

# The CP Shortcut: Solving the High-Power Pump Activation Problem without the Overkill

CP2026

---

Mohamed-Anass Gallass<sup>1</sup>, Philippe Greiner<sup>2</sup>, Antoine Tuerlinckx<sup>2</sup>, Hélène Verhaeghe<sup>1</sup>

21 July 2026

<sup>1</sup> UCLouvain, Belgium

[anass.gallass@student.uclouvain.be](mailto:anass.gallass@student.uclouvain.be),

[helene.verhaeghe@uclouvain.be](mailto:helene.verhaeghe@uclouvain.be)

<sup>2</sup> Technord, Belgium

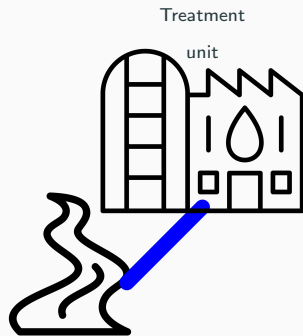
[p.greiner@technord.com](mailto:p.greiner@technord.com),

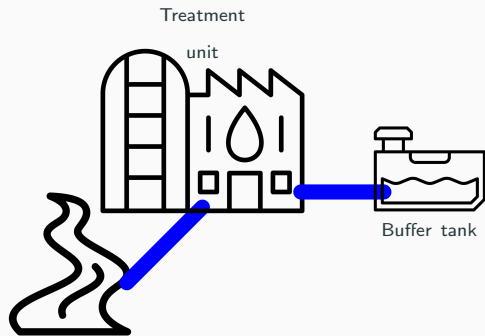
[a.tuerlinckx@technord.com](mailto:a.tuerlinckx@technord.com)

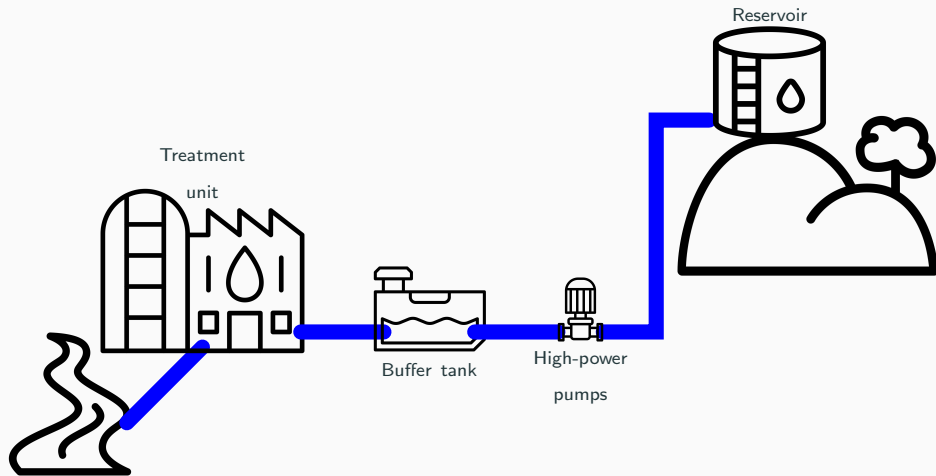


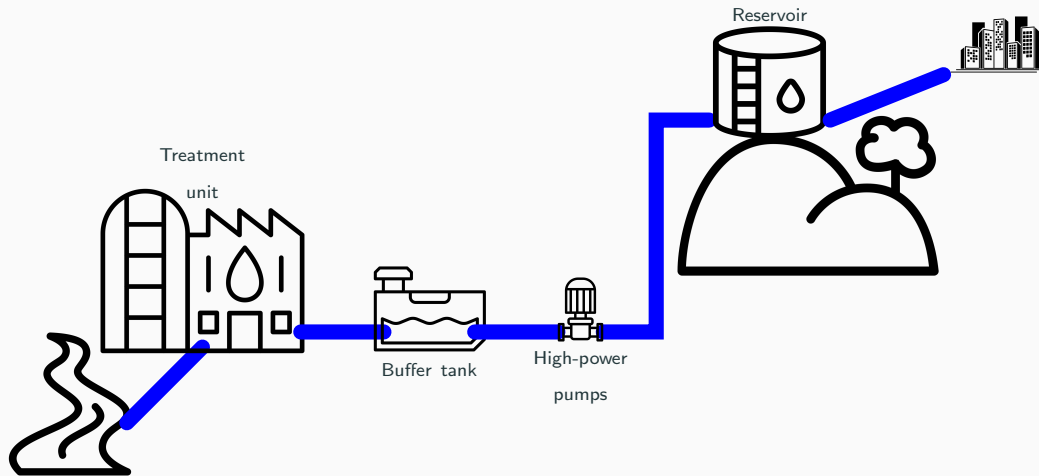


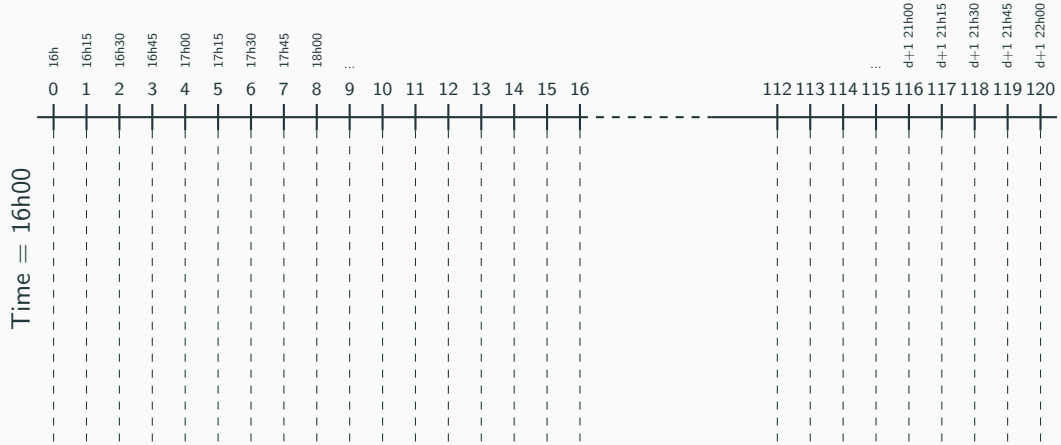




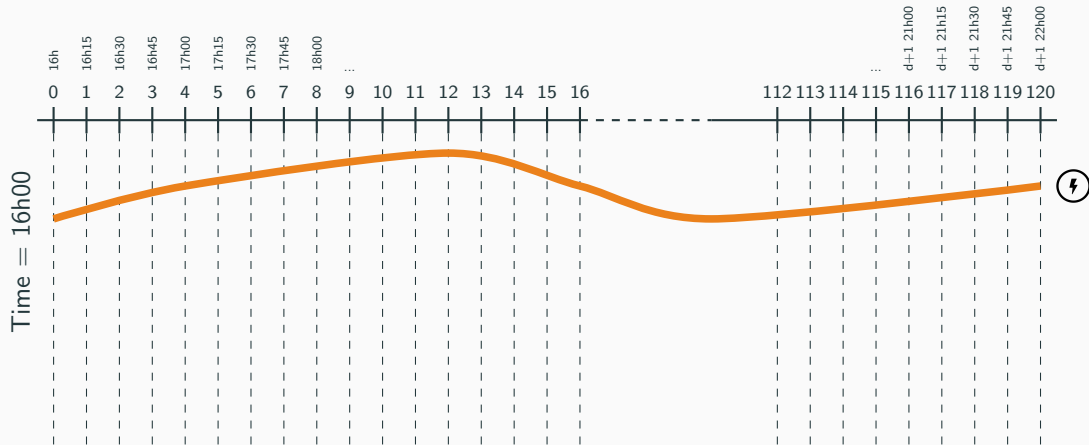


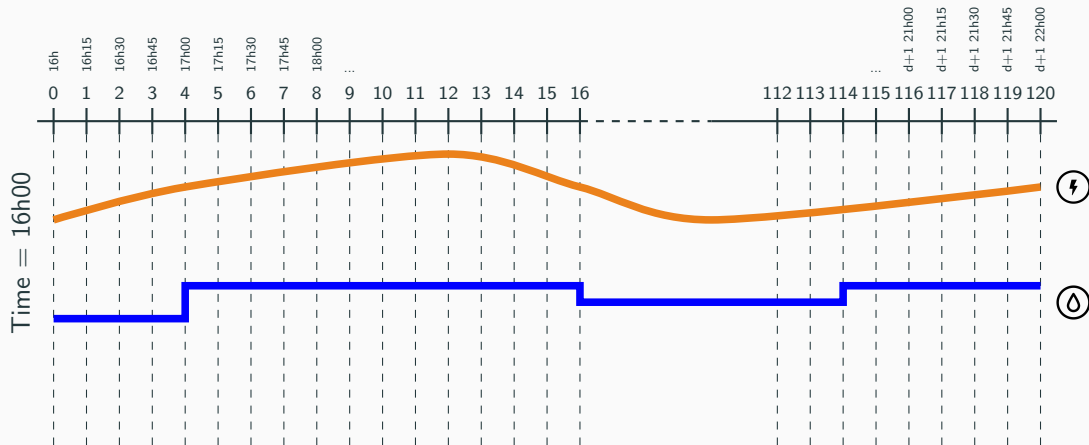


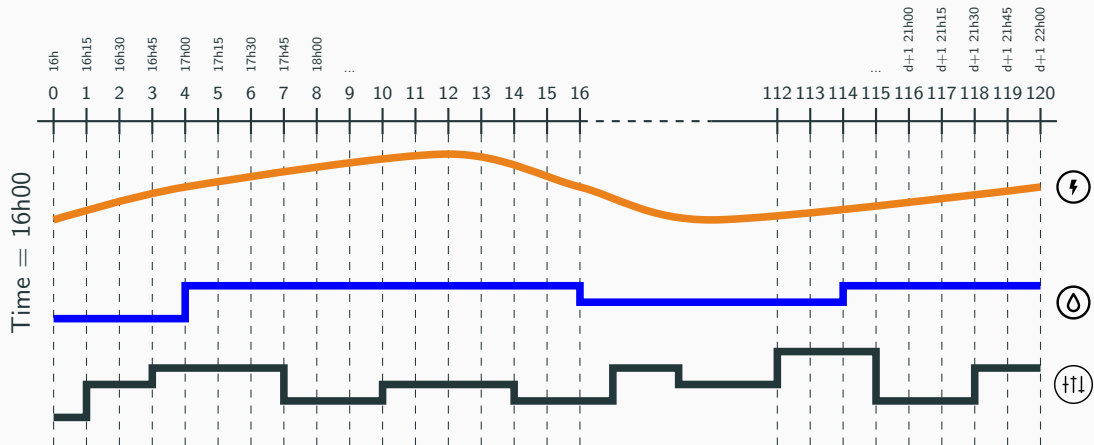




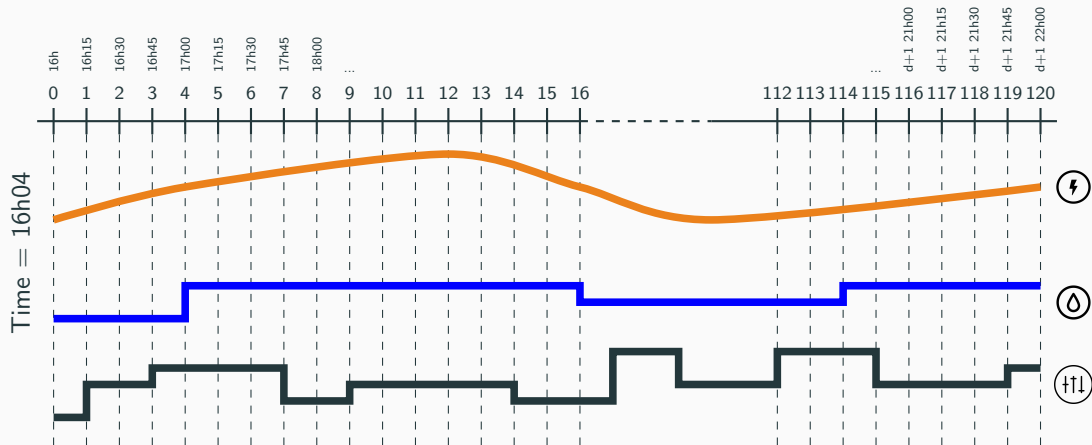




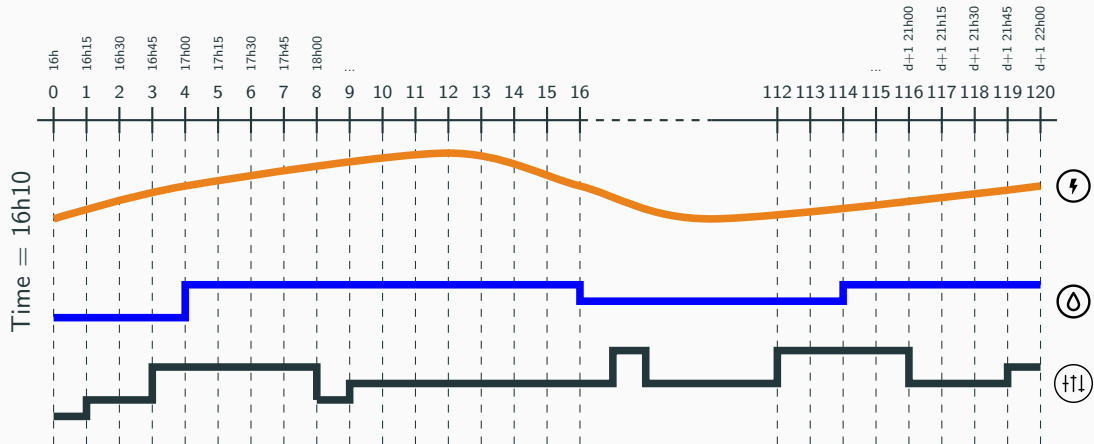




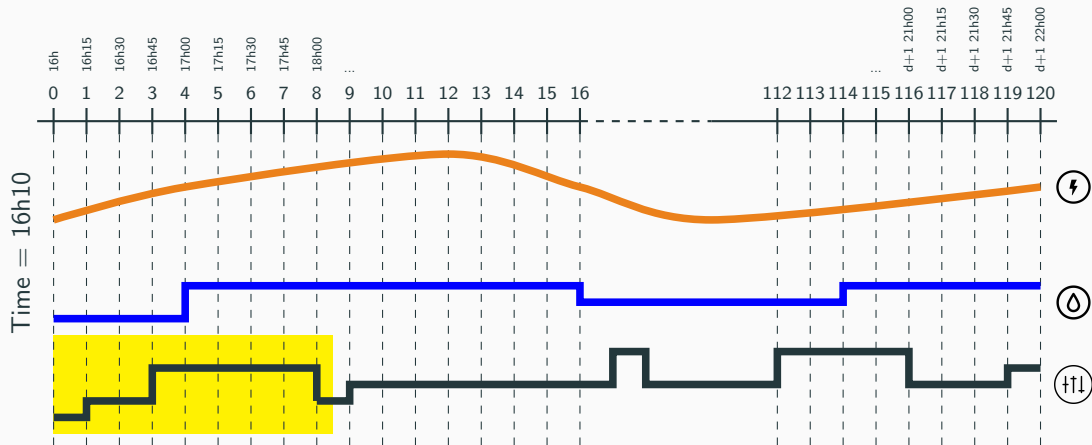
Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)



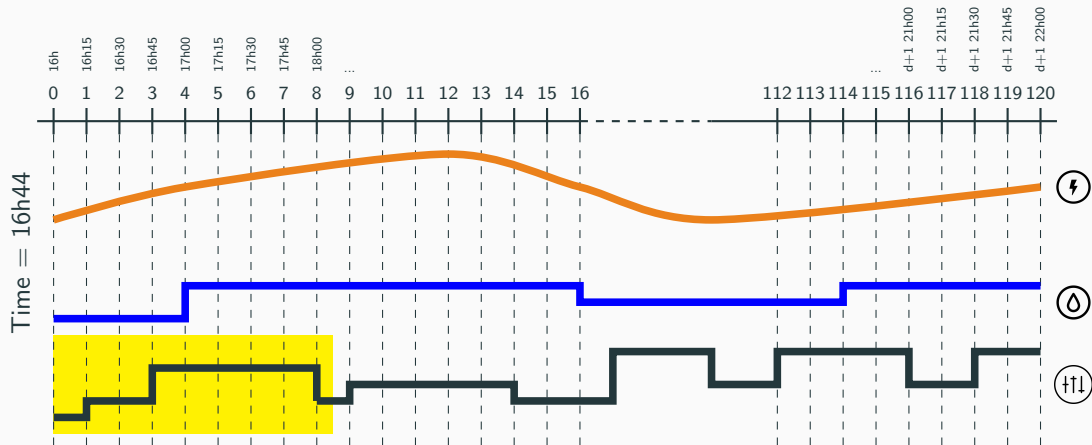
Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)



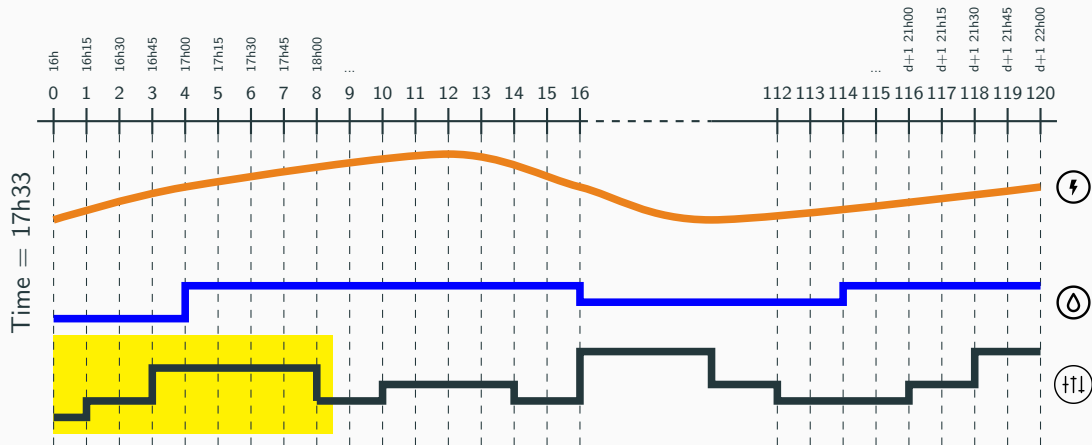
Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)



Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)

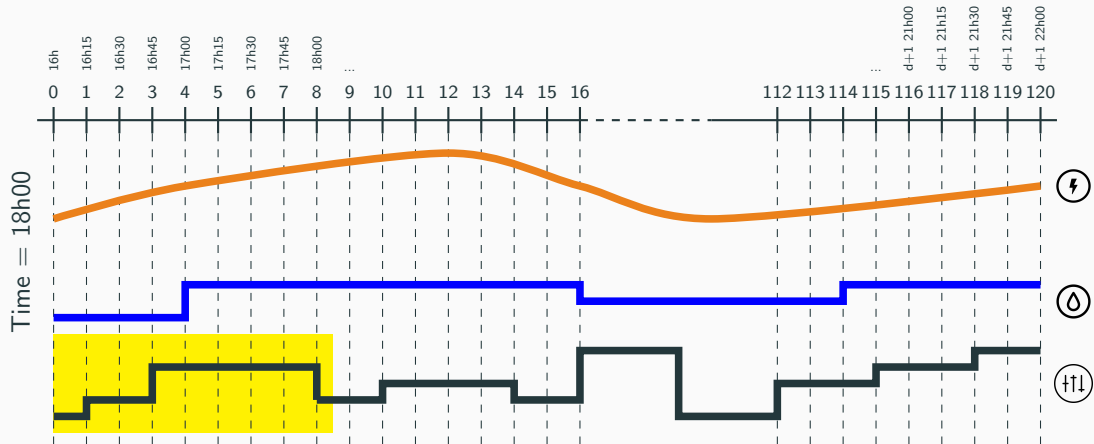


Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)

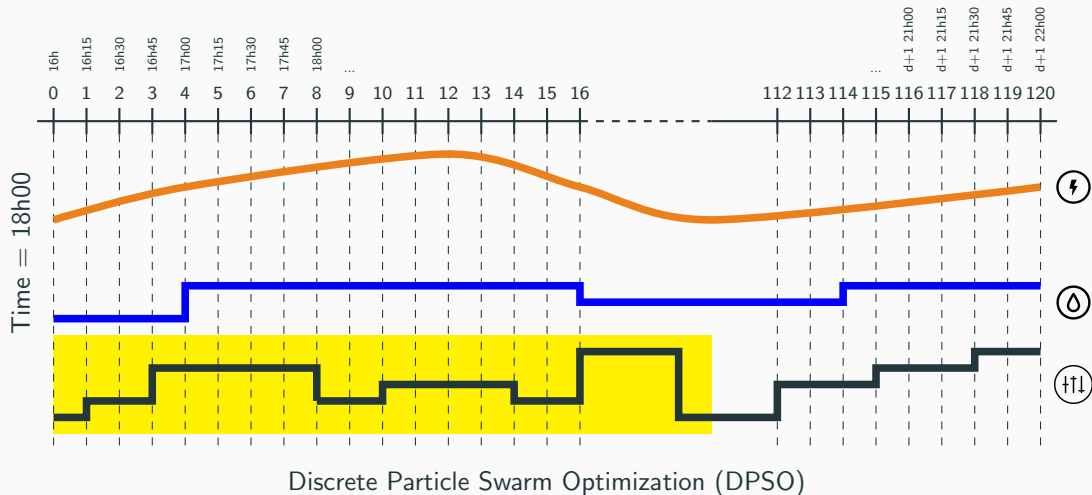


Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)





Discrete Particle Swarm Optimization (DPSO)





- Workers are trained to follow the schedule in 15-min increments (at most 1 min deviation) and safety threshold are considered valid
  - Supported by more than 1 year of historic data

- Workers are trained to follow the schedule in 15-min increments (at most 1 min deviation) and safety threshold are considered valid
  - Supported by more than 1 year of historic data
- Discretisation of the electricity cost
  - as the power is constant over 15-min period, mean electricity cost per period can be used

- Workers are trained to follow the schedule in 15-min increments (at most 1 min deviation) and safety threshold are considered valid
  - Supported by more than 1 year of historic data
- Discretisation of the electricity cost
  - as the power is constant over 15-min period, mean electricity cost per period can be used
- No increase of "waiting water"
  - Production volumes at plant are set equals to consumption volumes at reservoir

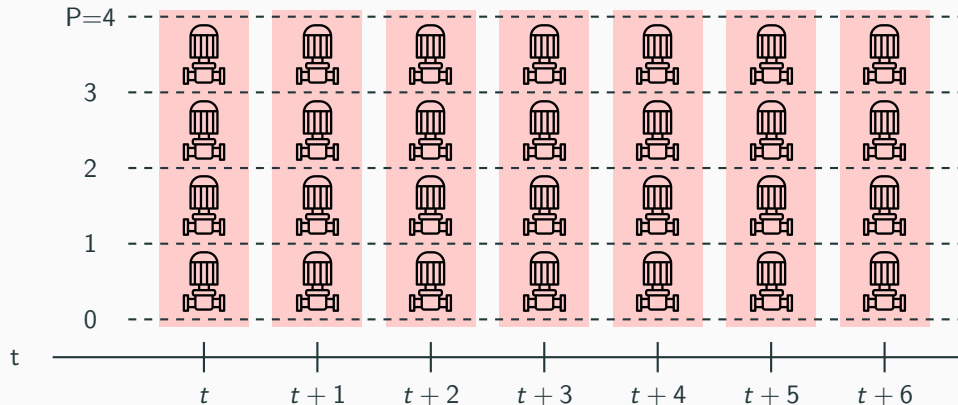
- Workers are trained to follow the schedule in 15-min increments (at most 1 min deviation) and safety threshold are considered valid
  - Supported by more than 1 year of historic data
- Discretisation of the electricity cost
  - as the power is constant over 15-min period, mean electricity cost per period can be used
- No increase of "waiting water"
  - Production volumes at plant are set equals to consumption volumes at reservoir
- Reservoir is "big enough we do not care"
  - $0 \ll R - w_{day} \leq R + w_{day} \ll R_{max}$ , no pump schedule can empty or overflow the reservoir

# Hypothesis

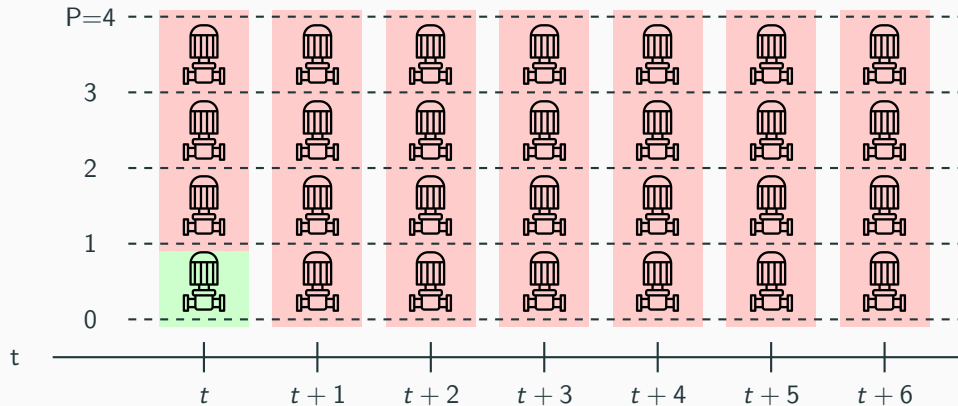
- Workers are trained to follow the schedule in 15-min increments (at most 1 min deviation) and safety threshold are considered valid
  - Supported by more than 1 year of historic data
- Discretisation of the electricity cost
  - as the power is constant over 15-min period, mean electricity cost per period can be used
- No increase of "waiting water"
  - Production volumes at plant are set equals to consumption volumes at reservoir
- Reservoir is "big enough we do not care"
  - $0 \ll R - w_{day} \leq R + w_{day} \ll R_{max}$ , no pump schedule can empty or overflow the reservoir
- Computation on 40h to avoid full tank effect, and take in account already trend of the next day (less precise predictions)



## CP Model: Pumps

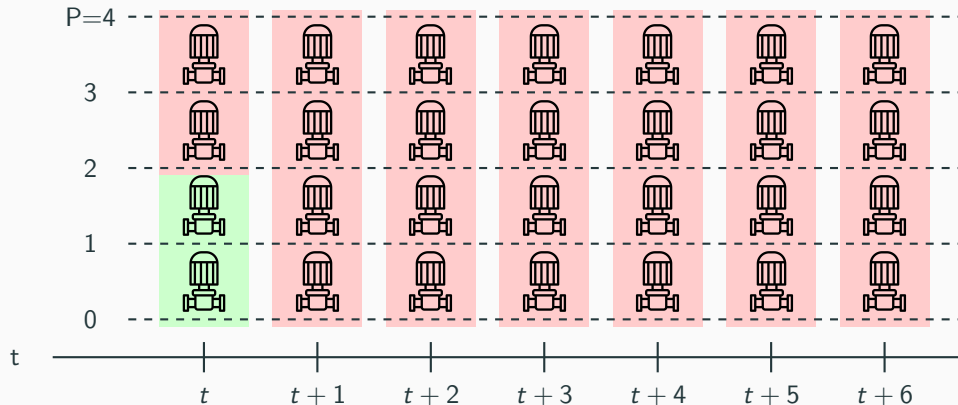


## CP Model: Pumps



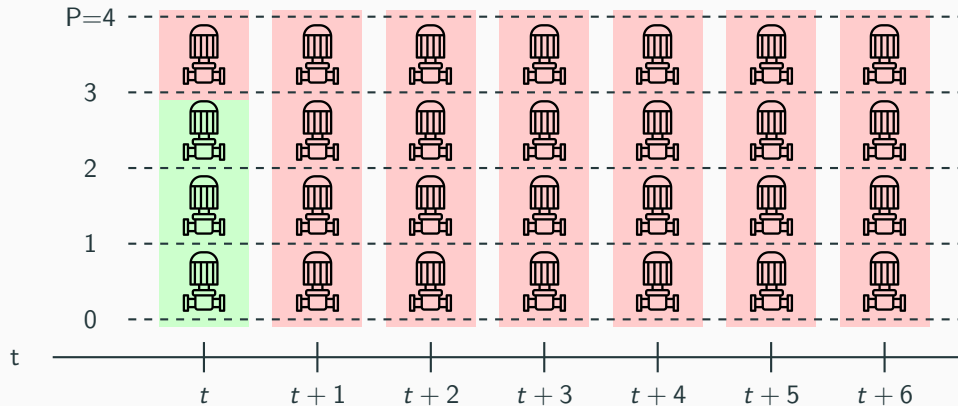
Pump  $i$  can only be **on** if pump  $i - 1$  is **on**

## CP Model: Pumps



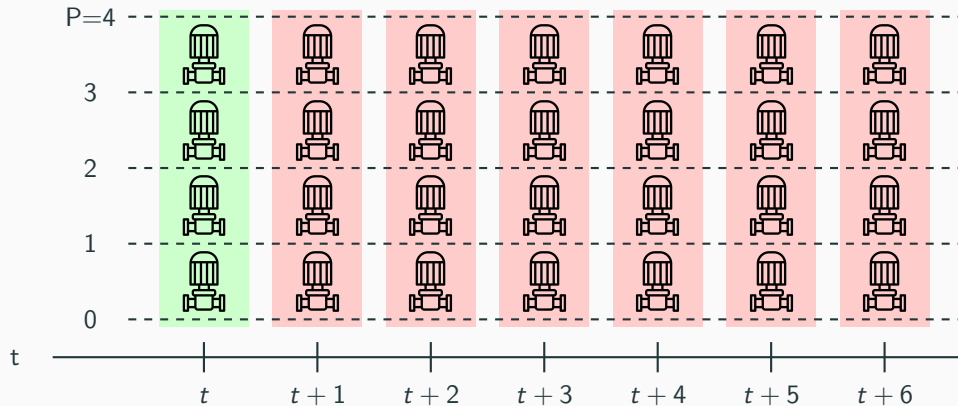
Pump  $i$  can only be **on** if pump  $i-1$  is **on**

## CP Model: Pumps



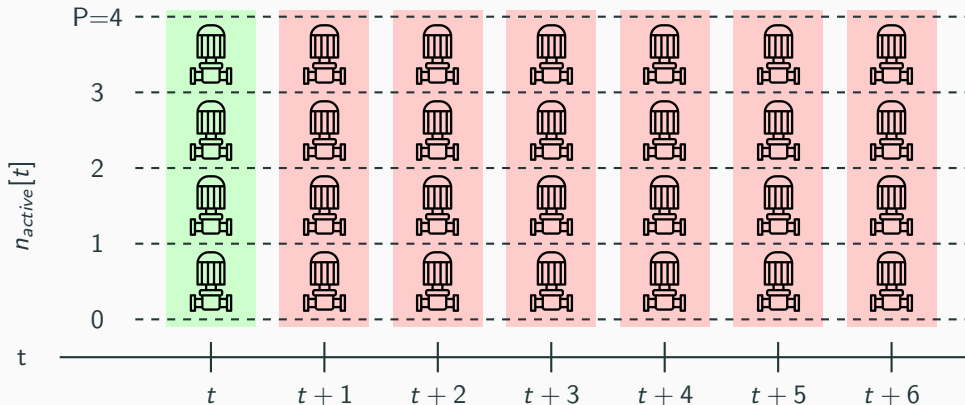
Pump  $i$  can only be **on** if pump  $i - 1$  is **on**

## CP Model: Pumps



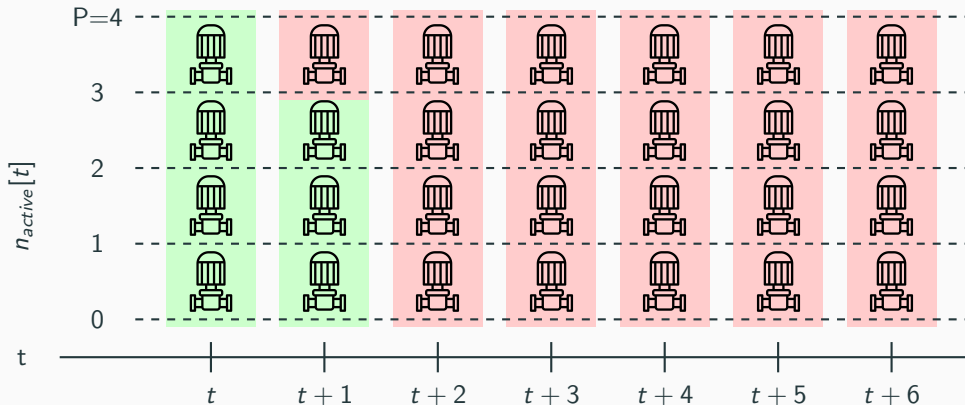
Pump  $i$  can only be **on** if pump  $i-1$  is **on**

# CP Model: Pumps

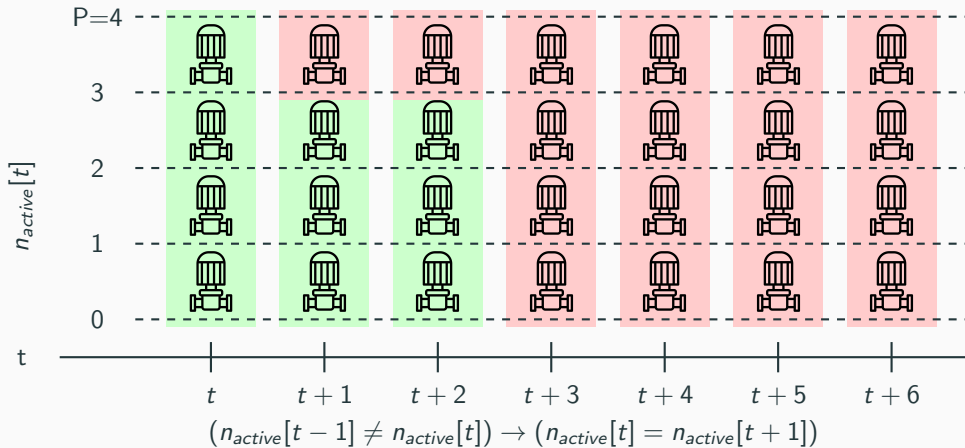


Pump  $i$  can only be **on** if pump  $i - 1$  is **on**

# CP Model: Pumps

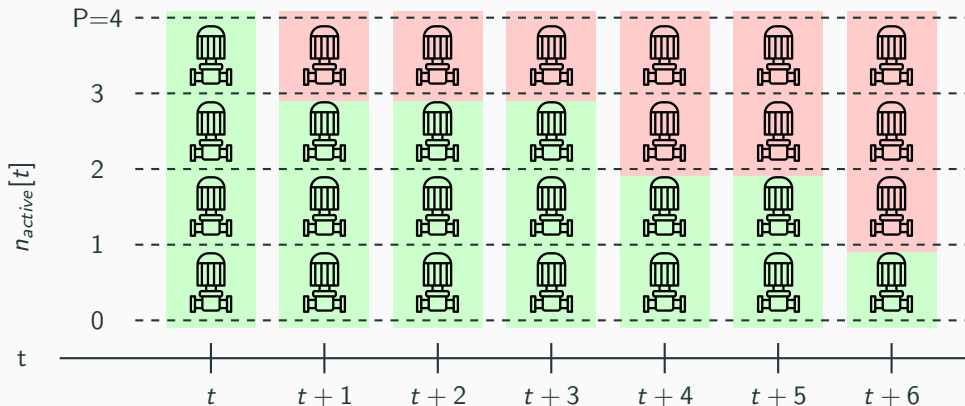


# CP Model: Pumps



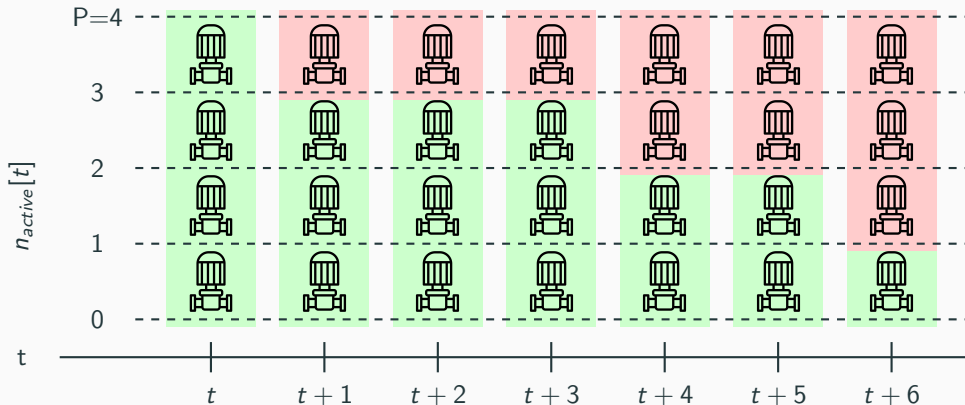


# CP Model: Pumps



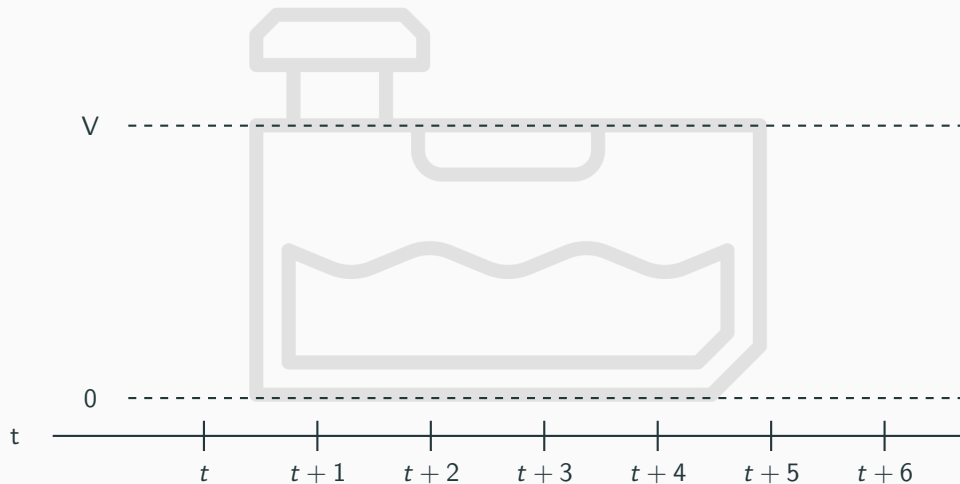
$$\sum_{i=j}^{j+24 \times 4 - 1} |n_{active}[i] - n_{active}[i+1]| \leq M$$

## CP Model: Pumps

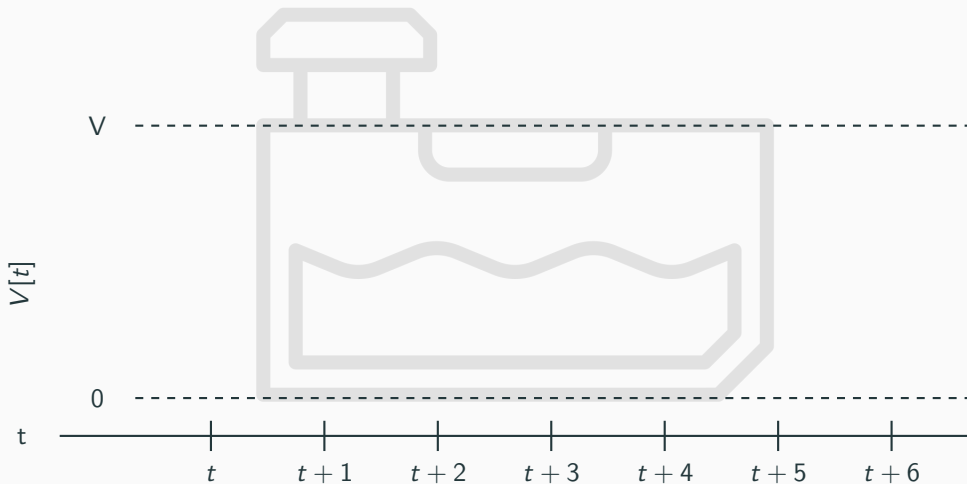


$$\min Cost = \min \sum_{t=0}^{T-1} \pi_t \times p[n_{active}[t]]$$

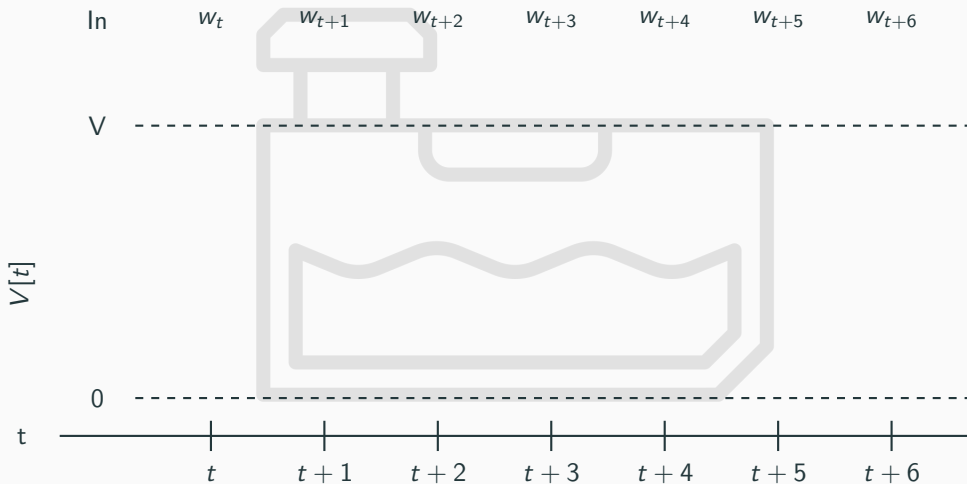
## CP Model: Buffer Tanks



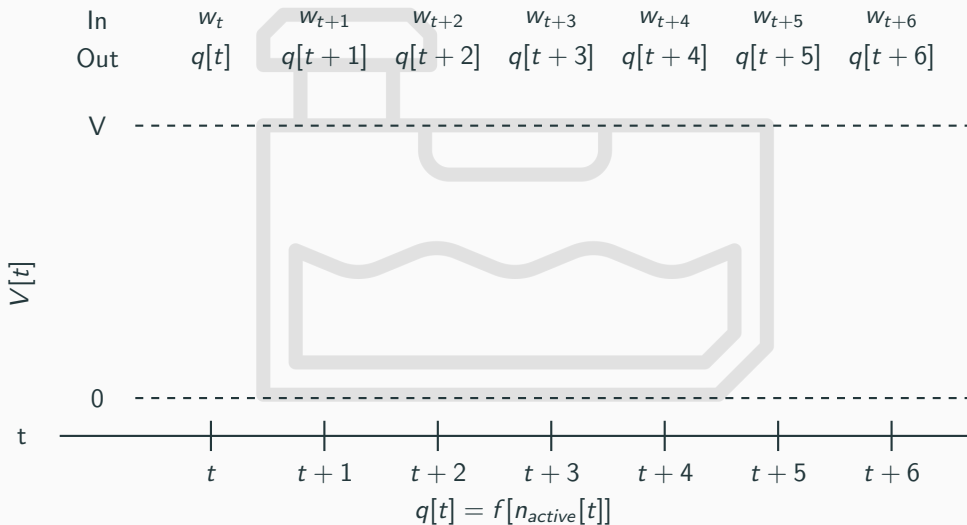
## CP Model: Buffer Tanks



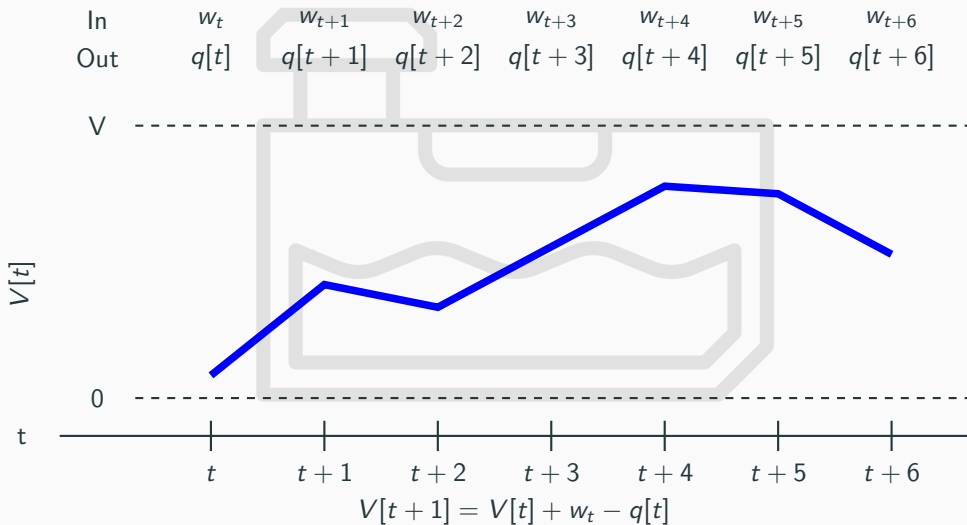
# CP Model: Buffer Tanks



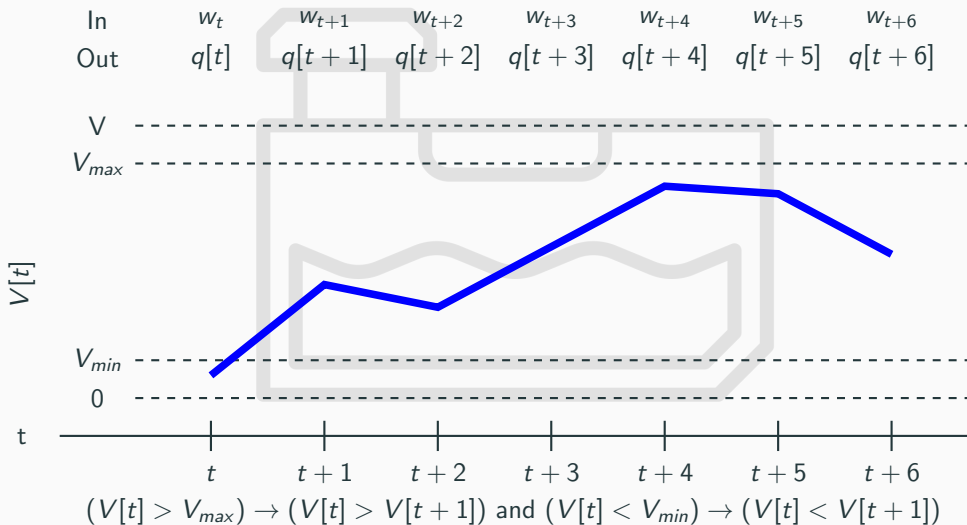
## CP Model: Buffer Tanks



## CP Model: Buffer Tanks



# CP Model: Buffer Tanks





# Experiments

---

Scenarios:

Parameters:

Scenarios:

- S1: Day-by-day: start with historic data, run for one day

Parameters:

## Scenarios:

- S1: Day-by-day: start with historic data, run for one day
- S2: Day-by-day with final state: start with historic data, end with similar tank level ( $\pm\epsilon$ ), run for one day

## Parameters:

## Scenarios:

- S1: Day-by-day: start with historic data, run for one day
- S2: Day-by-day with final state: start with historic data, end with similar tank level ( $\pm\epsilon$ ), run for one day
- S3: Continuous use: start with historic data, run for one month continuously

## Parameters:

## Scenarios:

- S1: Day-by-day: start with historic data, run for one day
- S2: Day-by-day with final state: start with historic data, end with similar tank level ( $\pm\epsilon$ ), run for one day
- S3: Continuous use: start with historic data, run for one month continuously

## Parameters:

- DPSO runs for 10 min + 2h

### Scenarios:

- S1: Day-by-day: start with historic data, run for one day
- S2: Day-by-day with final state: start with historic data, end with similar tank level ( $\pm\epsilon$ ), run for one day
- S3: Continuous use: start with historic data, run for one month continuously

### Parameters:

- DPSO runs for 10 min + 2h
- CP runs for 10 min (CPMpy model to Or-Tools, Gurobi and CP Optimizer)

|          | Demands ( $m^3/day$ ) |         |         | Prices (c€/kWh) |      |       |                         |
|----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|------|-------|-------------------------|
|          | Min                   | Mean    | Max     | Min             | Mean | Max   |                         |
| May      | 82.000                | 99.258  | 117.000 | -1,00           | 6,04 | 9,98  | avg demand, low prices  |
| July     | 62.000                | 75.290  | 127.000 | 4,06            | 8,39 | 17,72 | low demand, high prices |
| December | 127.000               | 143.161 | 157.000 | 6,08            | 8,54 | 11,9  | high demand, avg prices |

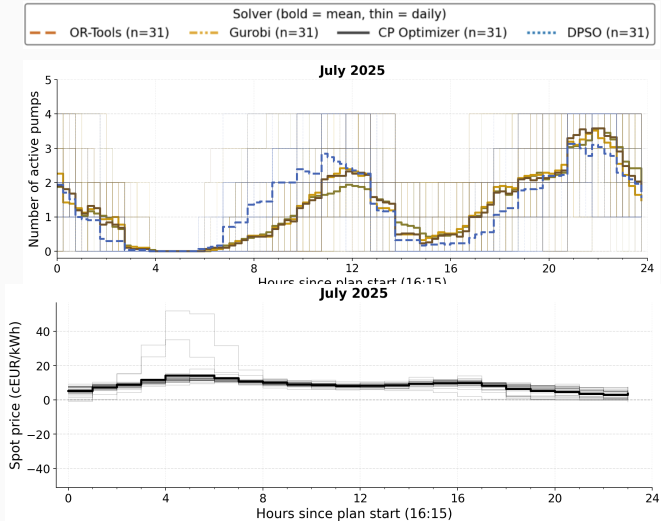


# Results

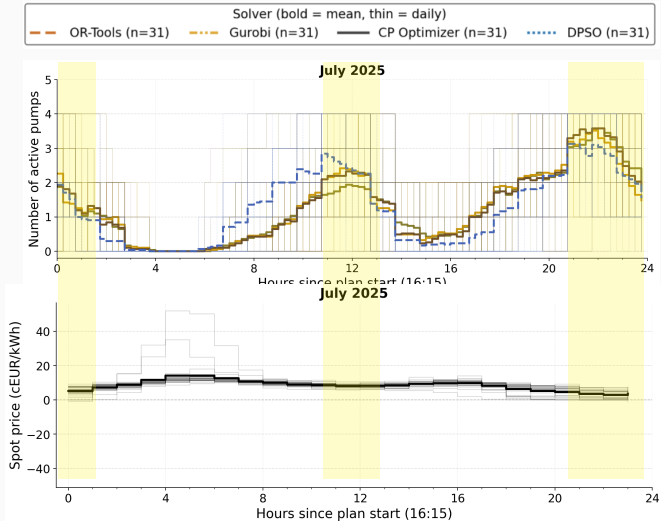
|      |    | DPSO |       | Or-Tools    |              | CP Optimizer |       | Gurobi      |              |
|------|----|------|-------|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------|-------------|--------------|
|      |    | 24 h | 40 h  | 24 h        | 40 h         | 24 h         | 40 h  | 24 h        | 40 h         |
| May  | S1 |      |       | 2260        | 5681         | 2300         | 5728  | <b>2255</b> | <b>5659</b>  |
|      | S2 | 2773 | 6744  | 2282        | <b>5731</b>  | 2309         | 5787  | <b>2280</b> | 5746         |
|      | S3 |      |       | 2350        | 5898         | 2376         | 5930  | <b>2306</b> | <b>5819</b>  |
| Jul. | S1 |      |       | 2234        | <b>5133</b>  | 2235         | 5138  | <b>2226</b> | <b>5133</b>  |
|      | S2 | 2391 | 5736  | 2240        | <b>5271</b>  | 2256         | 5284  | <b>2233</b> | 5278         |
|      | S3 |      |       | <b>2281</b> | <b>5244</b>  | 2296         | 5271  | 2332        | 5337         |
| Dec. | S1 |      |       | 5976        | 11830        | 6009         | 11874 | <b>5970</b> | <b>11817</b> |
|      | S2 | 6085 | 12232 | <b>5931</b> | <b>11943</b> | 5968         | 12006 | 5933        | 11947        |
|      | S3 |      |       | 5887        | 11706        | 5928         | 11747 | <b>5884</b> | <b>11698</b> |

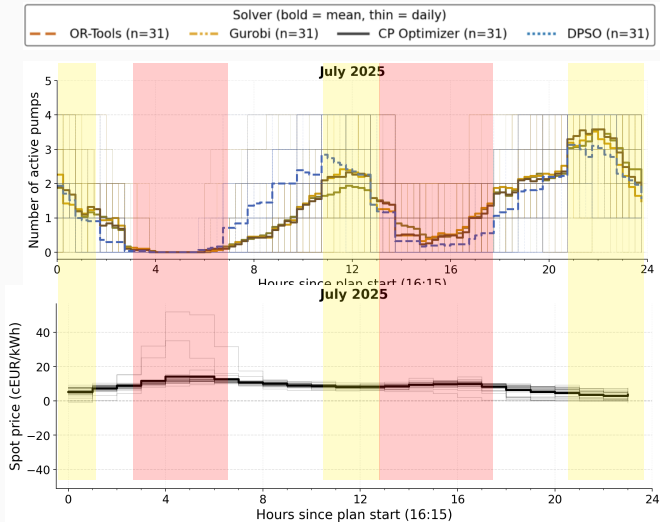
(Mean cost (€/day) over the full month for each scenario and each model)

# Negative Correlation



# Negative Correlation





## Robustness to changes

|      | DPSO              | Or-Tools          |         |             |             |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
|      | Normal conditions | Normal conditions | 3 pumps | 18 switches | 12 switches |
| May  | 2267              | 1843              | 1877    | 1866        | 1901        |
| Jul. | 3562              | 3475              | 3677    | 3476        | 3615        |
| Dec. | 7054              | 6762              | 6954    | 6774        | 6853        |

(Mean cost (€/day) over the first 5 days of each month (S3))

# Conclusion

---

Questions asked to us:

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem?



Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?  
**yes**

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?  
**yes**
- Is there a significant difference between constraint solving technologies on this problem?

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?  
**yes**
- Is there a significant difference between constraint solving technologies on this problem? **Or-Tools and Gurobi are close, and made good use of the hints**

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?  
**yes**
- Is there a significant difference between constraint solving technologies on this problem? **Or-Tools and Gurobi are close, and made good use of the hints**
- Is a CP-based solution robust to changes in the parameters?

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?  
**yes**
- Is there a significant difference between constraint solving technologies on this problem? **Or-Tools and Gurobi are close, and made good use of the hints**
- Is a CP-based solution robust to changes in the parameters? **yes**

Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one?  
**yes**
- Is there a significant difference between constraint solving technologies on this problem? **Or-Tools and Gurobi are close, and made good use of the hints**
- Is a CP-based solution robust to changes in the parameters? **yes**
- Whether the CP-based solution could be "pseudo"-anytime (i.e., find good solution in 10 min)?



Questions asked to us:

- Could a CP-based model work for this problem? **yes**
- Could the CP-based model achieve better performances than the DPSO one? **yes**
- Is there a significant difference between constraint solving technologies on this problem? **Or-Tools and Gurobi are close, and made good use of the hints**
- Is a CP-based solution robust to changes in the parameters? **yes**
- Whether the CP-based solution could be "pseudo"-anytime (i.e., find good solution in 10 min)? **yes**

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

`https://hverhaeghe.bitbucket.io/`