} = \frac{\sum_{x=1}^N P_{L,t,x}^C / P_{L,t,x}}{N} \tag{19}$$

Where, $P_{L,t,x}^C$, $P_{L,t,x}$, and $P_{L,t,x}^C / P_{L,t,x}$ ($x = 1, 2, \dots, N$) are respectively the load outage power, load demand, and load unplanned outage ratio when the load occurs the x time unplanned outage caused by reasons other than unit failure at time t in the historical observation period, N is the cumulative load outage times at time t in the historical observation period.

If the down reserve is not sufficient, the emergency control or correction control will cut off one or more units to maintain the safe and stable operation of system (Xue, 2002). In this paper, the minimum unit cutting cost caused by the unplanned load outage is used to evaluate the consequences of unplanned load outage, and the risk cost $A(R_t^D)$ is defined as:

$$A(R_t^D) = C_G E_t^D \tag{20}$$

Where, C_G is the unit cutting cost per unit capacity, and E_t^D is the expected value of the system down reserve shortage at time t .

The system down reserve shortage $P_{Loss,t}^D$ is:

$$P_{Loss,t}^D = \max\{P_{L,t} \varepsilon_{L,t} + \delta_{D,t} - (R_t^D - \varepsilon_{L,t} r_{SL,k,t}^D), 0\} \tag{21}$$

$$\sum_{k \in \Omega_{SL}} r_{SL,k,t}^D + \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} r_{i,t}^D = R_t^D \tag{22}$$

$$\sum_{t \in \Omega_T} (P_{SL,k,t} + r_{SL,k,t}^U + r_{SL,k,t}^D) \Delta t = q_{SL,k} \tag{23}$$

Where, R_t^D is the system down reserve capacity at time t , $r_{i,t}^D$ is the winning bid down reserve capacity of conventional unit i at time t , Δt is the statistical time interval, $q_{SL,k}$ is the total power demand of transferable load k in the scheduling period.

Combined with the information analysis of load unplanned outage, the expected value of down reserve shortage is:

$$E_t^D = PR_{L,t} P_{Loss,t}^D \tag{24}$$

3 Joint clearing model

3.1 Objective function

In the electric energy market, the income of flexible loads and the generation cost of units are considered. Among them, wind

power and photovoltaic units only participate in the electric energy market, and their costs are ignored to ensure their priority of clearing. In the reserve auxiliary service market, the reserve cost, start-up and shutdown cost of conventional units, and the reserve cost of flexible loads are considered, and the risk cost caused by the shortage of system reserve is also taken into account, a joint clearing model of electric energy and reserve market with the goal of maximizing social welfare is established:

$$\begin{aligned} \max f = \max \sum_{t \in \Omega_T} & \left(\left(\sum_{l \in \Omega_{RL}} F_0(P_{RL,l,t}) + \sum_{j \in \Omega_{IL}} F_1(P_{IL,j,t}) \right. \right. \\ & + \sum_{k \in \Omega_{SL}} F_2(P_{SL,k,t}) - \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} C(P_{i,t}) \left. \right) - \left(\sum_{i \in \Omega_G} u_{i,t}^U L_1(r_{i,t}^U) \right. \\ & + \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} u_{i,t}^D L_2(r_{i,t}^D) + \sum_{j \in \Omega_{IL}} L_3(r_{IL,j,t}^U) + \sum_{k \in \Omega_{SL}} u_{k,t}^U L_4(r_{SL,k,t}^U) \\ & \left. \left. + \sum_{k \in \Omega_{SL}} u_{k,t}^D L_5(r_{SL,k,t}^D) + \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} S_i u_{i,t}^S (1 - u_{i,t-1}^S) \right) - A(R_t) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

Where, $P_{RL,l,t}$ is the power consumption of rigid load l at time t , $F_0(P_{RL,l,t})$ is the income function of rigid load l at time t , $l \in \Omega_{RL}$, Ω_{RL} is the set of rigid loads, $F_1(P_{IL,j,t})$ is the income bidding function of interruptible load j at time t , $F_2(P_{SL,k,t})$ is the income bidding function of transferable load k at time t , $C(P_{i,t})$ is the bidding function of power generation cost of conventional unit i at time t , $u_{i,t}^U$ and $u_{i,t}^D$ are the winning bid state variables of up and down reserve capacity for conventional unit i at time t respectively, "1" indicates winning the bid, and "0" means not winning the bid, $L_1(r_{i,t}^U)$ is the bidding function of conventional unit i in the up reserve market at time t , $L_2(r_{i,t}^D)$ is the bidding function of conventional unit i in the down reserve market at time t , $L_3(r_{IL,j,t}^U)$ is the bidding function of interruptible load j in the up reserve market at time t , $L_4(r_{SL,k,t}^U)$ is the bidding function of transferable load k in the up reserve market at time t , $L_5(r_{SL,k,t}^D)$ is the bidding function of transferable load k in the down reserve market at time t , S_i is the start-up cost of conventional unit i , $u_{i,t}^S$ is the start-up and shutdown state variable of conventional unit i at time t , "1" means start-up, and "0" means shutdown.

Conventional units' power generation cost bidding function and up reserve bidding function are:

$$C(P_{i,t}) = (a_{i,1} P_{i,t}^2 + a_{i,2} P_{i,t} + a_{i,3}) u_{i,t}^S \quad (26)$$

$$L_1(r_{i,t}^U) = (m_{i,1} r_{i,t}^2 + m_{i,2} r_{i,t} + m_{i,3}) u_{i,t}^S \quad (27)$$

Where, $a_{i,1}$, $a_{i,2}$, and $a_{i,3}$ are the bidding coefficients of conventional unit i in the electric energy market respectively, $m_{i,1}$, $m_{i,2}$, and $m_{i,3}$ are the bidding coefficients of conventional

unit i in the up reserve market respectively. And the same bidding method is used in down reserve market.

Because the rigid load needs to be cleared and balanced completely, its income function will not affect the clearing results of neither the electricity energy market nor the reserve market, so it is only a part of the overall social welfare in the objective function and can be ignored in the optimization process. Interruptible loads' bidding functions in the electric energy market and the reserve market are:

$$F_1(P_{IL,j,t}) = d_{j,1} P_{IL,j,t}^2 + d_{j,2} P_{IL,j,t} + d_{j,3} \quad (28)$$

$$L_3(r_{IL,j,t}^U) = g_{j,1} (r_{IL,j,t}^U)^2 + g_{j,2} r_{IL,j,t}^U + g_{j,3} \quad (29)$$

Where, $d_{j,1}$, $d_{j,2}$, and $d_{j,3}$ are the bidding coefficients of interruptible load j in the electric energy market respectively, $g_{j,1}$, $g_{j,2}$, and $g_{j,3}$ are the bidding coefficients of interruptible load j in the reserve market respectively. The transferable loads' bidding functions in the electric energy market and the up and down reserve markets are the same as formulas Eq. (28) and (29).

The risk cost $A(R_t)$ caused by insufficient reserve is:

$$A(R_t) = A(R_t^D) + A(R_t^U) \quad (30)$$

3.2 Constraint

3.2.1 System power balance constraint

$$\sum_{i \in \Omega_G} P_{i,t} + \sum_{w \in \Omega_W} P_{w,t}^F + \sum_{n \in \Omega_{PV}} P_{n,t}^F = \sum_{e \in \Omega_E} P_{L,e,t}^F + \delta_{D,t} + P_{DC,t} \quad (31)$$

Where, Ω_W is the set of wind turbines, $P_{w,t}^F$ is the forecasting output of wind unit w at time t , Ω_{PV} is the set of photovoltaic units, $P_{n,t}^F$ is the forecasting output of photovoltaic unit n at time t , Ω_E is the set of system nodes, $P_{L,e,t}^F$ is the load forecasting of node e at time t , $P_{DC,t}$ is the total power of all tie lines at time t , the receiving power is negative, and the sending power is positive.

3.2.2 Unit startup and shutdown time constraint

$$\begin{cases} \sum_{m=0}^{T_i^{on}-1} u_{i,t+m}^S \geq T_i^{on} (u_{i,t}^S - u_{i,t-1}^S) \\ \sum_{m=0}^{T_i^{off}-1} (1 - u_{i,t+m}^S) \geq T_i^{off} (u_{i,t-1}^S - u_{i,t}^S) \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

Where, T_i^{on} and T_i^{off} are the minimum time needed by conventional unit i after startup and shutdown respectively, m is the time.

3.2.3 Conventional unit reserve capacity constraint

$$r_{i,t}^U \leq \min[S_i^{\text{up}}\tau, u_{i,t}\bar{P}_i - P_{i,t}] \quad (33)$$

$$r_{i,t}^D \leq \min[S_i^{\text{down}}\tau, P_{i,t} - u_{i,t}\underline{P}_i] \quad (34)$$

Where, S_i^{up} is the upward ramp rate of conventional unit i , τ is the response time of the reserve capacity. S_i^{down} is the downward ramp rate of conventional unit i , \bar{P}_i and \underline{P}_i are the upper and lower output limit of conventional unit i , respectively.

3.2.4 Branch safety constraint

$$|(K_b^G)^T P_t - (K_b^L)^T P_{L,t} - K_b^{\text{DC}} P_{\text{DC},t}| \leq \bar{P}_b, b \in \Omega_B \quad (35)$$

Where, Ω_B is the set of system branches, $(\cdot)^T$ is the matrix transposition operation, K_b^G and K_b^L are the injection and transfer distribution factor vectors of the unit nodes and the load nodes to branch b respectively, K_b^{DC} is the injection and transfer distribution factor of the tie line power exchange nodes to branch b , P_t is the output vector of all units at time t , $P_{L,t}$ is the load vector of all nodes at time t , \bar{P}_b is the upper limit of power transmission of branch b .

3.2.5 Other constraint

At the same time, constraints such as the ramp rate, output limits of all units need to be considered, which is not repeated here.

3.3 Calculation of electricity price

Assuming that the electricity market adopts the locational marginal price, and the reserve market adopts the regional price. According to the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker condition, an extended Lagrangian function is constructed to obtain the dual multipliers of each constraint condition (Wang et al., 2021), and the prices of electric energy market and reserve market at time t are calculated:

$$L_{t,e,1} = l_{t,1} + \sum_{b \in \Omega_B} (\bar{\partial}_{t,b} + \partial_{t,b}) K_{e,b} \quad (36)$$

$$L_{t,2} = l_{t,2} \quad (37)$$

Where, $L_{t,e,1}$ is the locational marginal price of node e at time t , $L_{t,2}$ is the reserve price at time t , $l_{t,1}$ and $l_{t,2}$ are the dual multipliers of the power balance constraint and the reserve demand constraint respectively, $\bar{\partial}_{t,b}$ and $\partial_{t,b}$ are the dual multipliers of the upper and lower safety constraints of branch respectively, $K_{e,b}$ is the power transfer factor of node e to branch b .

4 Model solving based on robust optimization

4.1 Construction of uncertainty set model

Considering the prediction error of uncertain variables, the uncertainty set model is established. Define the polyhedron uncertain variable set Ω_U and the uncertain error set Ω_U :

$$\Omega_U = \{P_t | P_t = P_t^F + \hat{P}_t z_t, t \in \Omega_T\} \quad (38)$$

$$z_t = \frac{P_t - P_t^F}{\hat{P}_t} \in [-1, 1] \quad (39)$$

$$P_t \in [P_t^F - \hat{P}_t, P_t^F + \hat{P}_t], \hat{P}_t > 0 \quad (40)$$

$$\Omega_Z = \left\{ z_t \mid \sum_{t \in \Omega_T} |z_t| \leq \Gamma \right\} \quad (41)$$

Where, P_t^F is the forecasting value of the uncertainty variable at time t , \hat{P}_t is the maximum prediction error of the uncertainty variable at time t , z_t indicates the deviation degree of the actual value of uncertainty variable from the forecasting value, Γ is the uncertainty parameter reflecting the influence of uncertainty on decision making, $\Gamma = 0$ indicates the corresponding robust optimization model is a deterministic model.

4.2 Construction of optimization model

The purpose of robust optimization is to find the scheduling scheme with the best economy when the uncertain variables change towards the worst scenario in the uncertain variable set Ω_U , and to find the optimal solution in the worst scenario. Therefore, the day-ahead spot market clearing model is established as formula Eq. 42. The decision variables are the deviation degrees of the actual value of wind power output, photovoltaic output and load demand from their respective predicted values, the winning bid electric energy and reserve capacity of units, and the winning bid reserve capacity of flexible loads, etc.

$$\min (\max f) \quad (42)$$

Constraints are as follows:

$$\sum_{t \in \Omega_T} \left| \sum_{w \in \Omega_W} z_{w,t} + \sum_{n \in \Omega_{PV}} z_{n,t} + \sum_{e \in \Omega_E} z_{L,e,t} \right| \leq \Gamma \quad (43)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{i \in \Omega_G} P_{i,t} + \sum_{w \in \Omega_W} (P_{w,t}^F + z_{w,t} \hat{P}_{w,t}) + \sum_{n \in \Omega_{PV}} (P_{n,t}^F + z_{n,t} \hat{P}_{n,t}) \\ & = \sum_{e \in \Omega_E} (P_{L,e,t}^F + z_{L,e,t} \hat{P}_{L,e,t}) + P_{\text{DC},t} \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

Where, $z_{w,t}$, $z_{n,t}$ and $z_{L,e,t}$ are the deviation degrees of the actual value of wind power output, photovoltaic output and load demand from their respective predicted values

respectively, $\hat{P}_{w,t}$ is the maximum output prediction error of wind turbine w at time t , $\hat{P}_{n,t}$ is the maximum output prediction error of photovoltaic unit n at time t , $\hat{P}_{L,t}$ is the maximum prediction error of load at time t . See 3.2 for other constraints.

4.3 Model solving process

A bilevel solving process is established for the min-max model of Eq. 42, in which the Genetic Algorithm is used in the upper-level for scenario enumerating with different renewable energy output and load demand, and try to find the worst scenario with the minimum $\max f$. In the lower-level CPLEX is used to solve $\max f$ with a fixed scenario. The upper-level and the lower-level iterate until convergence (Ma et al., 2016). The specific process is as follows:

Step 1: set related parameters in the algorithm, such as population size, cross mutation probability, iteration number k , initial power flow, renewable energy output, load and unit parameters, etc.

Step 2: encode and form an initial uncertain set population, randomly generate x uncertain sets of renewable energy output and load, and transmit the uncertain sets to the lower-level.

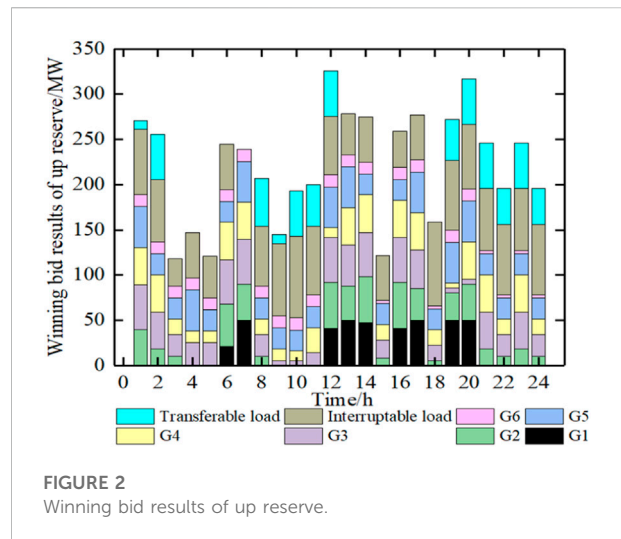
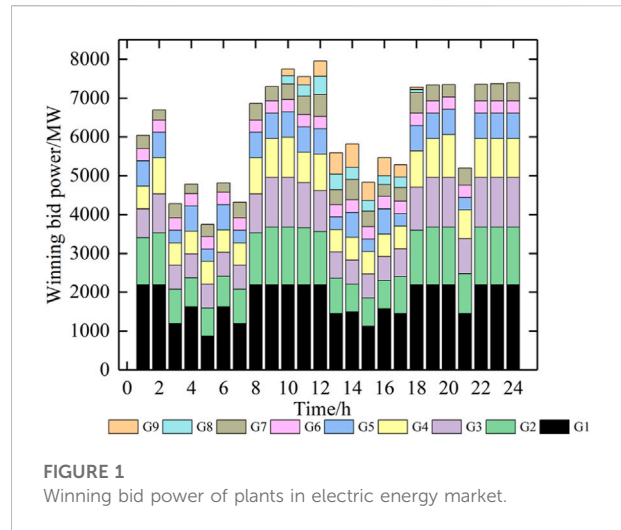
Step 3: receive an uncertain set at the lower-level, use CPLEX to solve $\max f$ to obtain the winning bid quantity of each unit and flexible load, and return the optimized social welfare f^* to the upper-level.

Step 4: in the upper-level replace the current optimal solution with the smallest social benefit to obtain the current worst scenario. If the calculated social welfare f^* converges, save the worst scenario of renewable energy output and load demand and the optimization results in the lower-level problem, end the loop (the convergence basis is that the minimum social welfare difference obtained by two adjacent iterations does not exceed 0.01); otherwise, use the selection and mutation of Genetic Algorithm to generate a new uncertain set, let $k = k + 1$.

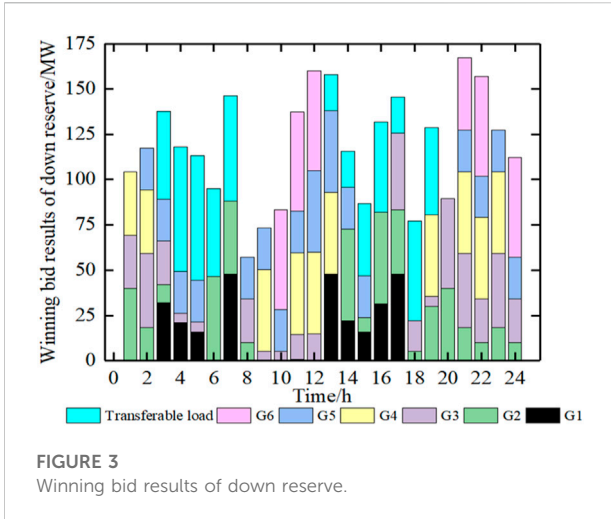
Step 5: if the number of iterations reaches the maximum, exit this process, otherwise, return to *Step 3*.

5 Case study

In this paper, a modified IEEE 10-machine 39-node system as shown in Supplementary Appendix Figure SA1 is established, in which the thermal power plant G10 and the load of bus 39 are used as the equivalent sending power grid, and the other receiving power grid get supply through tie line 39-1. Day-ahead clearing simulation of the receiver grid verifies the effectiveness of the proposed method in this paper. The power supply capacity in the receiving power



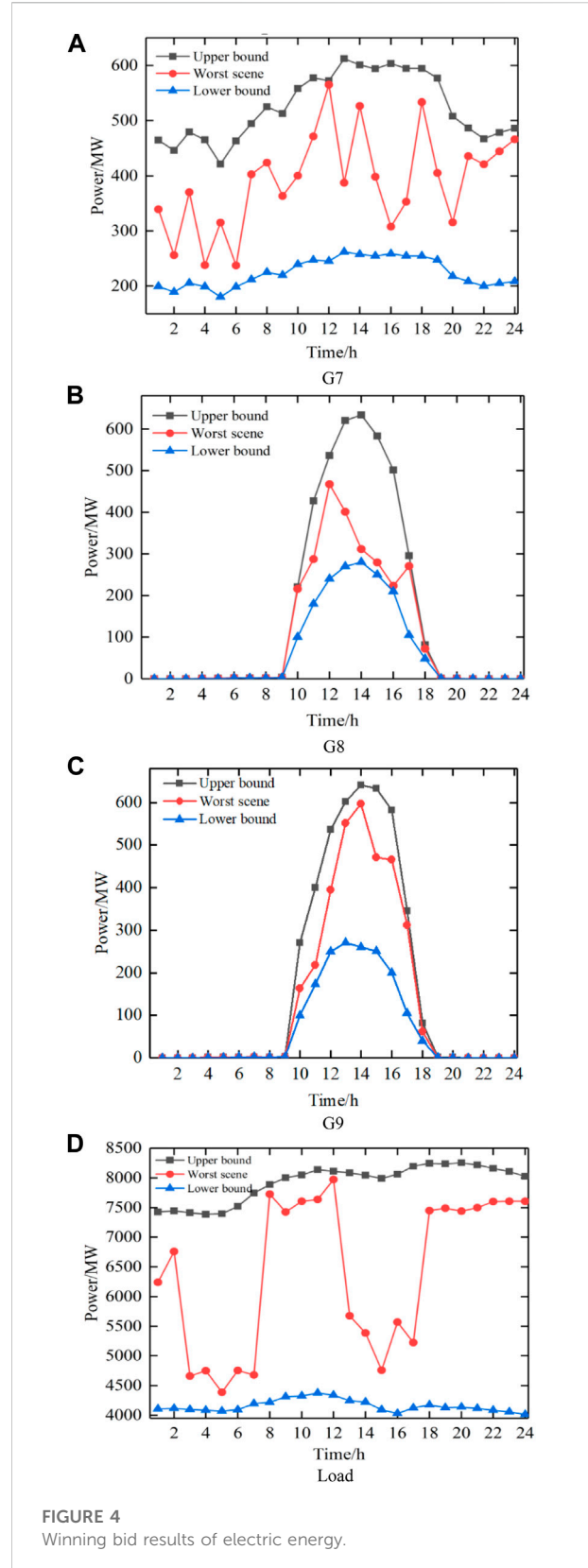
grid is 9610MW, including 4 thermal power plants G1-G4, 2 hydropower plants G5-G6, 1 wind power plant G7 and 2 photovoltaic power plants G8-G9, of which G5 is set as a frequency modulation power plant. It is assumed that 5% of the load capacity of each bus in the receiving grid is flexible load, of which the interruptible and transferable loads are 3% and 2% respectively. See Appendix A for the parameters of unit, line and flexible load. The failure probability of each unit in each period is assumed as 0.5%, the unplanned outage probability of load is 0.5% and the load loss probability is 5%. According to the historical prediction error, the maximum prediction error of load is set to be 10%, the maximum prediction error of renewable energy output is set to be 15%, and the uncertainty parameter is taken as 40. See Appendix A for the forecasting values of tie line exchanging power and load.

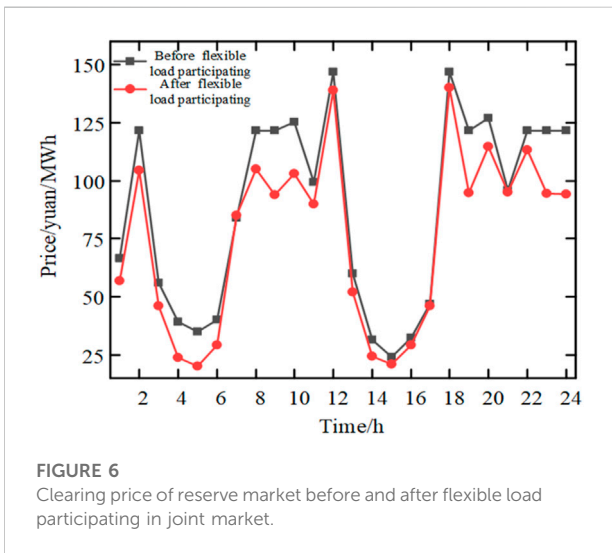
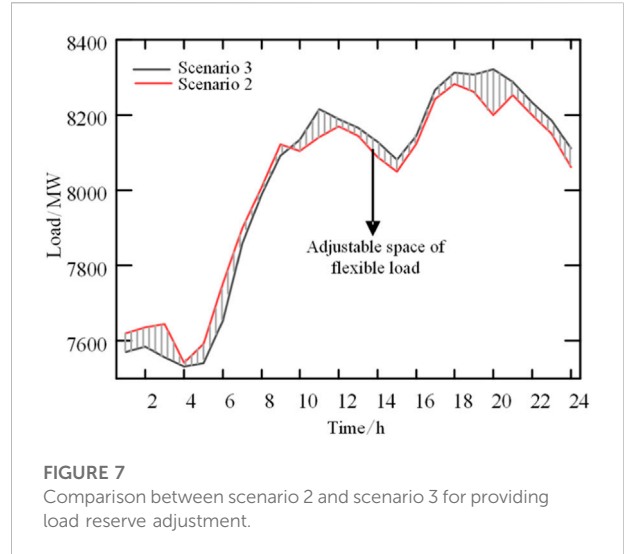
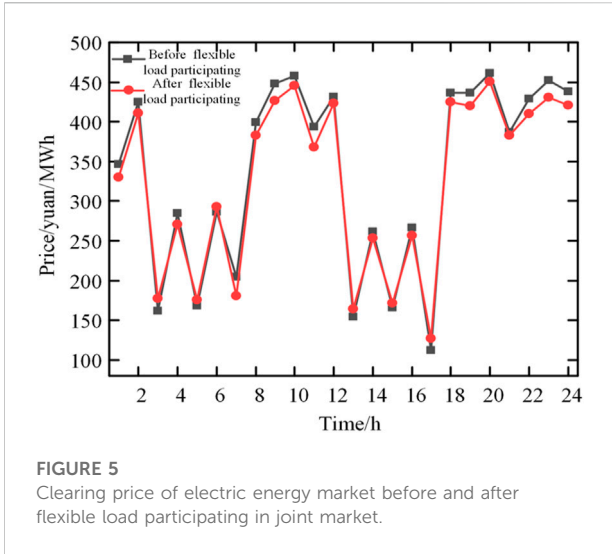


5.1 Example of day-ahead clearing

According to the robust optimization method proposed in this paper, the day-ahead calculation example is cleared, and the electric energy clearing results of the power plant are further obtained, which is shown in Figure 1. It can be seen from the figure that since the operation cost of wind power and photovoltaic is far lower than that of thermal power, and they do not participate in the reserve market. Therefore, all renewable energy units have priority to be cleared in the electric energy market at all times, and the insufficient part is balanced by hydropower and thermal power. The overall output level of thermal power plants G1 and G2 is high, and the output level of G3 and G4 is low. Among them, the power generation cost of thermal power plant G4 is higher than that of thermal power plants G1-G3, so G4 has the smallest winning bid power. Because hydropower has a better price advantage in the reserve market, its clearing result in the electric energy market is far lower than that of thermal power.

Figures 2, 3 show the winning bid power of plants and loads in the reserve ancillary service market for the up and down reserve, respectively. In the example, the equipment failure probability and unplanned load outage probability are both set as constant within a day. Therefore, the reason why the system reserve capacity is large at 12:00 and 20:00 in Figure 2 is that the fault during peak load will cause a larger loss of load, resulting in a high risk of load loss. Because the reserve bidding price of flexible load has certain advantages, flexible loads are cleared as part of the system up reserve at all times. From 8:00 to 11:00 and 22:00 to 24:00, when more thermal power and hydropower are cleared in the electric energy market, the winning bid up reserve capacity of the load is even higher than that of the unit. It can be seen that the participation of interruptible load and transferable load in the reserve auxiliary





service will reduce the bid-winning capacity of the unit in the reserve market and reduce the pressure on the unit to provide reserve capacity. Because the price of interruptible load set in this paper is lower than that of transferable load in reserve market, the bid-winning capacity of interruptible load in each period is higher than that of transferable load.

It can be seen from Figure 3 that the down reserve capacity cleared in the market at 12:00 and 21:00 is large, the reason is that the load outage during peak load will cause greater risk of unit tripping. The participation of transferable loads effectively supplements the system's demand for down reserve from units. Since the transferable load accounts for a small proportion in the system, the winning bid results of down reserve capacity from the loads is smaller than that of the units.

Through robust optimization, the winning bid results of the wind power plant G7, photovoltaic power plant G8 and total load in the worst scenario are shown in Figure 4. The winning bid results are all between the upper and lower bounds of the prediction error.

After the flexible load participates in the joint market of electric energy and reserve auxiliary service, the clearing prices of electric energy and reserve capacity in each period are shown in Figures 5, 6.

It can be seen from Figure 5 that after the participation of flexible load, the daily average price of electric energy market is reduced from 321.6 yuan/MWh to 313.1 yuan/MWh. Especially from 8:00 to 11:00 and from 18:00 to 24:00, when the load demand is large and the risk of insufficient reserve is high, the clearing of flexible load in the reserve market reduces the load clearing in the electric energy market, which will help to reduce the clearing price of the electric energy market and reduce the fluctuation degree of electricity price throughout the day when the bidding strategy of units and loads remains unchanged. As the flexible loads which have lower prices than thermal power units participate in the reserve market, the average price of reserve market is also reduced from 80.7 yuan/MWh to 67.6 yuan/MWh throughout the day.

In order to discuss the effectiveness of the method proposed in this paper, three comparison scenarios are set up for joint clearing optimization. Scenario 1: the proportion of flexible load is 0, and the joint clearing model is calculated by robust optimization; Scenario 2: the proportion of flexible load is 5%, and the forecasting value of load and renewable energy is determined with 95% confidence; Scenario 3: the proportion of flexible load is 0, the forecasting value of load and renewable energy is determined with 95% confidence. Figures 5, 6 show the clearing prices of electric energy and reserve capacity in each period of scenario 1, respectively. See Appendix B for the optimization results of winning bid capacity, winning bid reserve capacity of units and loads, and clearing electricity

TABLE 1 Clearing results under four scenarios (10⁴ yuan).

Clearing results	Proposed method	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Unit generating cost	5497.93	5882.52	5688.47	6196.42
Unit reserve cost	1265.98	1505.42	1195.00	1358.32
Flexible load reserve cost	403.33	0	403.33	0
Flexible load income	306.68	0	306.68	0
Risk cost	28.77	38.13	48.71	49.46
Total cost	6889.33	7426.06	7028.83	7604.20

prices for scenarios 2 and 3. Among them, after the flexible load participates in providing the up and down reserve of the system, the load reserve adjustment capability that scenario 2 can provide compared to scenario 3 is shown in Figure 7, which fully shows the flexibility of interruptible and transferable load to provide up and down reserve for the system. The market clearing results under the four scenarios are shown in Table 1.

According to Table 1, it can be seen that:

- 1) The participation of flexible load in the provision of up and down reserve of the system can effectively avoid the need for unit to operate in the range with higher production costs in order to ensure system safety, thereby reducing the power generation cost of the unit. Therefore, in the example, the methods considering the flexible load, that are the proposed method and scenario 2, have much lower generation cost than those of scenarios 1 and 3 without considering flexible load, and the proposed method in this paper has the lowest power generation cost.
- 2) Since the flexible load with price advantage is introduced into the reserve market to provide up and down reserve to the system, the proposed method in this paper and scenario 2 both have lower reserve cost. Since the robust optimization method in this paper considers the worst scenario, the reserve cost is slightly higher than that of scenario 2.
- 3) Since the price bidding strategy of flexible load of the method in this paper is same as that of scenario 2 and all cleared, the reserve cost and benefit of the flexible load of the two are equal.
- 4) Since the worst scenario is considered, the risk cost of the proposed method in this paper is lowest.
- 5) The total operation costs of the proposed method and scenario 2 are lower than that of scenarios 1 and 3, indicating that the participation of flexible load in reserve will reduce the total cost of the system.

In the above example, the failure probability of each unit in each period is assumed as a fixed unit failure probability value 0.5%. Here, assume that the failure probability of G1 increases from 0.5% to 15% during 8:00 to 12:00 and the failure probability

of G3 increases from 0.5% to 20% during 15:00 to 20:00, here a variable unit failure probability case is introduced. The clearing results of the cases with fixed probability and variable unit failure probability are shown in Table 2. The winning bid results in electric energy market and reserve market are shown in Figures 8, 9 respectively.

Compared with winning bid results in Figures 1, 2, the risk cost increases due to the increase of unit failure probability of G1 from 8:00 to 12:00, leading to significant increase of winning bid results of up reserve. Among them, the winning bid power of G1 in electric energy market decreases and the winning bid up reserve capacity of G1 increases obviously. When the failure probability of G3 increases from 15:00 to 20:00, the winning bid results of the system also has a similar rule.

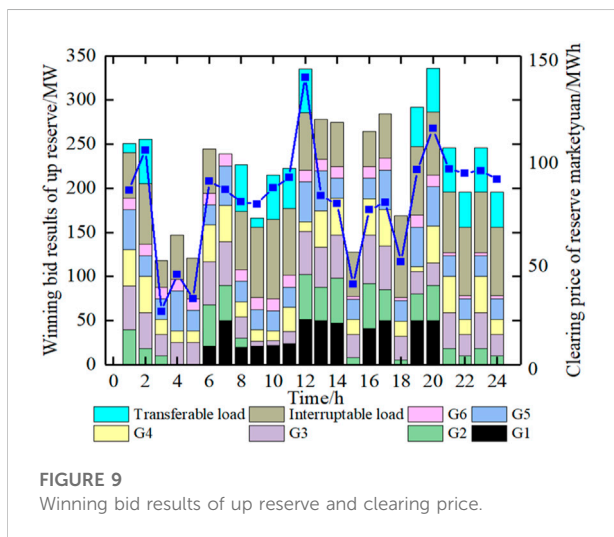
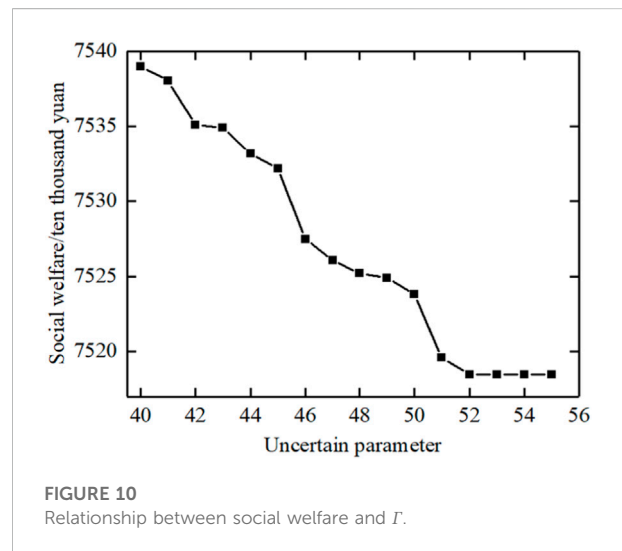
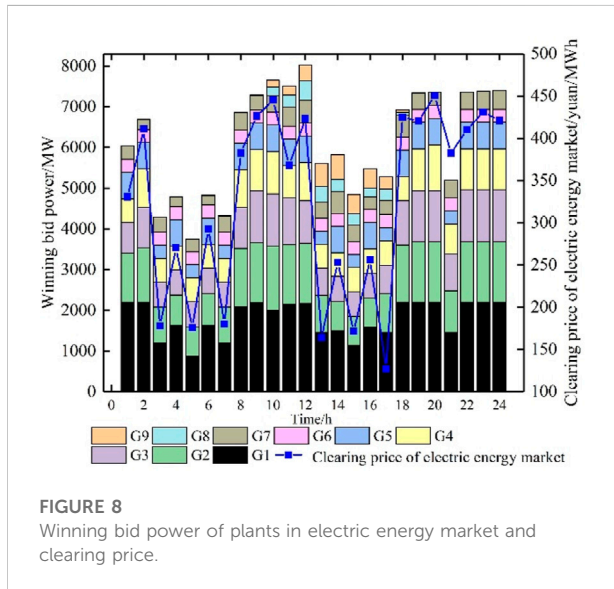
In order to cope with the uncertainty of failure probability, the system reserve capacity increases from 872.21 MW to 966.22 MW during 8:00 to 12:00, and increases from 1205.13 to 1254.13 MW during 15:00 to 20:00. The total reserve capacity increases from 4107.79 WM to 4252.79 WM. Unit reserve cost and risk cost have increased. The reserve market price increases during 8:00 to 12:00 and during 15:00 to 20:00. The average daily reserve market price rises to 80.22 yuan/MWh.

5.2 Influence analysis of uncertain parameters in robust optimization

In order to further discuss the influence of the robust optimization model, the sensitivity analysis is carried out on the uncertain parameter Γ , and the relationship between social welfare and Γ in the interval of $\Gamma \in [40, 56]$ is shown in Figure 10. It can be seen from the figure that the social welfare decreases with the increase of the uncertain parameter Γ . The reason is that the increasing of Γ will make the feasible region of the uncertain set continue to increase, and the system optimization result will develop to a worse scenario, therefore, the social welfare will continue to decrease. When Γ is greater than 52, the continuous increase of the feasible range of the uncertain set cannot generate worse scenarios. Therefore, social welfare no longer changes with Γ .

TABLE 2 Total cost and income of system before and after failure probability increasing (10⁴ yuan).

Clearing results	Unit generating cost	Unit reserve cost	Risk cost	Flexible load income	Flexible load reserve cost
Fixed failure probability	5497.93	1265.98	28.77	306.68	403.33
Variable failure probability	6596.41	1432.12	76.17	306.68	403.33



5.3 Influence analysis of flexible load bidding

In order to further discuss the influence of flexible load bidding in the joint market, define α_1 and α_2 as the price adjustment coefficients

of flexible load in the electric energy market and the reserve market, changing the bidding price to $\alpha_1 F_1$ and $\alpha_2 L_3$ respectively. When α_1 and α_2 are fixed to 1, the benchmark bidding is set.

In order to prevent the abuse of market power, it is necessary to limit the bidding range to monitor the behavior of individual bidding. This paper mainly considers the upper and lower limit constraints of the price adjustment coefficients:

$$\underline{\alpha} \leq \alpha_1 \leq \bar{\alpha} \tag{46}$$

$$\underline{\alpha} \leq \alpha_2 \leq \bar{\alpha} \tag{47}$$

Where, $\bar{\alpha}$ and $\underline{\alpha}$ are the maximum and minimum values of the price adjustment coefficients respectively. This paper sets $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in [0.5, 2]$.

The change of social welfare Δf is defined as the difference between the social welfare f' after changing the bidding and that under the benchmark bidding f . When α_2 is fixed to 1, Δf with α_1 as 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2 is shown in Table 3. The table shows that when α_1 increases from 0.8 to 1.2, social welfare increases gradually. When α_1 is set to 1.2, the corresponding electric energy bidding can obtain greater social welfare.

When α_1 is fixed to 1, Δf with α_2 as 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2 is shown in Table 4. The table shows that when α_2 increases from 0.8 to 1.2, social welfare decreases gradually. When α_2 is set to 0.8, the corresponding electric energy bidding can obtain greater social welfare.

TABLE 3 Influence of electric energy market bidding to Δf .

α_1	0.8	0.9	1	1.1	1.2
Δf /ten thousand yuan	-633.5	-311.4	0	306.7	613.3

TABLE 4 Influence of reserve market bidding to Δf .

α_2	0.8	0.9	1	1.1	1.2
Δf /ten thousand yuan	642.5	422.1	0	-403.3	-613.3

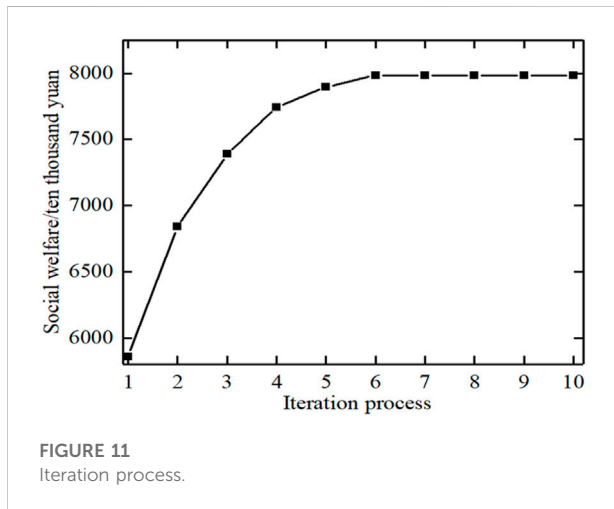


FIGURE 11 Iteration process.

From the above analysis, it can be seen that the bidding of flexible load in the electric energy market and reserve market will affect the optimal distribution of load in the electric energy market and reserve capacity market, thereby affecting social welfare. In this paper, the bidding strategy is optimized based on Genetic Algorithm. The optimization iteration process is shown in Figure 11. It can be seen from the figure that the social welfare reaches the maximum after 6 iterations, and the optimal price adjustment coefficients are 1.61 and 0.57 respectively.

5.4 Influence analysis of flexible load proportion

Based on the optimal price adjustment coefficients of flexible load, $\alpha_1=1.61$, $\alpha_2=0.57$, further analyze the impact of flexible load proportion on the market clearing results. All load nodes are set to have a fixed proportion throughout the period, and the impact of different flexible load proportions on social welfare is studied,

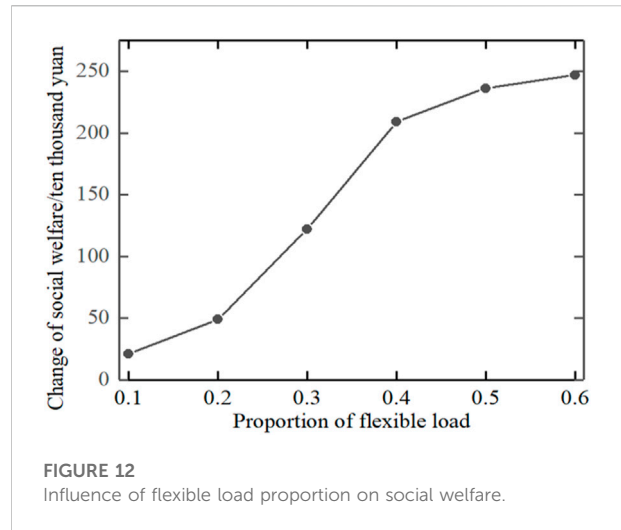


FIGURE 12 Influence of flexible load proportion on social welfare.

as shown in Figure 12. It can be seen from Figure 12 that the social welfare increases with the increase of the proportion of flexible load, because the increase of the proportion of flexible load will increase the flexibility of the system, thereby increasing the social welfare. Because when the flexible load proportion is in the range of 0.3–0.4, the change rate of social welfare is the largest, so considering the efficiency and reliability of power supply, it is reasonable to choose this interval to set flexible load.

6 Conclusion

The demand for system reserve due to uncertain factors such as net load prediction error, random failure of units and unplanned load shedding is considered in this paper, and the risk cost model of insufficient up reserve and down reserve of the system are established respectively. Two reserve resources from demand response and generators are considered, and the reserve capacity of the system is optimized through the risk cost. Aiming at the maximization of social welfare, a joint clearing model of electric energy and auxiliary service in the day-ahead spot market is established. A robust optimization model which takes the uncertainty of net load into account is then put forward, which can help market decision makers find out the market clearing scheme under the worst scenario of the system and provide reference decisions for the market to resist the risk of uncertainty. The research shows that the participation of the flexible load in the joint market can reduce the costs of power generation and reserve, avoiding the operation of units in the high operating cost section, increasing the total welfare of the power market, and improving the distribution of market-clearing electricity prices within a day. By rationally setting the bidding price and proportion of the flexible load, demand response can be guided to use electricity more scientifically and rationally, which can improve social welfare.

Data availability statement

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

Author contributions

YS: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Investigation, Formal Analysis, Writing—Original Draft; LH: Methodology, Writing—Original Draft; YC: Investigation, Formal Analysis; JW: Resources, Supervision; ZS: Data Curation, Validation; ZW: Writing—Review and Editing.

Funding

This work was supported by the project of State Grid Anhui Electric Power Co., Ltd. “Research on optimal allocation of energy storage and participation in power market mode considering coordinated control of load and storage”. The funder was not involved in the study design, collection, analysis, interpretation of data, the writing of this article, or the decision to submit it for publication.

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Conflict of interest

JW, ZS, and ZW were employed by the State Grid Anhui Electric Power Co Ltd.

The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fenrg.2022.998902/full#supplementary-material>

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