

## Article

# Multi-Time Scale Cloud-Edge Collaborative Scheduling Strategy for Distribution Network Considering Spatiotemporal Characteristics of Demand Response

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**Abstract:** The increasing penetration rate of distributed resources in the distribution network has brought about significant volatility and uncertainty problems. Demand response (DR) can flexibly change the energy consumption method of the user to balance supply and demand. This paper first considers the spatial distribution characteristics of DR resources to schedule DR resources to construct a distributed resource cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework. Based on this, the distribution network scheduling requirements are combined with the multi-time scale characteristics of DR. A three-stage cloud-edge collaborative optimization scheduling strategy for distributed resources in the distribution network is proposed, which allocates the multi-time scale scheduling tasks of DR resources to the cloud and edge. Secondly, taking the cloud and edge as the optimization platform, a three-stage optimization decision-making model of the distribution network is established. In the day-ahead stage, the global optimization decision is made by combining cloud-centralized optimization with edge-independent optimization. In the intraday stage, edge-rolling optimization is carried out. In the real-time stage, the edge-distributed calculation is based on the consensus algorithm. Finally, the effectiveness and economy of the proposed model and strategy are verified by an example analysis.



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**Keywords:** distribution area; DR resources; cloud-edge framework; multi-time scale; collaborative scheduling

## 1. Introduction

China is expediting the development of a novel power system, emphasizing new energy as its primary component. However, the randomness and volatility of the output of a large number of connected distributed new energy sources and the uncertainty of power consumption behavior on the demand side make the system power fluctuation increase, and the source-load real-time balance is difficult. It is challenging to meet the needs of power grid operation. It may bring higher operating costs only by adjusting the controllable equipment on the power supply side to maintain the balance of supply and demand of the power grid [1]. Therefore, finding a new schedulable approach to meet the stability and economic requirements of new energy power grid operation is urgent. As a scheduling method on the demand side of the power system, DR can respond to power grid scheduling needs by changing user energy consumption behavior [2]. It has substantial flexibility and adjustable power characteristics and has been widely applied in refined power scheduling. However, the controllable resources on the demand side are widely distributed, with varying characteristics and small single-individual capacities. A critical issue that needs to be solved urgently is how to fully coordinate these resources to be effectively used to participate in distribution network scheduling.

In recent years, scholars have conducted comprehensive research on the participation of Demand Response (DR) in scheduling. In Ref. [3], in order to reduce the operation cost of renewable energy generation and load uncertainty, DR is introduced to transfer the flexible load in the microgrid system, so as to realize the main system management. Ref. [4] developed a day-ahead market optimization model considering DR, wherein they modeled the reducible and transferable load based on capacity and electricity. The control strategy of the microgrid interface is the key to ensuring the stable operation of the microgrid. Ref. [5] established an optimal day-ahead microgrid scheduling model, encompassing electrical storage (ES), DR, and distributed generation. Ref. [6] utilized a piecewise linear function to depict the relationship between load reduction and cost while also modeling the cost of DR resources based on the marginal cost of various energy sources. However, the escalating penetration of new energy generation on the distribution side has resulted in random fluctuations and uncertainties in output power. Consequently, the scheduling plans formulated by distribution networks for the day-ahead stage often lead to significant power deviations during actual operation. This increased uncertainty necessitates further corrections [7].

With the continuous exploration of adjustable resources on the demand side of distribution networks and the diversification of DR resources, it becomes apparent that different types of resources exhibit variations in advance notification time, response time, and speed [8], indicating pronounced multi-time scale characteristics. Therefore, DR is a crucial tool for addressing distribution networks multi-time scale power scheduling and deviation correction challenges. According to the different properties of thermal energy and electric energy, Ref. [9] puts forward a time-coordinated optimal operation method of a multi-energy microgrid considering different energy characteristics, which manages the slowly changing heat load in a long time scale in the early stage and manages the rapidly changing electric load in a short time scale in the early stage. Ref. [10] develops a Mantis Search Algorithm (MSA) for solving the economic dispatch problem of cogeneration, taking into account the valve point effect, the feasible area constraints of the cogeneration unit, and power losses. Ref. [11] proposes a two-stage optimal operation method for community-integrated energy systems, considering DR classification based on different advance notice times. Additionally, they establish a two-stage scheduling model that considers multi-time scale DR. Ref. [12] analyzed the multi-time scale characteristics of DR resources, modeled according to the response amount of DR resources, and formulated a multi-time scale response strategy of park-level integrated energy system considering DR. Ref. [13] introduced a multi-time scale coordinated scheduling model encompassing the uncertainty associated with flexible load response and the inherent multi-time scale characteristics of flexible loads. In Ref. [14], DR is classified according to the duration of the response to power grid dispatching instructions, and modeled them based on their response amount, with different scheduling cost coefficients set for different types of loads. Ref. [15] proposed a multi-time scale optimal scheduling strategy for an active distribution network by using the characteristics of the stored power of ES moving with time and the multi-time scale characteristics of DR. From the above literature, it can be seen that using distributed controllable resources to participate in multi-time scale scheduling of a distribution network is an effective means to solve the operational uncertainty of a high proportion of new energy distribution networks.

Centralizing scheduling across vast and decentralized distributed resources introduces substantial communication and computing burdens on the scheduling system [16–18]. Addressing these challenges, cloud-edge collaboration technology provides a promising avenue. To mitigate the computational pressure on the scheduling center and alleviate the impact of communication delays, Ref. [19] proposed a real-time Demand Response (DR) scheduling strategy for electric vehicles based on cloud-edge collaboration. This approach efficiently schedules large-scale electric vehicles through cloud-edge collaboration. Ref. [20] constructed a cloud-edge collaborative architecture, which lowered some of the computing of load aggregation scheduling to the edge, thereby reducing the computing pressure

and communication latency of the cloud and achieving optimal scheduling of elastic loads. The above literature uses the resource advantages of the cloud and the geographical advantages of edge to carry out cloud-edge collaboration, which realizes the coordinated scheduling of multi-dimensional decentralized DR resources, thus reducing the amount of calculation and providing solutions for large-scale scheduling of distributed resources in the distribution networks.

Fully exploring and utilizing the response characteristics of large-scale distributed resources to participate in scheduling at different time scales is an effective means to solve the operational uncertainty of high permeability new energy distribution networks. The existing literature only proposes relevant strategies or methods from multi-time scale scheduling. However, in the face of large-scale distributed resource groups, the question of how to combine cloud-edge collaborative framework to decompose tasks for different time-scale scheduling strategies of distribution networks and thus construct a complete distributed resource multi-time scale cloud-edge collaborative scheduling scheme for distribution networks is the key to solving the problem of large-scale scheduling of distributed sources in distribution networks.

The main contributions of this paper are as follows:

(1) A cloud-side collaborative scheduling framework for distribution networks is constructed to schedule DR resources on a large scale. On this basis, a multi-time scale cloud-edge coordinated scheduling scheme for the distribution network is proposed to reasonably allocate the multi-time scale scheduling tasks of DR resources at the cloud and edge.

(2) A three-stage optimization decision-making model for the distribution network is established. In the day-ahead stage, global optimization decisions are made by combining the cloud primary optimization with the edge secondary optimization. In the intraday stage, based on the results of the day-ahead optimization, rolling correction is carried out on the edge to correct the deviation of the day-ahead prediction. The real-time stage is based on the results of intraday optimization, and distributed calculations are carried out on the side based on consensus algorithms to eliminate intraday prediction bias.

(3) In the real-time stage, the distributed calculation is carried out based on the consensus algorithm on the edge. The centralized-distributed scheduling method of Leader-Follower is adopted for the scheduling units inside the distribution area. The Leader obtains the total power deviation from the cloud and allocates scheduling instructions through information exchange with adjacent scheduling units, thereby achieving real-time data analysis and disturbance power processing on the edge.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 constructs the cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework of distributed resources; Section 3 proposes a three-stage power scheduling and deviation correction strategy; Section 4 establishes a three-stage collaborative scheduling optimization model for the distribution network; Section 5 verifies the effectiveness of the proposed strategy through case analysis and scenario comparison; Section 6 draws the conclusions.

## 2. Distributed Resource Cloud-Edge Collaborative Scheduling Framework

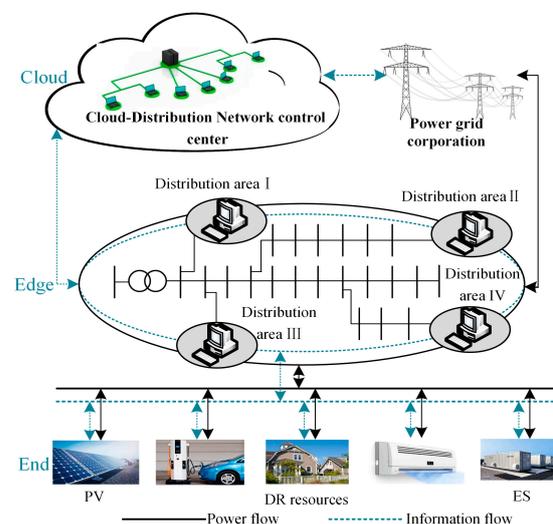
Given the limited schedulable power of individual Demand Response (DR) resources, the direct scheduling of a single DR resource has a relatively low impact on the power system. Additionally, the state of a single DR resource is variable and characterized by significant uncertainty. To fully leverage the schedulable potential of DR, this paper employs a large-scale distributed scheduling strategy for these distributed resources. Building upon the cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework, we propose a distributed resource cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework for distribution networks. This addresses the challenge of substantial communication computation arising from large-scale scheduling.

The cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework for distributed resources in the distribution network is shown in Figure 1, which specifically includes the following:

(1) The cloud is the scheduling center of the distribution network. It is responsible for the global scheduling of distribution areas and serves as the link for information transmission between distribution areas and the power grid. The main functions of the cloud include collecting and processing the information, performing global dynamic optimization, and then distributing the optimization results to the edge.

(2) Edge is the distribution area, the main gathering area of distributed resources in the distribution network. It can intelligently perceive and aggregate the data uploaded from the end and upload the aggregation results to the cloud. It can also optimize the scheduling instructions issued by the cloud and allocate them to the end. At the same time, information sharing and power exchange can be carried out between edges, thereby achieving efficient and orderly operation of distribution areas.

(3) End is the equipment unit in the distribution area, including distributed new energy, ES devices, and DR resources. It can upload the device's status information to the edge in real-time and perform the scheduling tasks issued by the edge.



**Figure 1.** Cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework for distributed resources in distribution network.

The cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework of distributed resources in the distribution network constructed in this paper, on the one hand, takes advantage of the resources of the cloud to control the distributed resources in the distribution network globally. On the other hand, taking advantage of the geographical advantage that the edge is close to the data center, the equipment units upload the data information at the end in real-time, analyze it, and process it. At the same time, information transmission is carried out through cloud and edge collaborative interaction, realizing cloud global optimization, cloud-edge collaborative interaction, and edge-end rapid response.

Based on the established collaborative regulation framework of distributed resource cloud edge of distribution network, the equipment units deployed at the end upload the collected equipment state information (including active output, controllable quantity, and cost parameters) and the response information of demand response resources to the edge intelligent distribution terminal of the station area for analysis and processing. The intelligent distribution terminal in the edge area takes real-time data and historical data as inputs, carries out load and photovoltaic data prediction and demand response resource cluster analysis, and then uploads the predicted data and the data after edge aggregation processing to the cloud, and the cloud carries out global data analysis and formulates edge transaction prices, thus realizing bottom-up cloud-edge collaboration. According to the information uploaded by each edge side, the cloud carries out global optimization,

formulates the regulation plan of each edge platform area and sends it to the edge, and then formulates the regulation plan of this platform area and sends it to the end-side equipment unit, thus realizing the top-down cloud edge-to-end collaboration.

Under the framework of cloud-side collaborative regulation of distributed resources, the regulation mechanisms of different time scales are as follows:

(1) Day-ahead stage

In the day-ahead stage, the distributed resources in the distribution network are controlled globally. Therefore, with the help of the resource advantages of the cloud, the cloud is taken as the main computing center to carry out global calculation and all DR resources in the distribution network are dynamically optimized globally, and then the task is decomposed to the edge twice. The calculation task of the side is slightly less than that of the cloud, and the calculation task allocated by the cloud is optimized again, and the specific regulation plan is allocated to the end-side DR resources. At this time, only the regulation instructions of the day-ahead DR are issued, and the regulation instructions of the intraday DR and the real-time DR are not issued for the time being, being only used as a reference for the intraday and real-time stages.

(2) Intraday stage

Compared with the day-ahead stage, the intraday stage has a slightly shorter time scale. Because all data are uploaded to the cloud center for processing, it will have a great communication delay, so this stage weakens the computing task of the cloud and moves down to the edge. The cloud only collects global data, and sends the task of optimization calculation to the edge, and each edge only carries out independent rolling optimization of intraday DR.

(3) Real-time stage

Because the cloud-side collaboration technology uploads the data information on the edge side to the cloud for processing, it will cause serious communication delay and bring great computational pressure to the cloud, prolonging the response time of distributed resources and making it difficult to meet the real-time requirements in the real-time stage. Therefore, compared with the day-ahead and intraday stages, in the real-time stage, this paper moves the computing pressure of the cloud center down, reducing the computing tasks of the cloud, and the cloud only plays the role of auxiliary computing. Instead, it communicates directly with the cloud by means of the end inside the edge, and the cloud sends the decision-making task directly to the end inside each edge. By taking advantage of the proximity of edge computing to the data center, the edge is regarded as an independent optimization area and the information is directly transmitted from end to end, and only the real-time DR is uniformly distributed optimized.

### 3. Power Scheduling and Deviation Correction Strategy of Three Stages

In this paper, the power deviation problem of distribution network scheduling in different time scales [21,22] is solved by gradually refining the time scale, and the power deviation of the distribution network is corrected from three stages: day-ahead, intraday, and real-time. In order to make full use of the response characteristics of distributed resources and make them participate in the multi-time scales scheduling of the distribution network, the response characteristics of DR resources are divided in the time domain, as shown in Table 1.

According to the division results in Table 1, the clustering method is used to reduce the dimensionality of distributed resources, and distributed resources with similar response characteristics are clustered into one category. The resource feature extraction and clustering process are detailed in Appendix A. A three-stage optimization scheduling strategy of distributed resources is proposed based on the distributed resource cloud-edge collaborative scheduling framework. This strategy has formulated corresponding scheduling goals and targets for the scheduling needs of the distribution network at different stages

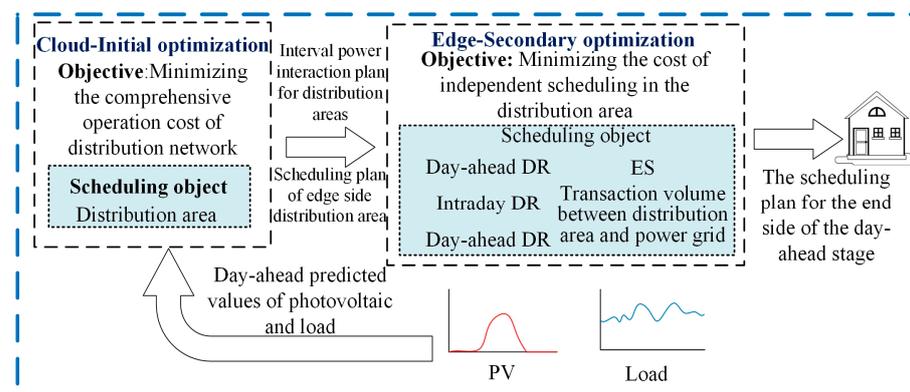
and formulated tasks for cloud and edge under different scheduling stages based on the cloud-edge scheduling framework.

**Table 1.** Division of DR resource response characteristics.

Type of DR	Day-Ahead	Intraday	Real-Time
Type of load	Reducible Transferable	Reducible	The power can be increased or decreased
Type of scheduling	Responsive	Responsive	Directly controlled
Time of advance notice	One day	15 min	Scheduled at any time without prior notice
The duration of the response	>1 h	5~15 min	<5 min

### 3.1. Day-Ahead Global Optimization Scheduling Strategy

In the day-ahead stage, in order to optimize the overall economic performance of the system, this paper adopts the strategy of all resources participating in the optimization, including day-ahead-type DR, intraday-type DR, real-time-type DR, and ES. At the same time, the power interaction between the distribution areas and between the area and the power grid is also considered. Then, the global dynamic optimization is carried out for each period of the next day. The participation of all resources in the optimization will lead to a large amount of computation. Therefore, based on global optimization, the amount of computation will be allocated to the cloud and edge, and the cloud and edge will undertake different calculation tasks, respectively. The day-ahead stage is divided into the cloud primary and edge secondary optimization. Cloud primary optimization scheduling strategy is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Day-ahead global optimization scheduling strategy.

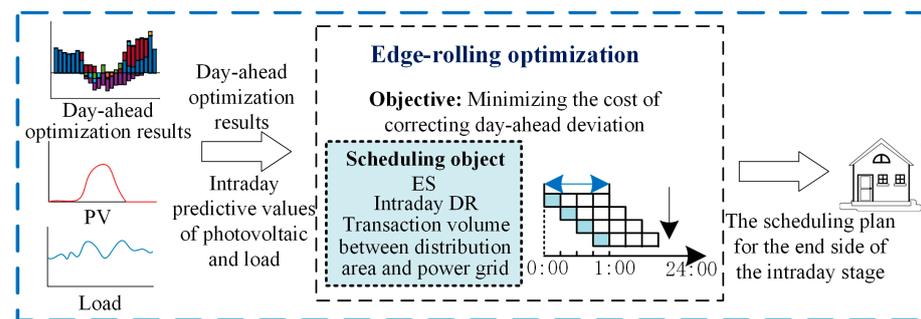
The initial optimization stage of the cloud is the global optimization stage, and the scheduling object is the distribution area. Firstly, the edge uploads the PV and load prediction values of the day-ahead stage, the declaration information of day-ahead-type DR, the prediction value of intraday and real-time-type DR, and the status information of each device to the cloud. Secondly, each distribution area is regarded as a scheduling unit, and the initial optimization with the cloud is aimed at minimizing the comprehensive operation cost of the distribution network. Formulate the scheduling plans of each distribution area and the power interaction plans between the areas on the next day and release them to the edge. Among them, the price of inter-area power interaction is uniformly set by the cloud, making the distribution area prioritize the inter-area power interaction. When the inter-area power interaction cannot meet the scheduling demand, it will interact with the external power grid, thus promoting collaborative interaction and power support of the distribution areas on the edge.

The second optimization stage is the independent optimization stage, and the scheduling object is the equipment unit in the area. Based on the initial optimization results of the cloud, the second optimization is carried out to minimize the independent scheduling

cost of the area, and the optimization results are released to all equipment units in the distribution area. In the secondary optimization, according to the response time characteristics of the intraday-type DR and real-time-type DR, they can participate in day-ahead optimization and intraday and real-time stages optimization, respectively. In order to make full use of the multi-time scale response characteristics of DR resources, only scheduling instructions for the day-ahead-type DR, ES, and interaction with the power grid are issued. The scheduling instructions for intraday- and real-time-type DR are not released and are only for intraday and real-time decision-making.

### 3.2. Intraday Rolling Optimization Scheduling Strategy

In the intraday stage, based on the global optimization of the day-ahead, power adjustment is carried out for the distributed new energy and load fluctuations, that is, the intraday DR resources and ES scheduling amount, as well as the power interaction amount between the distribution area and the grid, are corrected. Considering the randomness and real-time nature of the intraday DR, to avoid the influence of unplanned power fluctuations on the operation of the distribution area in a short time, a rolling optimization method is adopted in the intraday optimization stage. The distribution area on each edge combines short-term rolling prediction information of PV and load. It makes independent rolling optimization decisions to minimize the cost of correcting the day-ahead deviation. Every 15 min, rolling optimization is conducted to make the scheduling plan for the next 1 h. However, the user is only informed of the scheduling plan for the first 15 min, and the above process is repeated in the next scheduling cycle. The intraday rolling optimization scheduling strategy is shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** Intraday rolling optimization scheduling strategy.

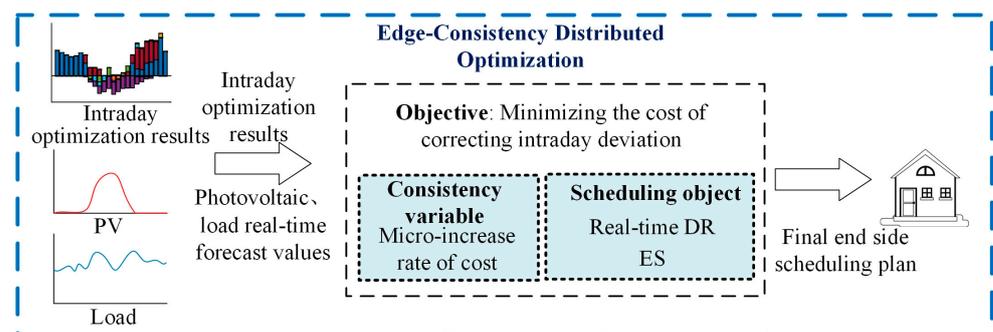
### 3.3. Real-Time Consistency Distributed Optimization Scheduling Strategy

In the real-time optimization stage, the prediction accuracy of PV and load is improved further than that in the day-ahead and intraday stages. The real-time stage emphasizes that the distribution network can adjust for unplanned power fluctuations in the ultra-short time scale, so the real-time stage pays more attention to the real-time scheduling ability. In order to reduce the communication delay caused by information transmission, power interaction is no longer carried out between distribution areas. Instead, real-time data on-site analysis and disturbance power nearby processing are carried out in the distribution area near the edge of the data center.

To meet the real-time requirements, this paper uses the fast response speed of real-time-type DR and the fast charging and discharging characteristics of ES equipment to schedule only real-time-type DR and ES in the distribution area [23]. The real-time consistency distributed optimization scheduling strategy is shown in Figure 4.

In the real-time stage, according to the latest predicted values of PV and load, ES and real-time-type DR are used as the scheduling units, and the distributed calculation is carried out based on the consensus algorithm to minimize the cost of correcting intraday deviation. When performing consistently distributed computing, only information interaction between adjacent scheduling units within the distribution area is required, so the information transmission amount is small and the optimization convergence speed is fast, which meets

the scheduling requirements in the real-time stage [24]. At the same time, to ensure the global nature of information and the distribution of calculations, a centralized-distributed scheduling method of Leader-Follower is adopted within the distribution area. The Leader obtains the scheduling information of the distribution area from the cloud in real-time and interacts with the neighboring Followers. At the same time, information is transmitted in both directions between neighboring Followers. The schedulable ability determines the selection principle of the Leader [25]. The real-time DR clusters in the distribution area participate in scheduling for different periods: ES can participate in scheduling all day; therefore, ES is used as the Leader, while the real-time DR cluster is used as the Follower. According to the optimization results of the intraday stage and the latest predicted values of load and PV in the real-time stage uploaded from the edge, the cloud obtains the deviation. It sends it to the Leader of each distribution area. Taking the micro-growth cost rate as the consistency variable, the consistency iteration is carried out for the Leader and Follower of each distribution region. When the micro-increase rate of cost tends to be consistent, the total power command is allocated to each scheduling unit optimally [26,27]. In this iteration process, each scheduling unit only needs to exchange information with neighboring units, and the amount of information exchange is small, which can reduce the influence of communication delay. The scheduling instructions in the real-time stage are sent directly to each scheduling unit without going through the user, improving the scheduling efficiency in the real-time stage.



**Figure 4.** Real-time consistency distributed optimization scheduling strategy.

#### 4. Three-Stage Collaborative Optimization Model

This paper builds a three-stage collaborative scheduling optimization model of distribution networks based on the proposed multi-time scale cloud-edge collaborative scheduling strategy, including the day-ahead global optimization scheduling model, intraday rolling optimization scheduling model, and real-time consistency distributed optimal scheduling model.

##### 4.1. Day-Ahead Optimization Scheduling Model

###### 4.1.1. Objective Function

###### (1) Day-ahead initial optimization model

The 24 h scheduling plan for the next day is formulated one day in advance in the day-ahead optimization stage, and the time scale is 1 h. The cloud conducts initial optimization to minimize the comprehensive operation cost of the distribution network. The comprehensive operation cost comprises two parts: the independent scheduling cost of the distribution area and the power interaction cost of the distribution area interval. The objective function can be expressed as Equation (1):

$$F_{11} = \min \sum_i^n \sum_{t=1}^T (C_{i,t} + C_{i,t}^{TA}) \quad (1)$$

where  $F_{11}$  is the total scheduling cost of the distribution network in the day-ahead initial optimization;  $C_{i,t}$  is the independent scheduling cost of distribution area  $i$  in  $t$  period;  $C_{i,t}^{\text{TA}}$  is the cost of power interaction between distribution area  $i$  and other distribution areas;  $T$  is the number of periods divided by the day-ahead stage.

The cost of power interaction between distribution areas is shown in Equation (2):

$$C_{i,t}^{\text{TA}} = \beta_{p,t} P_{i,t,p}^{\text{TA}} - \beta_{s,t} P_{i,t,s}^{\text{TA}} \quad (2)$$

where  $\beta_{p,t}$  and  $\beta_{s,t}$  are the power purchase price and the power sale price of the distribution area interval in the  $t$  period, the method for formulating inter distribution area power interaction prices is shown in Appendix B;  $P_{i,t,s}^{\text{TA}}$  is the power sold by distribution area  $i$  to other distribution areas in the  $t$  period (kW);  $P_{i,t,p}^{\text{TA}}$  is the power purchased by the distribution area  $i$  from other distribution areas in the  $t$  period (kW).

## (2) Day-ahead secondary optimization model

Based on the initial optimization results, secondary optimization is carried out on the edge to minimize the independent scheduling cost of the distribution area. The objective function is expressed as Equation (3):

$$F_{12} = \min \sum_{t=1}^T [C_{i,t,\text{DA}}^{\text{grid}} + C_{i,t,\text{DA}}^{\text{ESS}} + \sum_{k_1^i=1}^{K_1^i} C_{i,t,k_1^i}^1 + \sum_{k_2^i=1}^{K_2^i} C_{i,t,k_2^i}^2 + \sum_{k_3^i=1}^{K_3^i} C_{i,t,k_3^i}^3 + \sum_{k_4^i=1}^{K_4^i} C_{i,t,k_4^i}^4] \quad (3)$$

where  $F_{12}$  is the total scheduling cost of distribution area  $i$  in the day-ahead secondary optimization stage;  $C_{i,t,\text{DA}}^{\text{grid}}$  is cost of power interaction between the distribution area  $i$  and the power grid in the day-ahead stage;  $C_{i,t,\text{DA}}^{\text{ESS}}$  is the operating cost of ES in the day-ahead stage;  $C_{i,t,k_j^i}^j$  ( $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) is the scheduling cost of the  $k_j^i$  th cluster of the  $j$ th load in the distribution area  $i$  in the  $t$  period;  $K_j^i$  ( $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) is the total number of clusters of the  $j$ th load in distribution area  $i$ .

The cost of power interaction between the distribution area and the power grid is shown in Equation (4):

$$C_{i,t}^{\text{grid}} = \alpha_{p,t} P_{i,t,p}^{\text{grid}} - \alpha_{s,t} P_{i,t,s}^{\text{grid}} \quad (4)$$

where  $P_{i,t,s}^{\text{grid}}$  and  $P_{i,t,p}^{\text{grid}}$  are the power sold and purchased by the distribution station area  $i$  from the power grid during  $t$  period (kW);

The operating cost of ES is shown in Equation (5):

$$C_{i,t}^{\text{ES}} = a_i^{\text{es}} (P_{i,t}^{\text{ES}})^2 \quad (5)$$

where  $a_i^{\text{es}}$  is the cost coefficient of ES;  $P_{i,t}^{\text{ES}}$  is the charging and discharging power of ES (kW), where  $P_{i,t}^{\text{ES}} > 0$  indicates that the ES is charging, conversely,  $P_{i,t}^{\text{ES}} < 0$ .

The time series power compensation cost model of the DR established in this paper is shown in Equation (6), which considers the influence of response power and response time on decision-making. This model not only provides economic incentives for users in response power but also meets the expected response time requirements of users as much as possible. Users with more response power will get higher economic compensation. When the actual response time of users deviates from the expected response time, they will also be given higher economic compensation.

$$\begin{cases} C_{t,k_j}^j = C_{t,k_j,P}^j + C_{t,k_j,T}^j \\ C_{t,k_j,P}^j = \Omega_{k_j}^j [A_j (\frac{P_{t,k_j}^j}{\Omega_{k_j}^j})^2 + B_j \frac{P_{t,k_j}^j}{\Omega_{k_j}^j}] \\ C_{t,k_j,T}^j(t) = P_{t,k_j}^j \cdot \Omega_{k_j}^j [\frac{c_t^j}{2t_{k_j,0}^j} (t_{k_j}^j)^2 - c_t^j t_{k_j}^j + \frac{c_t^j}{2} t_{k_j,0}^j] \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $C_{t,k_j}^j$ ,  $C_{t,k_j,P}^j$ , and  $C_{t,k_j,T}^j$  respectively represent the time series power compensation cost, power compensation cost, and time compensation cost of the  $k_j$ th cluster in the  $j$ th load in the  $t$  period;  $j$  represents the load category, with  $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$  representing day-ahead-type reducible load, day-ahead-type transferable load, intraday-type reducible load, and real-time directly controlled load;  $k_j$  is the  $k_j$ th cluster of the  $j$ th load;  $P_{t,k_j}^j$  is the scheduling power of the  $k_j$ th cluster of the  $j$ th load (kW);  $A_j$  and  $B_j$  are the power compensation cost coefficients for the  $j$ th type of load;  $c_t^j$  is the unit time compensation cost coefficient of the  $j$ th load;  $t_{k_j}^j$  and  $t_{k_j,0}^j$  are the actual response time and expected response time of the  $k_j$ th cluster of the  $j$ th load, respectively.

#### 4.1.2. Constraints

##### (1) Power balance constraint

$$P_{i,t}^{PV} + P_{i,t} + \sum_{k=1, k \neq i}^N (P_{i,t,k,p}^{TA} - P_{i,t,k,s}^{TA}) = P_{i,t}^{load} \quad (7)$$

$$P_{i,t}^{PV} + P_{i,t}^{ESS} + P_{i,t,p}^{grid} - P_{i,t,s}^{grid} = P_{i,t}^{load} + \sum_{j=1}^4 \sum_{k_j^j=1}^{K_1^j} C_{i,t,k_j^j}^j \quad (8)$$

##### (2) Power interaction constraints in distribution area interval

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{i,t,k,p}^{TA} \leq \eta_{i,t,k,p} P_{i,k}^{TAmax} \\ -\eta_{i,t,k,s} P_{i,k}^{TAmax} \leq P_{i,t,k,s}^{TA} \leq 0 \\ \eta_{i,t,k,p} + \eta_{i,t,k,s} \leq 1, \forall k \neq i \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where  $\eta_{i,t,k,p}$  and  $\eta_{i,t,k,s}$  are 0–1 variables,  $\eta_{i,t,k,p} = 1$  means that distribution area  $i$  purchases power from distribution area  $k$ , otherwise  $\eta_{i,t,k,p} = 0$ ;  $\eta_{i,t,k,s} = 1$  means that distribution area  $i$  sells power to distribution area  $k$ , otherwise  $\eta_{i,t,k,s} = 0$ .

##### (3) Power interaction constraints between the distribution area and the power grid

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{i,t,p}^{grid} \leq \eta_{i,t,p} P_i^{gridmax} \\ \eta_{i,t,s} P_i^{gridmax} \leq P_{i,t,s}^{grid} \leq 0 \\ \eta_{i,t,p} + \eta_{i,t,s} \leq 1, \forall k \neq i \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where  $\eta_{i,t,p}$  and  $\eta_{i,t,s}$  are 0–1 variables, where  $\eta_{i,t,p} = 1$  means the distribution area  $i$  purchases power from the power grid, otherwise  $\eta_{i,t,p} = 0$ ;  $\eta_{i,t,s} = 1$  means that the distribution area  $i$  sells power to the power grid, otherwise  $\eta_{i,t,s} = 0$ .

(4) Charging and discharging constraints of ES

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \leq P_{i,t,c}^{ESS} \leq \sigma_{i,t,c}^{ESS} P_{i,c}^{ESSmax} \\ 0 \leq P_{i,t,d}^{ESS} \leq \sigma_{i,t,d}^{ESS} P_{i,d}^{ESSmax} \\ \sigma_{i,t,c}^{ESS} + \sigma_{i,t,d}^{ESS} \leq 1 \\ SOC_i^{min} \leq SOC_{i,t} \leq SOC_i^{max} \\ SOC_{i,t} = SOC_{i,t-1} + \eta_c^{ESS} P_{i,t,c}^{ESS} - \frac{P_{i,t,d}^{ESS}}{\eta_d^{ESS}} \\ SOC_i(0) = SOC_i(T) \end{array} \right. \quad (11)$$

where  $P_{i,c}^{ESSmax}$  and  $P_{i,d}^{ESSmax}$  are the maximum charge and maximum discharge of ES in distribution area  $i$  (kW);  $\sigma_{i,t,c}^{ESS}$  and  $\sigma_{i,t,d}^{ESS}$  are 0–1 variables, where  $\sigma_{i,t,c}^{ESS} = 1$  indicates that the ES is in the state of charge, otherwise  $\sigma_{i,t,c}^{ESS} = 0$ ;  $\sigma_{i,t,d}^{ESS} = 1$  indicates that the ES is in the state of discharge, otherwise  $\sigma_{i,t,d}^{ESS} = 0$ ;  $SOC_{i,t}$  and  $SOC_{i,t-1}$  are respectively the state of charge of the ES in the distribution area  $i$  in the  $t$  period and in the  $t - 1$  period;  $SOC_i^{max}$  and  $SOC_i^{min}$  are the upper and lower limits of the state of charge of ES (%);  $\eta_c^{ESS}$  and  $\eta_d^{ESS}$  are the charging and discharging efficiency of ES;  $SOC_i(0)$  and  $SOC_i(T)$  are the initial and final state of charge of ES in a scheduling cycle (%).

(5) The constraint of DR

$$0 < P_{t,k_j}^j < \Omega_{k_j}^j \Delta P_{k_j,max}^j, t_1^{k_j} \leq t \leq t_2^{k_j} \quad (12)$$

where  $\Delta P_{k_j,max}^j$  is the maximum schedulable power reflected by the centroid of the  $k_j$ th cluster in the  $j$ th load (kW).

4.2. Intraday Optimization Scheduling Model

4.2.1. Constraints

Based on the day-ahead optimization results, the intraday optimization adjusts the day-ahead scheduling plan by rolling optimization based on the latest predicted intraday PV and load values. Intraday optimization takes 1 h as a rolling cycle, and the 1 h scheduling plan is formulated 15 min in advance. However, only the first 15 min of scheduling results are performed, and the next 15 min repeat the above process. The goal is to minimize the cost of correcting the day-ahead deviation in the distribution area, and its objective function can be expressed as (13):

$$F_2 = \min \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_0+M\Delta T} (C_{i,t,DI}^{ESS} + C_{i,t,DI}^{grid} + \sum_{k_3^i=1}^{K_3^i} C_{i,t,k_3^i}^3) \quad (13)$$

where  $F_2$  is the scheduling cost of distribution area  $i$  in a scheduling period of intraday stage;  $C_{i,t,DI}^{grid}$  is the cost of power interaction between the distribution area  $i$  and the power grid in the intraday stage;  $C_{i,t,DI}^{ESS}$  is the operating cost of ES in the intraday stage;  $\Delta T$  is the scheduling time-scale of intraday stage;  $M$  is the number of scheduling periods included in an intraday scheduling stage.

4.2.2. Constraints

(1) Power balance constraint

$$\sum_{k=1, k \neq i}^N (\Delta P_{i,t,p}^{grid} - \Delta P_{i,t,s}^{grid}) + \Delta P_{i,t}^{ESS} + \Delta P_{i,t}^{PV} = \Delta P_{i,t}^{load} + \sum_{k_3^i=1}^{K_3^i} P_{i,t,k_3^i}^3 \quad (14)$$

- (2) The power interaction constraints between the distribution area and the power grid, the charging and discharging constraints of ES, and the constraint of DR are similar to the day-ahead stage, which is no longer described here.

#### 4.3. Real-Time Optimization Scheduling Model

The goal of the real-time stage is to minimize the cost of correcting intraday deviation in the distribution area, and its objective function can be expressed as Equation (15):

$$F_3 = \sum_{k_4^i=1}^{K_4^i} C_{i,t,k_4^i}^4 + C_{i,t,RT}^{ESS} \quad (15)$$

where  $F_3$  is the scheduling cost of distribution area  $i$  in the real-time stage;  $C_{i,t,k_4^i}^4$  is the scheduling cost of the  $k_4^i$ th cluster of real-time-type DR in the distribution area  $t$ ;  $C_{i,t,RT}^{ESS}$  is the scheduling cost of ES in distribution area  $i$ .

According to the criterion of equal micro-increase rate of cost, when the micro-increase rate of cost of all scheduling units tends to be consistent, the total scheduling cost of the distribution area is the smallest, so as to realize the optimal distribution of the scheduling power among the scheduling units. Therefore, in the real-time stage, the time scale is 5 min. Of course, it is also applicable to take a shorter time in practical application. The micro-increase rate of the scheduling cost of each scheduling unit in the real-time stage is used as the consistency variable, and the distributed calculation is carried out based on the consistency algorithm.

In the process of optimizing calculations using consensus algorithms, each scheduling unit is regarded as a node. For node  $\alpha$ ,  $y_\alpha(x)$  represents the consistency status information of node  $\alpha$  after  $x$  iterations, where  $\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . The consistency variables of each node are updated according to the consistency variables of its adjacent nodes. With the gradual increase in the number of iterations, the consistency variables  $y_\alpha(x)$ ,  $y_\beta(x)$  of any adjacent nodes tend to be consistent. When  $y_\alpha(x) = y_\beta(x)$  is satisfied, all nodes in the system are considered to converge to the common value. We define matrix  $A = [a_{\alpha\beta}]$  as the adjacency matrix, whose diagonal element is 0, and the non-diagonal element  $a_{\alpha\beta}$  is the number of edges from node  $\alpha$  to node  $\beta$ .  $D(x)$  is the state transition matrix; if the matrix  $D(x)$  is a non-negative row random matrix and all eigenvalues are not greater than 1, all scheduling units in the distribution area will converge to the same value after enough iterative operations.  $L = D - A = [l_{\alpha\beta}]$  is the Laplace matrix, which reflects the topological structure of the scheduling units in the distribution area and satisfies the relationship shown in Equation (16):

$$l_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{cases} \sum_{\beta \in n} a_{\alpha\beta}, (\alpha = \beta) \\ -a_{\alpha\beta}, (\alpha \neq \beta) \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where  $d_{\alpha\beta}$  is the element of row  $\alpha$  and column  $\beta$  of  $D(x)$  which is determined by the communication network topology and can be expressed as Equation (17):

$$d_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{z_{\alpha\beta}(x) |l_{\alpha\beta}(x)|}{\sum_{\alpha=1}^n z_{\alpha\beta}(x) |l_{\alpha\beta}(x)|} \quad (17)$$

where  $z_{\alpha\beta}$  is the gain weight from node  $\alpha$  to node  $\beta$ ;  $l_{\alpha\beta}$  is the element in row  $\alpha$  and column  $\beta$  of  $L$ .

The micro-increase rate of cost is defined as the derivative of the scheduling cost to the scheduling power, so the micro-increase rate of cost of ES and real-time-type DR can be expressed as Equation (18):

$$\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha} = \begin{cases} \frac{\partial C_{i,t,k_4}^4}{\partial P_{i,t,k_4}^4} \\ \frac{\partial C_{i,t,RT}^{ESS}}{\partial P_{i,t,RT}^{ESS}} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

where  $\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}$  is the micro-increase rate of cost of the scheduling unit  $\alpha$  in the distribution area  $i$  in the  $t$  period.

In this paper, ES is selected as the Leader, and the cluster of real-time-type DR is selected as the Follower. The micro-increase rate of cost of  $x + 1$  iterations of Leader can be expressed as Equation (19):

$$\lambda_{i,t+1}^{\alpha}(x+1) = \begin{cases} \sum_{\alpha=1}^M d_{\alpha\beta,t} \lambda_{i,t}^{\beta} + \mu \Delta P_{d,t} \Delta P_{i,t} > 0 \\ \sum_{\alpha=1}^M d_{\alpha\beta,t} \lambda_{i,t}^{\beta} - \mu \Delta P_{d,t} \Delta P_{i,t} < 0 \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

$$\Delta P_{d,t} = \Delta P_{i,t} - \sum_{h=1}^M \Delta P_{i,t}^{\alpha} \quad (20)$$

where  $\mu$  is the power scheduling coefficient;  $\Delta P_{i,t}$  is the total power deviation of distribution area  $i$  in the  $t$  period;  $\Delta P_{d,t}$  is the residual deviation after scheduling.

The micro-increase rate of cost of  $x + 1$  iterations of Follower can be expressed as Equation (21):

$$\lambda_{i,t+1}^{\alpha}(x+1) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^M d_{\alpha\beta,t} \lambda_{i,t}^{\beta} \quad (21)$$

According to Equations (5), (6) and (18), the scheduling power of  $x + 1$  iterations in the  $t$  period can be obtained. The scheduling power of Leader can be expressed as shown in Equation (22).

$$P_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1) = \begin{cases} P_{i,\alpha,\min}, \frac{\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)}{2a_i^{ESS}} \leq 0 \\ \frac{\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)}{2a_i^{ESS}}, 0 \leq \frac{\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)}{2a_i^{ESS}} \leq P_{i,\alpha,\max} \\ P_{i,\alpha,\max}, \frac{\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)}{2a_i^{ESS}} \geq P_{i,\alpha,\max} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

The scheduling power of Follower can be expressed as follows:

$$P_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1) = \begin{cases} P_{i,\alpha,\min}, \frac{\Omega_{\alpha}^j(\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)-D_j)}{2A_j} \leq 0 \\ \frac{\Omega_{\alpha}^j(\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)-D_j)}{2A_j}, 0 \leq \frac{\Omega_{\alpha}^j(\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)-D_j)}{2A_j} \leq P_{i,\alpha,\max} \\ P_{i,\alpha,\max}, \frac{\Omega_{\alpha}^j(\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)-D_j)}{2A_j} \geq P_{i,\alpha,\max} \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

$$D_j = B_j + \Omega_{\alpha}^j \left[ \frac{c_t^j}{2t_{\alpha,0}^j} (t_{\alpha}^j)^2 - c_t^j t_{\alpha}^j + \frac{c_t^j}{2} t_{\alpha,0}^j \right] \quad (24)$$

where  $P_{i,t}^{\alpha}(x+1)$  is the scheduling power of the scheduling unit  $\alpha$  in distribution area  $i$  after  $x + 1$  iterations in the  $t$  period (kW), and  $P_{i,\alpha,\min}$  and  $P_{i,\alpha,\max}$  are the upper and lower limits of the scheduling power of the scheduling unit  $\alpha$  (kW).

In the iterative calculation process of the consensus algorithm, the residual deviation  $\Delta P_{d,t}$  is used as the convergence condition. When  $|\Delta P_{d,t}| < \varepsilon$ , the consistency calculation

reaches convergence, and  $\varepsilon$  is the convergence error. Iteratively update  $\lambda_{i,t}^\alpha$ , until all  $\lambda_{i,t}^\alpha$  tends to the same value  $\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha*}$ , at which point the system reaches a consistent convergence, that is, the micro-increase rate of cost of all scheduling units in the distribution area is consistent.

$$\frac{\partial C_{i,t,k_4}^4}{\partial P_{i,t,k_4}^4} = \dots = \frac{\partial C_{i,t,k_4}^4}{\partial P_{i,t,k_4}^4} = \frac{\partial C_{i,t}^{\text{ESS}}}{\partial P_{i,t}^{\text{ESS}}} \quad (25)$$

The optimal values of the scheduling power of the ES and the real-time-type DR cluster are shown in Equations (26) and (27), respectively:

$$P_{i,t}^{\alpha*} = \frac{\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha*}}{2a_i^{\text{ESS}}} \quad (26)$$

$$P_{i,t}^{\alpha*} = \frac{\Omega_\alpha^j (\lambda_{i,t}^{\alpha*} - D_j)}{2A_j} \quad (27)$$

#### 4.4. Solution Method

The multi-time scale cloud edge optimization and regulation model of distribution network belongs to a nonlinear programming problem, so MATLAB combined with yalmip plug-in is used to call gurobi solver to solve it in the days before and during the day. In the real-time stage, in order to ensure its real-time control ability, MATLAB is used for distributed calculation based on consistency algorithm. The specific algorithm flow is shown in the following Figure 5.

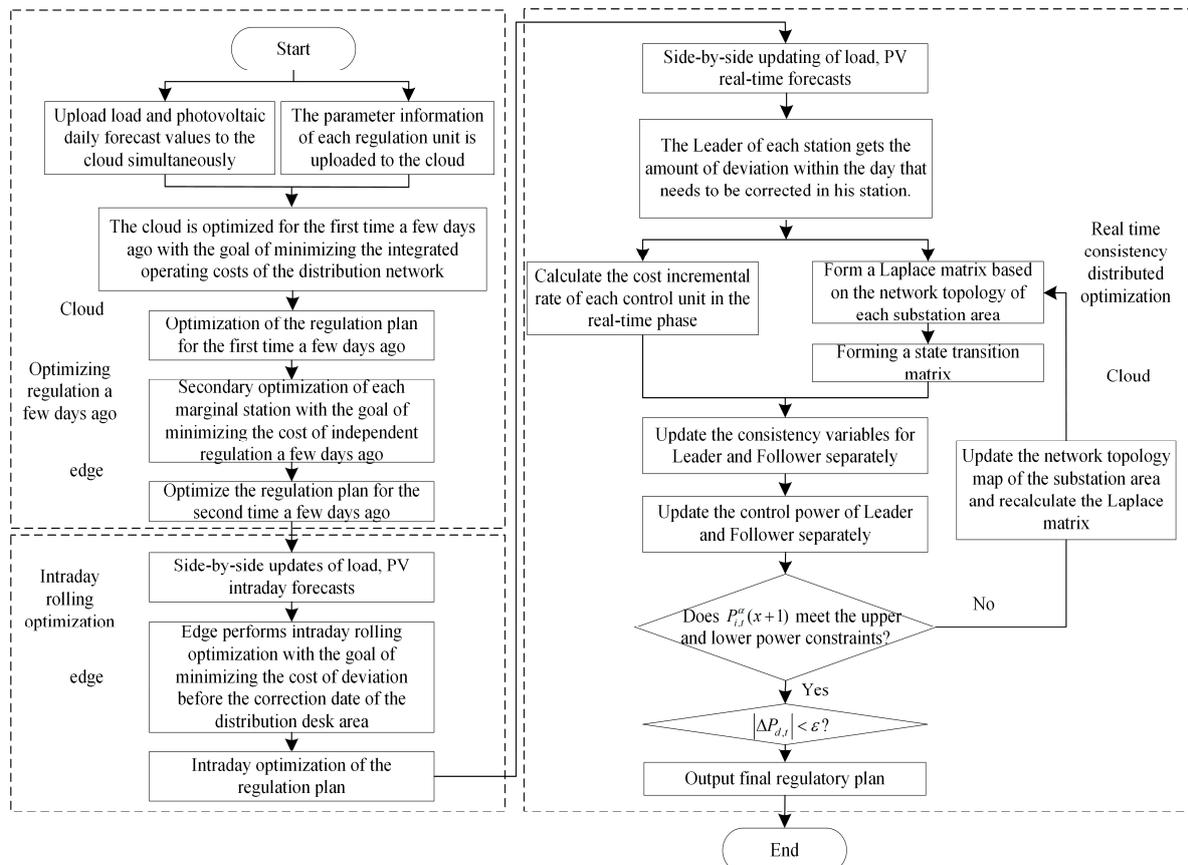


Figure 5. Solution process of multi-time scale cloud-edge collaborative regulation of distributed resources in distribution network.

The specific solution steps are as follows:

Step 1, the edge side platform area uploads the load, the day-ahead forecast information of photovoltaic, and the parameter information of each control unit to the cloud;

Step 2, the cloud carries out global initial optimization a few days ago with the goal of minimizing the comprehensive operation cost of the distribution network, and sends the optimization result to the edge platform area;

Step 3, each edge platform area carries out the second optimization decision day-ahead with the minimum cost of independent regulation and control of the platform area as the goal and sends the optimization result to the regulation and control unit in the previous stage;

Step 4, the edge updates the intra-day forecast information of load and photovoltaic;

Step 5, the edge platform area carries out intra-day rolling optimization with the goal of minimizing the deviation cost before the correction day and sends the optimization result to the intra-day stage adjustable unit;

Step 6, the real-time forecasting information of load and photovoltaic is updated in the platform area on the edge;

Step 7, the Leader of each area obtains the power deviation to be corrected in the station area and calculates the slight increase rate of the cost of each control unit;

Step 8, a Laplacian matrix and a state transition matrix are formed according to the topological structure inside each station area;

Step 9, the consistency variables of Leader and Follower and the regulating power are updated according to Formulas (22) and (23), respectively;

Step 10, judging whether the current iteration result meets the convergence condition, and if not, performing the next iteration; if the conditions are met, the final optimization result is output.

## 5. Example Analysis

The effectiveness of the strategy proposed in this paper is verified by taking a regional distribution network as an example. Multi-time scale cloud-edge collaborative distribution network optimization is a nonlinear programming problem. Based on the results of the above solution, the time-of-use power price of the power grid refers to Table A1 in Appendix C; the parameters of ES refer to Table A2 in Appendix C; the parameters of DR resources are shown in Table A3 in Appendix C. In addition, the load and PV forecast curves are shown in Figures A1 and A2 in Appendix C.

### 5.1. Analysis of Clustering Results

According to the response information of the DR declared by users, the improved K-means clustering analysis method is used to aggregate the day-ahead-type reducible loads, day-ahead-type transferable loads, intraday-type reducible loads, and real-time-type directly controlled loads into a certain number of resource clusters. The internal resources of each cluster have similar characteristics of power consumption. Among them, the schedulable duration of declaration of day-ahead-type reducible loads and day-ahead-type transferable loads is  $U(6, 12)$ ; the schedulable duration of intraday-type reducible loads is  $U(3, 6)$ ; the schedulable duration of real-time-type directly controlled loads is  $U(0, 3)$ ; the number of controllable resources declared by the four loads is 100; where  $U(x, y)$  represents uniform distribution between  $x$  and  $y$ .

The optimal number of clusters for DR is shown in Table S1, and the clustering results are shown in Tables S2. The centroid in each cluster represents the power consumption behavior characteristics of the users in the corresponding cluster, the time to enter the distribution network, the time to leave the distribution network, the expected response time, and the maximum reducible power of each cluster body is reflected by the centroid. The centroid feature represents the response characteristics of all resources within the cluster, which can be used to uniformly schedule the resources within the cluster according to the centroid feature.

### 5.2. Analysis of Optimization Results

In order to verify the effectiveness of the strategy proposed in this paper, we analyze the optimization results of the distribution network cloud-edge framework in three stages: day-ahead, intraday, and real-time.

#### 5.2.1. Analysis of Day-Ahead Optimization Results

In order to facilitate the analysis of the day-ahead optimization results, the day-ahead initial optimization results and the day-ahead secondary optimization results of the distribution area are shown in the exact figure, as shown in Figure 6. Figure 6a–c shows the optimization results in the day-ahead stage of three distribution areas. In addition, the optimized scheduling results for each DR cluster are shown in Figures S1–S4.

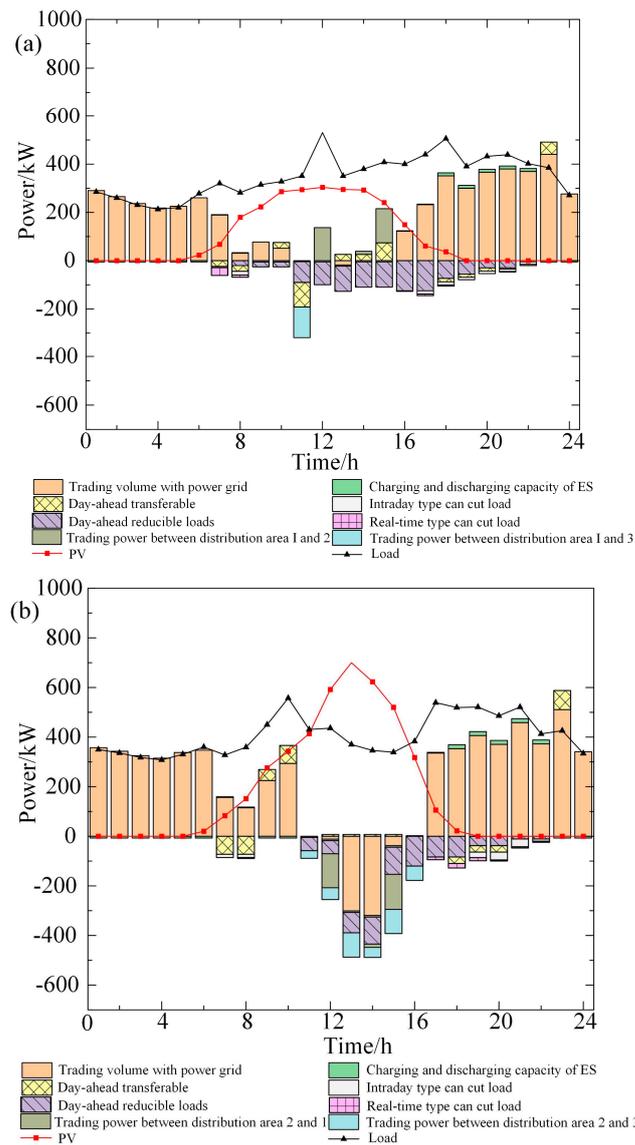
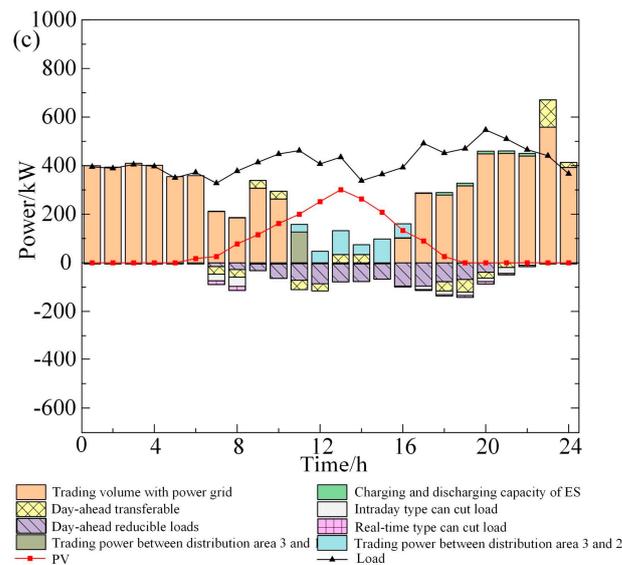


Figure 6. Cont.



**Figure 6.** Day-ahead optimization results of distribution areas. (a) Distribution area 1. (b) Distribution area 2. (c) Distribution area 3.

As shown in Figure 6, it can be seen that all distribution areas have similarities in scheduling plans for DR and ES and power interaction plans of distribution area intervals. There is no PV in all distribution areas at 0:00~5:00 and 19:00~24:00, so the load demand is mainly met by purchasing a large amount of power from the power grid. At the same time, the power purchase price from the power grid at this period is low, so the ES will be charged to facilitate the discharge during the peak period of power price. At 19:00~22:00, the load demand of all areas is high, and there is no PV. Therefore, the load demand is met by purchasing power from the power grid, scheduling DR, and discharging the ES. At 11:00~15:00, the PV output is greater than the load demand in Distribution Area 2, while the PV output cannot meet the load demand during this period in Distribution Area 1 and Distribution Area 3. Distribution Area 2 will prioritize the sale of excess renewable energy supply to Distribution Area 1 and Distribution Area 3 with power shortage to realize the local utilization of resources. In addition, the remaining power is sold to the grid.

For DR resources, the day-ahead-type transferable loads can transfer the loads at the peak price to the period of low price, which has a good economy. The day-ahead-type reducible loads scheduling period users declare is mainly during the daytime. Since the price of power purchased from the power grid is high in the daytime, it is more economical to maintain the power balance by reducing the load. For intraday-type DR and real-time-type DR, due to their fast response speed and relatively high compensation price, the distribution area preferentially schedules the day-ahead-type DR. It formulates the scheduling plan of intraday-type DR and real-time-type DR as a reference for the intraday and real-time scheduling stage, but does not release them.

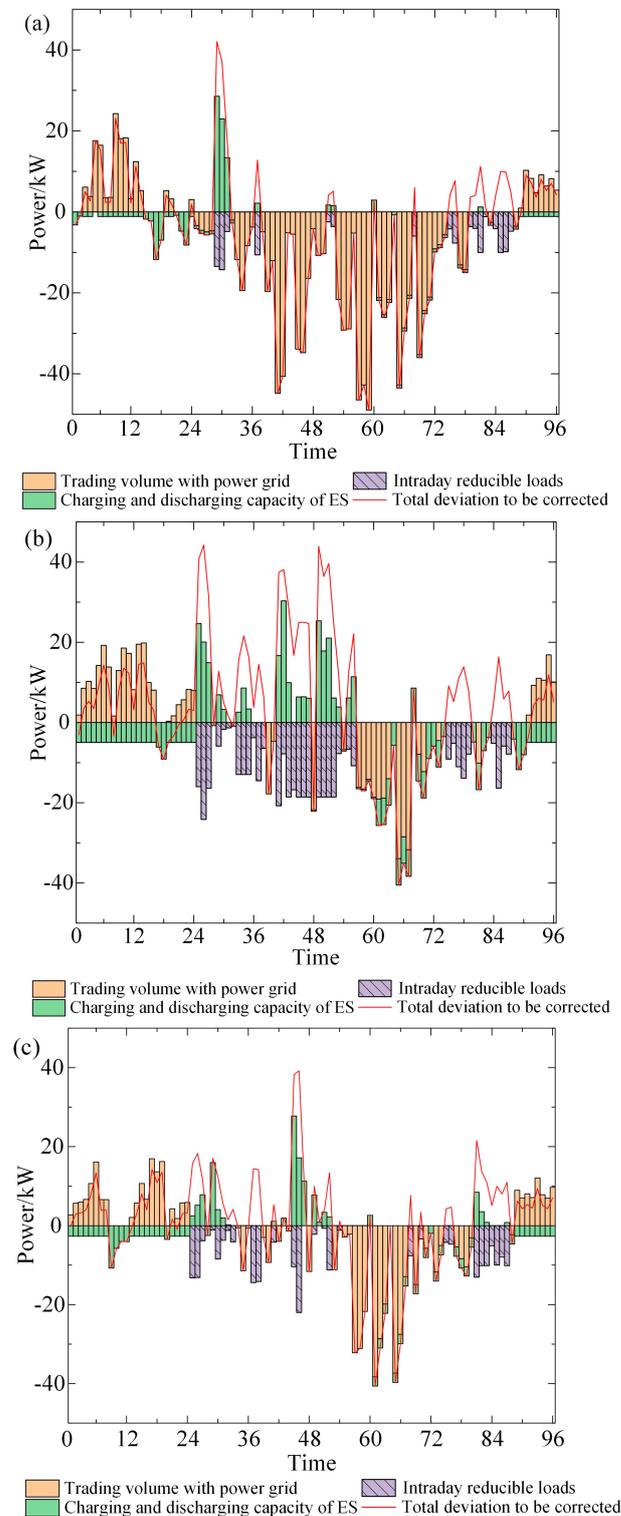
Through the optimization results of the clusters shown in Figures S1–S4, it can be seen that all clusters consider the constraints of response time and response quantity when participating in scheduling, thus ensuring that the scheduling instructions respond within the constraint range in the day-ahead stage.

### 5.2.2. Analysis of Intraday Optimization Results

The intraday stage scheduling plan takes the day-ahead scheduling results as the baseline for rolling optimization. It adjusts the power interaction between the distribution area and the power grid, the charging and discharging capacity of ES, and the scheduling of intraday-type DR. As shown in Figure S1, the power deviation needs to be corrected in the distribution area during the intraday. The difference between load and PV deviations is the total deviation to be corrected. The deviation is positive if the PV and load predicted

values of the intraday stage are greater than those of the previous day stage. If predicted values of PV and load in the intraday stage are smaller than those in the previous day, then the deviation is negative.

Deviation correction is carried out in the intraday stage, and the optimization results are shown in Figure 7. The scheduling results of each cluster of intraday-type reducible load are shown in Figure S5.



**Figure 7.** Intraday optimization results of distribution areas. (a) Distribution area 1. (b) Distribution area 2. (c) Distribution area 3.

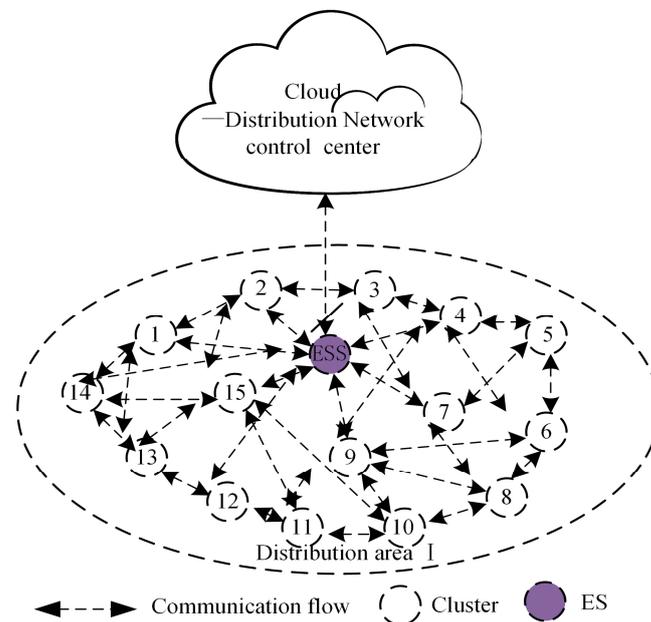
According to Figure 7, when the total power deviation is greater than 0, the power balance can be achieved by discharging ES, scheduling intraday-type DR, and purchasing power from the power grid. When the total power deviation is less than 0, the power balance can be met by charging ES and selling power to the power grid. Moreover, the intraday scheduling plan makes power adjustments based on the day-ahead plan, which ensures a compelling connection between the day-ahead global optimization and the intra-day rolling optimization.

It can be seen from the scheduling results of intraday-type reducible loads in Figure S5 that each cluster responds to the scheduling instructions in the intraday stage within the range of meeting the response time constraints and response amount constraints. Moreover, the scheduling power of each cluster also effectively refers to the scheduling instructions optimized in the day-ahead stage.

### 5.2.3. Analysis of Real-Time Optimization Results

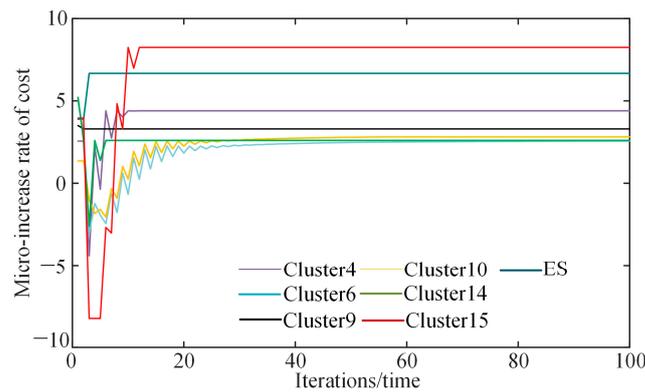
In real-time stage, based on the results of intraday scheduling, the real-time power scheduling simulation analysis of the distribution area is carried out on the time-scale of 5 min. The power adjustment coefficient of the consensus algorithm is  $\mu = 0.02$ , and the convergence error is  $\varepsilon = 0.7$ . As show in Figure S2, the power deviation needs to be corrected in the real-time stage.

Shown in Figure 8 is the communication topology diagram of the real-time scheduling units in the distribution area 1. Taking the power deviation  $\Delta P_1 = 30.63$  kW that needs to be corrected at 7:05 as an example, the real-time stage simulation is carried out. According to the response information of each real-time-type DR cluster, it can be seen that a total of six clusters (cluster 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 15) and ES participate in the scheduling of distribution area 1.

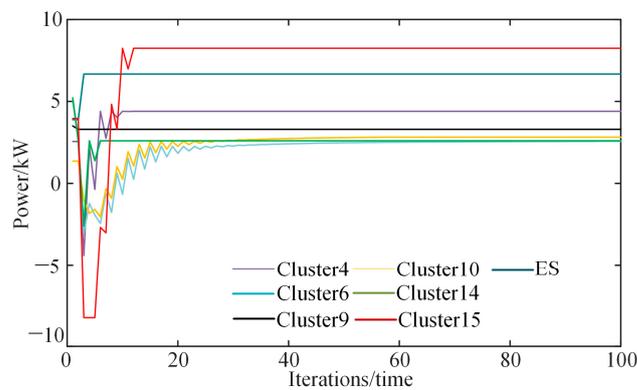


**Figure 8.** Communication topology diagram of real-time regulate unit in distribution area 1.

Shown in Figure 9 is the consistent convergence process of the micro-increase rate of cost of scheduling units in the real-time stage; Figure 10 shows the convergence process of the scheduling power of scheduling units in the real-time stage.



**Figure 9.** The consistent convergence process of the micro-increase rate of cost of scheduling units.



**Figure 10.** Convergence process of scheduled power of scheduling units.

The analysis of Figure 9 shows that the micro-increased cost rate of the scheduling unit is different at the initial time. The micro-increase rates of cost of ES and cluster 4 increase first and then decrease, and finally tend to be unchanged. The micro-increase cost rates of clusters 6, 9, 10, 14, and 15 gradually increase and eventually tends to remain unchanged. The cost micro-increase rate of all scheduling units reached a consistent convergence when iterating 35 times, which is 0.2618 CNY/kWh.

When the micro-increase rate of cost tends to be consistent, the optimal scheduling power values of all scheduling units are  $P_{k_4} = 4.400$  kW,  $P_{k_6} = 2.566$  kW,  $P_{k_9} = 3.300$  kW,  $P_{k_{10}} = 2.820$  kW,  $P_{k_{14}} = 2.600$  kW,  $P_{k_{15}} = 8.250$  kW, and  $P_{ESS} = 6.670$  kW, as shown in Figure 10, and the scheduling results of all scheduling units are within the operating constraints.

### 5.3. Comparative Analysis of Different Scenarios

#### 5.3.1. Comparative Analysis of Three Stages

To verify the effectiveness and economy of the scheduling strategy proposed in the three stages of day-ahead, intraday, and real-time in this paper, the following four example scenarios are set up for comparative analysis.

Scenario 1: Each distribution area operates independently. The traditional centralized optimization is used to formulate the scheduling plan, and DR is not considered in the three stages.

Scenario 2: Based on the distributed resource cloud-side collaborative framework proposed in this paper, the scheduling is carried out, but DR is not considered in the three stages.

Scenario 3: Each distribution area operates independently. In the three stages, the traditional centralized optimization is used to formulate the control plan, and the multi-time scale characteristics of DR are considered to participate in the scheduling.

Scenario 4: The three-stage cloud-edge collaborative scheduling strategy of distributed resources proposed in this paper is used to optimize.

According to the above scenarios, the scheduling costs in four scenarios are obtained through optimization calculation, as shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** The scheduling cost in different scenarios.

Category	Regulation Cost of Day-Ahead Stage (CNY)	Regulation Cost of Intraday Stage (CNY)	Regulation Cost of Real Time Stage (CNY)	Total Regulation Cost (CNY)
Scenario 1	16,630.23	213.65	1482.66	18,326.54
Scenario 2	16,154.74	157.93	1352.31	17,664.98
Scenario 3	14,880.92	152.16	1015.26	16,048.34
Scenario 4	14,077.72	65.99	814.02	14,957.73

As shown in Table 2, the scheduling cost under scenario 2 is lower than in scenario 1 by 3.61%. Scenario 1 and scenario 2 do not consider DR. The difference is that scenario 1 adopts the traditional centralized optimization scheduling method, and all distribution areas operate independently. When the resources in the distribution area cannot meet the power balance, they can only buy and sell power from the power grid. In scenario 2, the multi-time scale scheduling strategy under the cloud-side collaborative framework is applied, the scheduling power is reasonably distributed on the cloud and edge, and the power interaction between distribution areas is considered. When the power supply in the distribution area is insufficient, the priority should be given to purchasing power from the distribution area with surplus power instead of directly purchasing power from the power grid to reduce the cost of purchasing power. When the power supply in the distribution area is surplus, it is preferentially sold to the area with a power shortage and then selected to be sold to the power grid, thus improving the power sales revenue. Compared with scenario 3, the scheduling cost of scenario 4 is reduced by 6.80%. In addition, scenario 3 and scenario 4 consider the response time characteristics of DR so that DR resources can participate in multi-time scale scheduling according to their different response time characteristics. However, the scheduling cost of scenario 4 is lower than that of scenario 3, because scenario 4 adopts a multi-time scale cloud-edge cooperative scheduling strategy. In contrast, scenario 3 adopts a traditional centralized optimization control method, similar to scenarios 1 and 2 above. Cloud-edge collaborative optimization control can improve the economy of the overall operation of the system.

Compared with scenario 1, the scheduling cost of scenario 3 is reduced by 12.43%; both scenarios adopt the traditional centralized optimization scheduling method. The difference is that scenario 3 considers DR resources with different response time characteristics, while scenario 1 does not consider this. Compared with scenario 2, the scheduling cost of scenario 4 is reduced by 15.33%; both scenarios adopt the multi-time scale scheduling strategy of cloud-edge coordination, but scenario 4 also considers the multi-time scale characteristics of DR resources and makes them participate in scheduling. It can be seen that DR participates in the scheduling to improve the flexibility of distribution network operation. Under the premise of the optimal economy of the distribution network, the purchasing of power is reduced through the scheduling of DR resources, and the sales of power are increased to obtain more benefits. The analysis shows that the economy of distribution network operation can be improved by adding DR.

Through the analysis of the scheduling costs of the four scenarios, it can be seen that the economic efficiency of distribution network operation can be improved whether considering the cloud-edge collaborative optimization scheduling or considering the multi-time scale characteristics of DR, thus verifying that the scheduling strategy proposed in this paper has good economic benefits. However, due to the small number of distribution areas considered in this paper, the effect on improving the economy is limited. For the distribution network with more distribution areas, under the cloud-edge framework, the power interaction and DR resources of the edge areas will play an important role in the scheduling. They will have a significant effect in improving the operation economy of the distribution network. Therefore, the research results of this paper provide an essential

reference for the scheduling of distribution networks composed of multiple distribution areas in the future.

### 5.3.2. Comparative Analysis of Real-Time Stage

In order to verify the effectiveness of the proposed scheduling method in the real-time stage, the following two scenarios are set for comparative analysis.

Scenario 1: Centralized computing is performed by the cloud center, and then the scheduling tasks are released to the scheduling units.

Scenario 2: The centralized-distributed calculation based on the consensus algorithm is adopted, and the adjacent scheduling units perform information interaction.

It can be seen from Table 3 that the convergence time of centralized scheduling is significantly larger than that of centralized-distributed scheduling because the data information of all scheduling units of centralized control must be uploaded to the cloud center for unified calculation, thus increasing the time of data transmission and processing. In scenario 2, centralized-distributed computing based on a consensus algorithm only requires information interaction between adjacent scheduling units, significantly reducing the amount of calculation. Therefore, scenario 2 has a faster optimization speed than scenario 1. With the increase in the scale of the distribution area, the advantages of distributed optimization calculation will be more prominent, which is more in line with the real-time scheduling requirements in the real-time stage.

**Table 3.** The convergence time calculated in different scenarios.

Category	Convergence Time (s)
Scenario 1	0.431
Scenario 2	0.183

## 6. Conclusions

This paper considers the spatial and temporal characteristics of DR resources and proposes a three-stage cloud-edge collaborative optimization control strategy for distributed resources. Through example analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn:

(1) In the day-ahead stage, the power interaction and sharing between the distribution areas on the edge have been considered, fully leveraging the advantages of collaborative scheduling on the edge. Through the power interaction between areas, the local consumption of resources has been achieved, and the overall economic operation of the distribution network has also been improved.

(2) It adapts to the change of PV and load forecasting accuracy through the coordinated scheduling of three-time scales of day-ahead, intraday, and real-time in the cloud and edge. Considering the response time characteristics of DR, participating in the optimal scheduling of the distribution network fully taps the scheduling potential of DR, improves the flexibility of power flow between distribution areas, and significantly improves the economy of distribution network operation.

(3) In the real-time stage, the centralized-distributed calculation is carried out based on the consensus algorithm, and the micro-increased cost rate of the scheduling unit is selected as the consistency variable. When the micro-increase rate of cost tends to be consistent, the optimal allocation of the scheduling power of each scheduling unit in the distribution area can be realized. Compared with centralized calculation, it can reduce the calculation time and improve the optimization speed.

The regulation strategy proposed in this paper is suitable for small-scale distribution systems. For large-scale power systems, with the increase in the type and quantity of DR resources on the load side and the complexity of user uncertainties, it will be more difficult to coordinate and optimize the regulation strategy between the power grid and users. Therefore, in future research, it will be necessary to consider more complex and larger power grid environments and study multi-objective optimization regulation strategies.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following supporting information can be downloaded at: <https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/en17081933/s1>, Figure S1: Optimal results of day-ahead type reducible loads in the day-ahead stage; Figure S2: Optimal results of day-ahead type transferable loads in the day-ahead stage; Figure S3: Optimal results of intraday type reducible loads in the day-ahead stage; Figure S4: Optimal results of real-time type directly controlled load controls in the day-ahead stage; Figure S5: Optimal results of intraday type reducible loads in the intraday stage; Table S1: Optimal cluster number of demand response resources; Table S2: Clustering results of day-ahead type reducible loads; Table S3: Clustering results of day-ahead type transferable loads; Table S4: Clustering results of intraday type reducible loads; Table S5: Clustering results of real-time type directly controlled loads.

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**Data Availability Statement:** The data presented in this study are available on request from the corresponding author.

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## Appendix A

In this paper, the clustering features are extracted from the classified DR resources, as shown in (A1).

$$\mathbf{X} = \begin{Bmatrix} \dot{x}_{IL,DA} \\ \dot{x}_{TL,DA} \\ \dot{x}_{IL,DI} \\ \dot{x}_{DCL,RT} \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} t_1, t_2, t_0, P_{IL,DA,max} \\ t_1, t_2, t_0, \Delta t, P_{TL,DA,max} \\ t_1, t_2, t_0, P_{IL,DI,max} \\ t_1, t_2, t_0, P_{DCL,RT,max} \end{Bmatrix} \quad (\text{A1})$$

where  $\mathbf{X}$  is the clustering feature matrix of DR resources; from top to bottom,  $\dot{x}$  is the clustering feature vector of day-ahead-type reducible load, day-ahead-type transferable load, intraday-type reducible load, and real-time-type directly controlled load.  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$ , and  $t_0$  are the time of entering the network, the time of leaving the network, and the expected response time, respectively.  $\Delta t$  is the initial on-grid period;  $P_{max}$  is the maximum schedulable power.

The improved K-means algorithm is used to perform cluster analysis based on the cluster feature data set of DR resources extracted above. The specific clustering steps are as follows:

- (1) It is preliminarily assumed that the number of clusters of each DR resource is  $K$ .
- (2) Calculate the Euclidean distance of two samples in each DR resource.

Set the number of samples as  $n$  and the data set formed as  $D = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  and  $x_i = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{im})$ , then the Euclidean distance between two samples is defined as follows:

$$d(x_i, x_j) = \sqrt{(x_{i1} - x_{j1})^2 + (x_{i2} - x_{j2})^2 + \dots + (x_{im} - x_{jm})^2} \quad (\text{A2})$$

- (3) Determine the average distance of all samples in the DR data set.

$$\bar{D} = \frac{2}{n(n-1)} \sum d(x_i, x_j) \quad (\text{A3})$$

(4) Calculate the sample density.

$$\rho(x_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n \delta[\bar{D} - d(x_i, x_j)] \quad (\text{A4})$$

when  $\bar{D} - d(x_i, x_j) \geq 0$ ,  $\delta = 1$ , otherwise  $\delta = 0$ . The density set  $L$  can be expressed as  $L = \{\rho(x_1), \rho(x_2), \dots, \rho(x_n)\}$ .

(5) Select the sample with the largest density as the centroid of the first cluster, and the sample with the second largest density as the centroid of the second cluster, and so on, until the target cluster number is met.

(6) The average distance between data objects is taken as the dispersion degree of data objects, expressed by  $l_i$ .

(7) Reset the value of  $K$ , repeat steps (A2)–(A5), and select the  $K$  with the lowest value of the following formula as the best number of clusters.

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{j=1, i \neq j}^K \max \left\{ \frac{l_i + l_j}{d(x_i, x_j)} \right\} \quad (\text{A5})$$

## Appendix B

The cloud center formulates the price of power interaction between distribution areas according to the power grid price and the total supply and demand of the distribution network. The relationship between power supply and demand is defined as the ratio of power supply to power demand. In this paper, the supply of power is the total PV, and the demand of power is the total load in the distribution network.

$$q_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N P_{i,t}}{\sum_{i=1}^N R_{i,t}} \quad (\text{A6})$$

where  $q_t$  is the supply–demand ratio of power in the distribution network during  $t$  period;  $\sum_{i=1}^N P_{i,t}$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^N R_{i,t}$  are the total supply and total demand of power in the distribution network during  $t$  period.

When  $q_t = 1$ , it means that the supply of power is the same as the demand of power; when  $q_t = 0$ , indicates that there is no power supply inside the distribution network; when  $0 < q_t < 1$ , the price of power interaction follows the pricing principle of Formulas (A7) and (A8); when  $q_t > 1$ , in addition to supplying the internal loads, the remaining power in the distribution network is sold to the external network at the selling price of the external network.

The power purchase price and power sale price in the distribution areas interval in the distribution network is expressed as Formulas (A7) and (A8).

$$\beta_{p,t} = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha_{s,t} \alpha_{p,t}}{(\alpha_{p,t} - \alpha_{s,t}) q_t + \alpha_{s,t}}, & 0 \leq q_t \leq 1 \\ \alpha_{s,t}, & q_t > 1 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$\beta_{s,t} = \begin{cases} \beta_{p,t} q(t) + \alpha_{p,t} (1 - q_t), & 0 \leq q_t \leq 1 \\ \alpha_{s,t}, & q_t > 1 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A8})$$

where  $\alpha_{p,t}$  and  $\alpha_{s,t}$  are as the power purchase price and the power sale price of the power grid in the  $t$  period, respectively.

## Appendix C

**Table A1.** Time-of-use electricity price of external power grid.

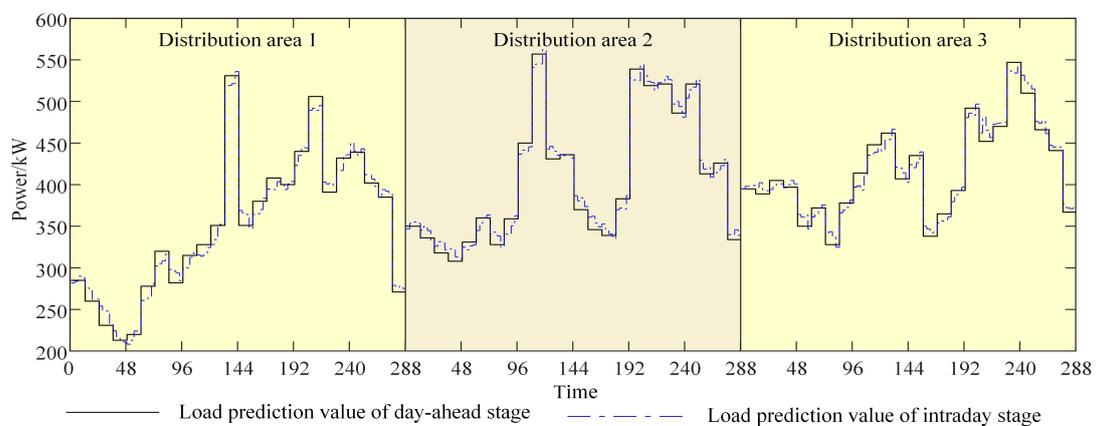
Time	Power Purchase Price (CNY/kW·h)	Power Sale Price (CNY/kW·h)
1:00–6:00	0.37	0.28
23:00–24:00		
7:00–10:00	0.82	0.4
14:00–17:00		
11:00–13:00	1.36	0.4
18:00–22:00		

**Table A2.** Parameters of ES.

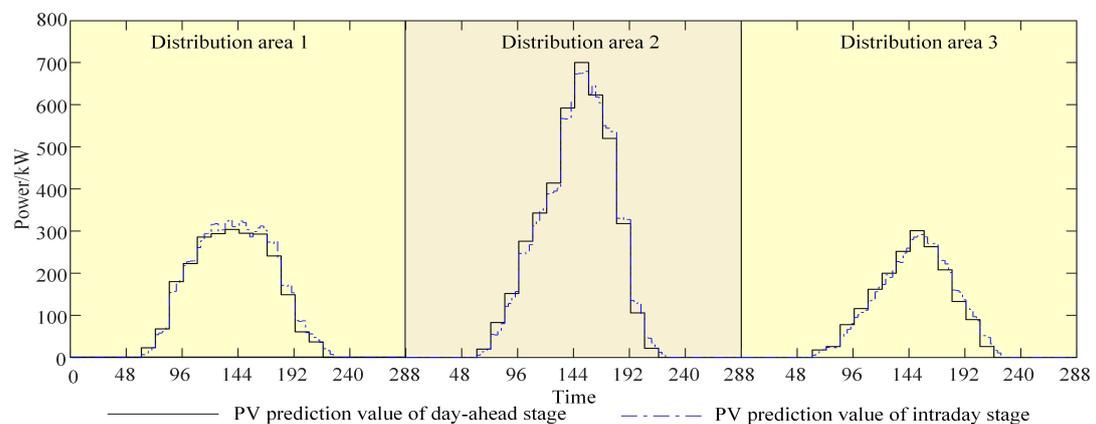
Number of the Distribution Area	$a^{es}$	$P_{es,min}$ (kW)	$P_{es,max}$ (kW)	Rated Capacity (kW·h)
1	0.0026	−80	80	200
2	0.002	−100	100	300
3	0.003	−100	100	200

**Table A3.** Parameters of DR resources.

Categories of Demand Response Resources	Day-Ahead-Type Reducible Loads	Day-Ahead-Type Transferable Loads	Intraday-Type Reducible Loads	Real-Time-Type Directly Controlled Loads
A	0.0025	0.0011	0.0030	0.0052
B	0.35	0.26	0.45	0.63
C	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04



**Figure A1.** Load prediction curve of distribution areas.



**Figure A2.** PV prediction curve of distribution areas.

The forecasting methods of photovoltaic and load are as follows:

Because the original historical data of photovoltaic and load has the characteristics of high dimension, abundant information, and complexity, this paper uses a CNN-LSTM hybrid model to predict photovoltaic and load. The model mainly obtains features through the CNN network to reduce the complexity of the model. The dimension-reduced data through the CNN are input into an LSTM network, and the long-term dependence in time series is continuously mined, so as to realize the accurate prediction of photovoltaic and load power.

Among them, the basic units of the LSTM network include the forgetting gate, input gate, and output gate. The input  $x_t$  in the forgetting gate, the state memory unit  $S_{t-1}$ , and the intermediate output  $h_{t-1}$  jointly determine the forgetting part of the state memory unit. The  $x_t$  in the input gate is changed by sigmoid and tanh functions, respectively, which together determine the reserved vector in the state memory unit. The intermediate output  $h_t$  is determined by the updated  $S_t$  and the output  $o_t$ , and the calculation formulas are as follows:

$$f_t = \sigma(W_{fx}x_t + W_{fh}h_{t-1} + b_f) \quad (A9)$$

$$i_t = \sigma(W_{ix}x_t + W_{ih}h_{t-1} + b_i) \quad (A10)$$

$$g_t = \varphi(W_{gx}x_t + W_{gh}h_{t-1} + b_g) \quad (A11)$$

$$o_t = \sigma(W_{ox}x_t + W_{oh}h_{t-1} + b_o) \quad (A12)$$

$$S_t = g_t \odot i_t + S_{t-1} \odot f_t \quad (A13)$$

$$h_t = \varphi(S_t) \odot o_t \quad (A14)$$

In the formula,  $f_t, i_t, g_t, o_t, h_t$  and  $S_t$  are the states of forgetting gate, input gate, input node, output gate, intermediate output, and state unit, respectively.  $W_{fx}, W_{fh}, W_{ix}, W_{gx}, W_{gh}, W_{ox}, W_{oh}$  are the matrix weights of the corresponding gate multiplied by the input  $x_t$  and the intermediate output  $h_{t-1}$ , respectively;  $b_f, b_i, b_g, b_o$  are the bias terms of the corresponding gates, respectively.  $\sigma$  indicates that the sigmoid function changes;  $\varphi$  indicates that the tanh function changes;

The mixed model structure of the CNN-LSTM network used in this paper is shown in Figure A3. The CNN is mainly responsible for photovoltaic and load feature extraction, while the LSTM network is mainly responsible for photovoltaic and load prediction. CNN consists of four convolution layers (Conv2D), and the number of convolution kernels is set to 32, 64, 128, and 256 in turn. In this paper, the load and photovoltaic data of a regional distribution network in the last five years are used as data sets and input into the model shown in the figure below. In order to make full use of the existing photovoltaic and load data, the convolution kernel size is set to  $3 \times 3$  in MaxPooling2D. The feature mapping in the convolution layer uses maximum pooling to reduce the output dimension size. After four consecutive convolution and maximum pooling operations, a  $2 \times 2 \times 256$  three-dimensional vector array is obtained, in which 256 is the number of channels. Then, the Flatten layer operation is performed, and the three-dimensional vector array is compressed into a one-dimensional vector array with a length of 1024 as the global feature extraction.

In the LSTM network part, increasing the depth of the model by adding the LSTM network is helpful in improving the prediction ability of the model, so the final model of this paper includes four LSTM network layers, and the number of neurons in each layer is 4, 8, 16, and 32, respectively. The random inactivation method is used between each LSTM network layer to prevent the model from over-fitting. Finally, the vectors in the specified format, i.e., photovoltaic and load forecast values, are output through the full connection layer (Dense).

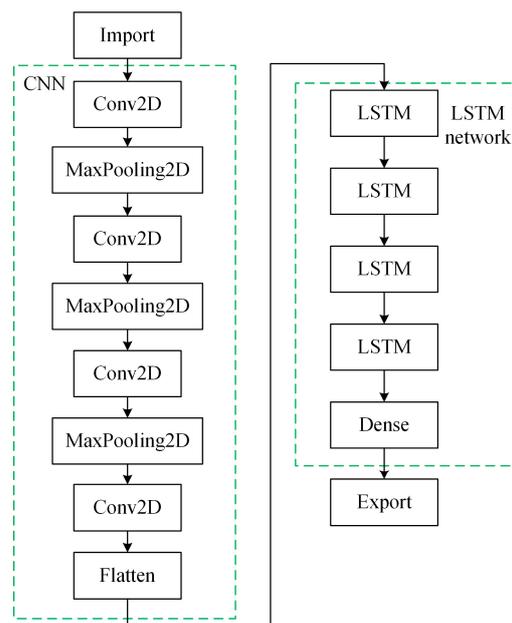


Figure A3. CNN-LSTM network hybrid model.

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