

Research on the bi-layer low carbon optimization strategy of integrated energy system based on Stackelberg master slave game

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Abstract: With increasing reforms related to integrated energy systems (IESs), each energy subsystem, as a participant based on bounded rationality, significantly influences the optimal scheduling of the entire IES through mutual learning and imitation. A reasonable multiagent joint operation strategy can help this system meet its low-carbon objectives. This paper proposes a bilayer low-carbon optimal operational strategy for an IES based on the Stackelberg master-slave game and multiagent joint operation. The studied IES includes cogeneration, power-to-gas, and carbon capture systems. Based on the Stackelberg master-slave game theory, sellers are used as leaders in the upper layer to set the prices of electricity and heat, while energy producers, energy storage providers, and load aggregators are used as followers in the lower layer to adjust the operational strategy of the system. An IES bilayer optimization model based on the Stackelberg master-slave game was developed. Finally, the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) condition and linear relaxation technology are used to convert the bilayer game model to a single layer. CPLEX, which is a mathematical program solver, is used to solve the equilibrium problem and the carbon emission trading cost of the system when the benefits of each subject reach maximum and to analyze the impact of different carbon emission trading prices and growth rates on the operational strategy of the system. As an experimental demonstration, we simulated an IES coupled with an IEEE 39-node electrical grid system, a six-node heat network system, and a six-node gas network system. The simulation results confirm the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed model.

Keywords: Integrated energy system; Stackelberg master-slave game; Power-to-gas system; Carbon capture systems

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0 Introduction

With the reformation of modern energy systems and the continuous promotion of energy conservation, efficient and low-carbon operations have become the primary objective of integrated energy systems (IESs). An IES can complement the characteristics of different energy sources

and realize the cascade utilization of energy [1]. An IES is beneficial for improving the utilization rate of renewable energy. Combined heat and power (CHP) units are widely used in IES. A CHP unit provides thermal energy to the IES. However, the heat-to-electricity operating mode of the CHP unit reduces the peak-shaving capability of the system and limits renewable energy generation [2]. Therefore, breaking the heat into the electricity mode of CHP units and improving the utilization rate of renewable energy have become the primary problems in the optimal scheduling of IESs [3]. Carbon capture system (CCS) and power-to-gas (P2G) equipment are important for electrical grids to reduce emissions from the source in a quick, efficient, and large-scale manner. The CCS can capture the CO₂ generated by the CHP units and convert it through P2G equipment, an improvement over the conventional heat-to-electricity mode of CHP units. With the connection between electrical and natural gas systems, P2G equipment is widely used to cut peaks, fill valleys, and reduce the penalty cost related to wind abandonment. Therefore, considering the combined effect of CCS and P2G equipment has become essential in the optimal scheduling of IESs.

Recently, numerous studies on the low-carbon optimal scheduling of IESs have been conducted from the perspective of optimal scheduling models and optimization algorithms. Studies on optimal scheduling have mainly considered multi-time scale, multi-network coupled operation, P2G equipment, and carbon trading models. Optimization algorithms used to solve the model include the particle swarm optimization algorithm, bee colony algorithm, distributed consistency algorithm, Bayesian algorithm, and other intelligent optimization algorithms. Game theory in operations research, as a new branch of modern mathematics, has a wide range of applications in finance, biology, economics, political science, and electrical engineering. The application of game theory to the optimal scheduling of IESs has become a research hotspot. Based on a cooperative game theory, a unified game model for IES was developed by encouraging different players to participate in the overall cooperative optimization operation of the system [4]. This study developed a profit distribution model to improve Shapley's value. However, the influence of network distribution and energy transmission loss on the distribution of system benefits should be considered in the model. In [5], a cooperative game model of an IES, hydrogen, and natural gas hybrid energy storage (IES-HGESS) was established considering carbon neutrality. The cooperative benefit coefficient was introduced to realize a rational design of the income strategy of the IES-HGESS. However, the established model did not consider

the influence of Time-of-use (TOU) price on the interests of the main IES players. An IES day-ahead optimal scheduling model considering an integrated demand response and cooperative game was established in [6]. The energy-trading mechanism between multiple IESs was processed using the cooperative game theory and solved using the Nash bargaining method to obtain a Pareto-optimal energy-trading strategy. However, incentives for energy markets were not included. For an IES containing multiple communities, the authors in [7] proposed a hierarchical and zone-based optimization model of a distributed IES based on the master-slave game. City managers and community operators were considered as leaders and followers of the game, respectively, to reconcile their interests and further realize an economic, flexible, and efficient operation of the IES.

Numerous algorithms for the optimal scheduling of IES have been proposed. In [8], a hierarchical operational strategy for a distributed IES was proposed based on the master-slave game theory. In the K-means clustering algorithm, the Wasserstein distance with a gradient penalty was used to generate renewable scenarios, and the maximum profit of the IES was pursued by setting the energy prices. However, the real-time pricing mechanism of the IES has yet to be analyzed. A single-master and multi-slave game model considering an integrated demand response was proposed [9]. An improved differential evolution algorithm was used to update the price strategy of the upper layer, and a multiplex solver was combined to solve the optimization problem of the lower layer. The operational strategy with the participation of different users was analyzed to improve energy efficiency. However, the game between additional types of load aggregators and multiple integrated energy service providers was not considered. A two-stage IES energy management method considering Stackelberg game-based dynamic pricing and operational strategy optimization was constructed in [10]. The NSGA-II algorithm was used to solve an optimization problem with the dual objectives of economy and energy efficiency and to improve the energy efficiency and operation economy of the system. However, the influence of energy on cooperative operation during the peak-valley period was not considered. None of the above algorithms considered the low-carbon operation of IESS.

To achieve low carbon emissions and improve the energy utilization efficiency of the system, a bilayer low-carbon model of the IES based on the master-slave game was constructed. First, a standard carbon optimization model of the IES with CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation was established by introducing P2G and CCS to reduce the

carbon emissions of the CHP units. Subsequently, based on the Stackelberg master-slave game theory, an IES bilayer optimization model was constructed, with sellers as the players in the upper-layer optimization model and energy producers, energy storage companies, and load aggregators as players in the lower-layer optimization model. The cost associated with carbon emission trading in the ladder-type carbon emission trading analysis system was introduced into the lower objective function to build a bilayer optimization model of the IES based on the Stackelberg master-slave game. The bilayer model was converted into a single-layer model using Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions, and the master-slave game model was solved using the CPLEX solver. We analyzed the impact of the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation on the interests of various parties in the IES game and the impact of different growth rates and carbon trading prices on the operational strategy of the system. Finally, the effectiveness of the proposed model in improving the energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions of the system was demonstrated through examples.

The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows:

1) An IES optimization model for the combined operation of CHP-CCS-P2G was proposed, and the carbon emission characteristics of the CHP units, CCS, and P2G were analyzed. Compared with an IES operated separately by CHP units, CCS, and P2G, the proposed model can effectively reduce the carbon emissions of the system.

2) A structure for the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation was constructed using the bilayer optimization model based on the Stackelberg master-slave game theory to maximize the interests of each subject.

3) The convergence speed of the IES optimization model was improved using a combination of game theory and a mathematical program solver.

4) The effectiveness of the optimization strategy was verified in a test system, with the strategy exhibiting several advantages.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 1, we establish an IES that considers the joint operation of CHP-CCS-P2G, and the carbon emission characteristics of CHP, CCS, and P2G. In Section 2, we analyze the IES bilayer structure based on the Stackelberg master-slave game. Section 3 presents an IES bilayer low-carbon optimization model based on the Stackelberg master-slave game. Section 4 presents the solution to the IES bilayer carbon optimization problem based on the Stackelberg master-slave game. In Section 5, the superiority of the proposed strategy is verified using an example. Finally, in Section 6, we provide conclusions.

1 Integrated Energy System Analysis of CHP-CCS-P2G Joint Operation

To establish an electric-thermal-gas IES considering cogeneration with P2G and CCS, the P2G capture system included a heat exchanger with temperature control and a pressure vessel with a vacuum chamber. The CCS captures the CO_2 generated by the CHP unit and converts it into natural gas for use in the gas turbine through the P2G equipment, thus improving the power regulation ability of the CHP, reducing the electrical-thermal coupling characteristics, and reducing CO_2 emissions. Figure 1 shows the operational mode of the CHP-CCS-P2G combined electric-thermal-gas IES, which include wind turbines (WTs), photovoltaics (PVs), electrical storage (EES) systems, heat storage (HS) systems, gas turbines (GT), electrical loads (ELs), heat loads (HLs), and gas loads (GLs).

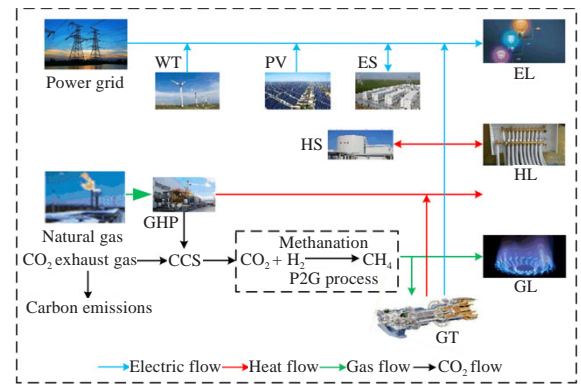


Fig. 1 Structural diagram of IES considering the dynamic characteristics of the heat network, which consists of wind turbine (WT), photovoltaic (PV), electrical storage (ES) systems, heat storage (HS) systems, gas turbines (GT), electrical load (EL), heat load (HL), and gas load (GL)

The CHP, P2G, and CCS units are aggregated into a CHP-CCS-P2G system through the joint operation of the CHP, P2G, and CCS. CO_2 is generated by the CHP units, which are collected by a CCS device and converted into natural gas by the P2G system. The P2G and CCS units help reduce the purchase cost of gas turbines and the storage cost of CO_2 , achieving peak-shaving and valley-filling.

The electric power P_{CHP} generated by the CHP unit can be divided into three parts: the CHP unit provided by the superior electricity network, the P2G equipment, and the CCS, as expressed in (1).

$$P_{CHP} = P_{grid} + P_{P2G} + P_{CCS} \quad (1)$$

where P_{grid} , P_{P2G} , and P_{CCS} are the powers inputted to the electricity network, P2G equipment, and CCS, respectively, by the CHP unit.

The thermoelectric coupling characteristics of the CHP units are expressed in (2).

$$\begin{aligned} & \max \left\{ P_{\min}^{CHP} - \beta_1 Q_{CHP}, \chi(Q_{CHP} - Q_0) \right\} \\ & \leq P_{CHP} \leq P_{\max}^{CHP} - \beta_2 Q_{CHP} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where β_1 , χ , and β_2 are the thermoelectric conversion coefficients of the CHP unit; β_1 and χ are the thermoelectric conversion coefficients when the CHP unit outputs the minimum and maximum electrical power, respectively; β_2 is the linear supply slope between the thermal and electrical energies generated by the CHP unit; Q_{CHP} is the thermal power of the CHP unit; P_{\min}^{CHP} and P_{\max}^{CHP} are the upper and lower limits of the electric power of the CHP unit, respectively; Q_0 is the thermal power output corresponding to the minimum electrical power of the CHP unit.

The carbon emission $E_{CO_2}^{CHP}$ model of the CHP is expressed in (3).

$$E_{CO_2}^{CHP} = a_1(P_{CHP} + \beta_1 Q_{CHP}) + a_2(P_{CHP} + \beta_1 Q_{CHP})^2 + a_{CO_2} \quad (3)$$

Here, a_1 , a_2 , and a_{CO_2} are the carbon emission coefficients of the CHP unit.

The P2G equipment converts the CO₂ captured by the CCS device into natural gas and supplies it to gas loads and gas turbines, thereby improving the energy utilization efficiency. It is a coupled device used in electricity and gas networks. The mathematical model for the carbon emissions $E_{CO_2}^{P2G}$ of the P2G system is expressed in (4).

$$E_{CO_2}^{P2G} = \delta P_{P2G} \quad (4)$$

where δ is the coefficient for CO₂ calculations.

The CCS is mainly used to capture CO₂ and consumes electricity during operation. The mathematical model for the CCS carbon emissions $E_{CO_2}^{CCS}$ is expressed in (5).

$$P_{CCS} = \alpha E_{CO_2}^{CCS} \quad (5)$$

where P_{CCS} is the power consumption when the amount of CO₂ is provided by the CCS device to the P2G device, and α is the conversion coefficient between the CCS power consumption and captured CO₂.

2 Analysis of the Bilayer Structure of IES with CHP-CCS-P2G Joint Operation Based on Stackelberg Master-slave Game Theory

Based on the Stackelberg master-slave game theory, a bilayer optimization structure of the Stackelberg master-slave game between the seller, energy producer, energy storage service provider, and load aggregator of the IES in the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation mode is constructed, as shown in Fig. 2.

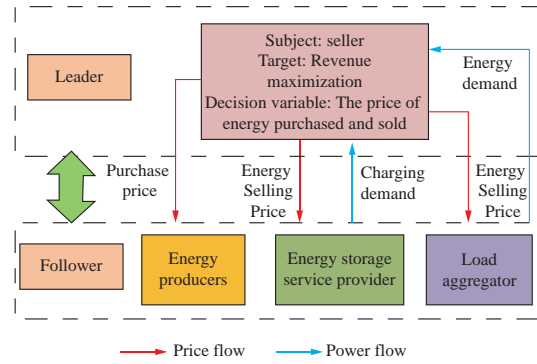


Fig. 2 Bilayer master-slave game structure diagram of IES based on CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation mode

In the IES bilayer game model of the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation, for the sellers in the upper layer of the game, after the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation equipment is connected, the sellers in the system optimize the allocation of supply for each load based on the quotation of each energy source. For lower-layer energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators, after the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation equipment is connected, the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation process can reduce the carbon emissions of the CHP units and emission trading cost in the IES. This reduces the operating cost of the system, realizing a low-carbon economic operation of the lower layer.

In the master-slave game considered in this study, the upper-layer entities are system sellers, whereas the lower-layer entities are energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators. There is mutual influence between the upper and lower layers of the game. The seller in the upper layer of the game, as the leader, determines the energy price and sends electricity and heat prices to the energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators in the lower layer of the game. Energy producers adjust the output of various pieces of equipment under their control according to the energy price set by the seller to meet the actual energy demand. Sellers develop pricing strategies and energy storage service providers adjust their charging and discharging methods. The charging and discharging strategies of the energy storage service providers affect the energy pricing of the system vendors. When the system seller releases electricity and heat pricing strategies to the load aggregator, the load aggregator adjusts the actual energy demand of the user based on the energy prices. The load aggregator changes the energy consumption strategy of the user and provides feedback to the system seller. The seller then adjusts the energy price based on the energy consumption strategy, continuously coordinating the upper and lower layers to improve the interests of all parties.

3 IES Bilayer Low-carbon Optimization Model Based on Stackelberg Master-slave Game

3.1 Upper-layer optimal scheduling model

The seller dominates the upper-layer optimization model, and profits are obtained by determining the purchase and sale prices of energy considering the demand for electric heating supply. The objective function C_1 of the upper layer model includes the selling cost C_{sell} , purchasing cost C_{buy} , and the penalty cost C_{penal} of the seller's energy supply interruption, as expressed in (6).

$$\max C_1 = C_{sell} - C_{buy} - C_{penal} \quad (6)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} C_{sell} = \rho_e^{sell} (P_{EU} + P_{ES}) + \rho_h^{sell} (P_{HU} + P_{HS}) \\ C_{buy} = \rho_e^{buy} (P_{EP} + P_{EY}) + \rho_h^{buy} (P_{HP} + P_{HY}) \\ C_{penal} = P_h \xi_h \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Here, ρ_e^{sell} and ρ_h^{sell} are the electric heating prices for the electricity and heat purchased by the seller, respectively; ρ_e^{buy} and ρ_h^{buy} are the electric heating prices at which the seller sells electricity and heat energy, respectively; P_{ES} , P_{HS} , P_{EU} , and P_{HU} represent the electrical and thermal energies sold by the seller to the energy storage service provider and the load aggregator, respectively; P_{EP} , P_{HP} , P_{EY} , and P_{HY} represent the electricity and thermal energy purchased by producers and energy storage service providers; P_h and ξ_h are the penalty prices associated with energy loss and interruption during energy supply.

The constraints of the upper-layer model are expressed in (8).

$$\begin{cases} \rho_{grid}^{sell} \leq \rho_e^{sell} \leq \rho_{grid}^{buy} \\ \rho_{grid}^{sell} \leq \rho_e^{buy} \leq \rho_{grid}^{sell} \\ \rho_{min}^h \leq \rho_h^{sell} \leq \rho_{max}^h \\ \rho_{min}^h \leq \rho_h^{buy} \leq \rho_{max}^h \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

Here, ρ_{grid}^{sell} and ρ_{grid}^{buy} denote the time of electricity price and the electricity price of the electrical grid; ρ_{min}^h and ρ_{max}^h denote the upper and lower limits of the heat price, respectively.

3.2 Lower-layer optimal scheduling model

The lower-layer model included energy producers, storage service providers, and load aggregators as followers. After receiving the energy quotation from the system seller, the lower-layer subjects adjust their energy-use plans in a reasonable manner to maximize their interests. The lower objective function C_2 primarily includes the benefit function C_3 of the energy producer, which includes the revenue C_{EP} obtained from the electric and thermal energy sold by the

energy producer, operating cost C_{OP} , and carbon emission cost C_{CO_2} . The benefit function C_4 of the energy storage service providers mainly includes the charge and discharge costs C_{ch} and C_{dis} ; the benefit function C_5 of the load aggregators mainly includes the energy purchase cost C_{CU} and benefit cost C_{EP} , which can be written as (9).

$$\begin{aligned} \max C_2 = C_3 + C_4 + C_5 = & (C_{EP} - C_{OP} + C_{CO_2}) + \\ & (C_{dis} - C_{ch}) + (C_{EF} - C_{CU}) \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} C_3 = C_{EP} - C_{OP} = \rho_e^{buy} (P_{PV} + P_{WT} + \eta_{GT} P_{GT} + P_{CHP}) + \rho_h^{buy} \left(Q_{CHP} + \eta_1 \eta_2 \frac{P_{GT} (1 - \eta_{GT} - \eta_3)}{\eta_{GT}} \right) - (C_{CHP} + \kappa_{P2G} P_{P2G} + \kappa_{CCS} P_{CCS} + \kappa_{GT} P_{GT} + \kappa_{WT} P_{WT} + \kappa_{PV} P_{PV} + C_{CO_2}) \\ C_{CHP} = a(P_{CHP} + \beta_1 Q_{CHP}) + b(P_{CHP} + \beta_1 Q_{CHP})^2 + c \\ C_4 = C_{dis} - C_{ch} = \rho_e^{buy} P_{EY} + \rho_h^{buy} P_{HY} - (\rho_e^{sell} P_{ES} + \rho_h^{sell} P_{HS}) \\ C_5 = C_{EF} - C_{CU} = v_e P_e - \frac{u_e}{2} (P_e)^2 + (v_h P_h - \frac{u_h}{2} (P_h)^2 - (\rho_e^{sell} P_{EU} + \rho_h^{sell} P_{HU})) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Here, P_{PV} and P_{WT} are the abandoned energies of the PVs and wind turbines, respectively; P_{GT} is the power of GT; η_{GT} is the conversion coefficient of GT; η_1 is the heat loss coefficient; η_2 is the heating coefficient of the bromine cooler; η_3 is the recovery rate of the waste heat; a , b , and c are the cost coefficients of the CHP unit; C_{CHP} is the operating cost of the CHP unit; κ_{P2G} , κ_{CCS} , and κ_{GT} are the maintenance cost coefficients of P2G, CCS, and GT, respectively; κ_{WT} and κ_{PV} are the electricity abandonment cost coefficients of the wind turbine and PV, respectively; v_e , u_e , v_h , and u_h are the preference constants of the quadratic function; p_e represents the electrical load demand; p_h is the heat load demand.

This study used the carbon emission cost of a ladder-type carbon emission trading analysis system. The difference between the actual carbon emissions of the system and the initial carbon emission quota is divided into several intervals, and the magnitude of the difference between the actual carbon emissions of the system and the initial carbon emission quota, as well as the length of the divided interval carbon emissions, was analyzed. The excess or residual carbon emissions quota is purchased and sold through the carbon emission trading market at a stepped price, thereby reducing the carbon emissions of the system. The ladder-type carbon emission trading cost model is expressed in Equation (11).

$$C_{CO_2} = \begin{cases} -C_c(2+3C_\mu)l + C_c(1+3C_\mu)(\Delta E_{CO_2} + 2l), \\ \Delta E_{CO_2} \leq -2l \\ -C_c(1+C_\mu)l + c(1+2C_\mu)(\Delta E_{CO_2} + l), \\ -2l \leq \Delta E_{CO_2} \leq -l \\ C_c(1+C_\mu)\Delta E_{CO_2}, \quad -l \leq \Delta E_{CO_2} \leq 0 \\ C_c\Delta E_{CO_2}, \quad 0 \leq \Delta E_{CO_2} \leq l \\ C_cl + C_c(1+C_\beta)(\Delta E_{CO_2} - l), \\ l \leq \Delta E_{CO_2} \leq 2l \\ C_c(2+C_\beta)l + C_c(1+2C_\beta)(\Delta E_{CO_2} - 2l), \\ 2l \leq \Delta E_{CO_2} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

$$\Delta E_{CO_2} = E_{CO_2}^t - E_{CO_2}^c \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{cases} E_{CO_2}^t = E_{grid} + E_{CHP} + E_{GT} \\ E_{CO_2}^c = E_{grid}^c + E_{CHP}^c + E_{GT}^c \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

Here, C_c is the price of carbon emission trading, generally 0.256 yuan/kg; C_μ is the reward coefficient; C_β is the growth rate of the ladder-type carbon emission trading, that is, the penalty coefficient, generally taken as 0.25; l is the carbon emission range, generally taken as 0.5; $E_{CO_2}^t$ is the actual carbon emissions of the system; ΔE_{CO_2} is the carbon emissions actually involved in the carbon emission trading market; E_{grid} , E_{CHP} , and E_{GT} represent the actual carbon emissions of the power grid, CHP units, and GT units, respectively.

The constraint for electric power balance is expressed in (14).

$$P_{grid} + P_{WT}^t + P_{PV}^t + P_{CHP} + P_{es,dis} + P_{buy} = P_{es,ch} + P_{sell} + Q_{EL} \quad (14)$$

Here, P_{WT}^t and P_{PV}^t are the powers of the wind turbines and photovoltaic units, respectively; $P_{es,ch}$ and $P_{es,dis}$ respectively refer to the charging and discharging powers of the storage equipment, respectively; P_{buy} and P_{sell} represent the purchasing and selling powers of the system, respectively; and Q_{EL} is the electrical load of the system.

The thermal power balance constraint is expressed in (15).

$$Q_{CHP} + Q_{GT} + H_{es,dis} = P_{IHP} + Q_{HL} + H_{es,ch} \quad (15)$$

where Q_{CHP} is the heating power of the CHP unit; Q_{GT} is the heating power of GT; $H_{es,ch}$ and $H_{es,dis}$ respectively are the charging and discharging powers of the heat storage equipment, respectively; Q_{HL} is the thermal load of the system; P_{IHP} is the power exchanged between the system and the heating network.

The constraint for gas power balance is expressed in (16).

$$G_{grid} + G_{P2G} = G_{CHP} + G_{GT} + Q_{GL} \quad (16)$$

where G_{grid} is the gas power purchased by the system, G_{P2G} is the gas power converted via P2G; G_{CHP} and G_{GT} represent

the gas powers consumed by the CHP unit and GT, respectively, and Q_{GL} is the gas load of the system.

The node voltage and pressure constraints are expressed in (17).

$$\begin{cases} u_i^{\min} \leq u_i \leq u_i^{\max} \\ y_i^{\min} \leq y_i \leq y_i^{\max} \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Here, u_i is the node voltage, u_i^{\min} and u_i^{\max} represent the minimum and maximum values of the node voltage, respectively, y_i is the node air pressure, and y_i^{\min} and y_i^{\max} are the minimum and maximum values of the node air pressure, respectively.

The constraints on the CHP-CCS-P2G system are given by (18).

$$\begin{cases} P_{\min}^{CHP} \leq P_{CHP} \leq P_{\max}^{CHP} \\ P_{\min}^{P2G} \leq P_{P2G} \leq P_{\max}^{P2G} \\ P_{\min}^{CCS} \leq P_{CCS} \leq P_{\max}^{CCS} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

Here, P_{\min}^{P2G} and P_{\max}^{P2G} are the upper and lower limits of the P2G output, respectively; P_{\min}^{CCS} and P_{\max}^{CCS} are the minimum and maximum powers of the CCS device, respectively.

The operating constraints of GT are expressed in (19).

$$P_{\min}^{GT} \leq P_{GT} \leq P_{\max}^{GT} \quad (19)$$

where P_{\min}^{GT} and P_{\max}^{GT} are the upper and lower limits of the GT output, respectively.

The constraint for the energy storage device is expressed in (20).

$$\begin{cases} H_{\min}^{es} \leq H_{es} \leq H_{\max}^{es} \\ 0 \leq P_h^{sell} \leq P_{\max}^{ch} \\ 0 \leq P_h^{buy} \leq P_{\max}^{dis} \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

Here, H_{es} is the actual energy storage device, H_{\min}^{es} and H_{\max}^{es} are the upper and lower limits of the energy storage device, respectively, and P_{\max}^{ch} and P_{\max}^{dis} are the maximum charging and discharge powers of the energy storage device, respectively.

4 Model Solving

The Stackelberg master-slave game is a hierarchical game that reflects the sequence of decisions between various subjects. In the game process, the leader takes the lead in making decisions, and followers develop their operational strategies according to the decision information produced by the leader. In the IES constructed in this study, the system sellers, energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators are considered the subjects of independent interest. The sellers formulate a price strategy that maximizes their interests, and the energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators

reasonably adjust the power of each unit according to the prices set by the sellers. The power information is transferred to the upper seller, and there is mutual influence between the upper and lower layers, which is in agreement with the Stackelberg master-slave game theory.

The IES master-slave game model established in this study primarily includes participants, strategy sets, and payment functions. The participants in the game are the seller E , energy producer S , energy storage service provider C , and load aggregator U . The game strategy set is the seller's energy pricing $L_1 = (\rho_e^{buy}, \rho_h^{buy}, \rho_e^{sell}, \rho_h^{sell})$. The output of the energy producer units in each period is expressed as $L_2 = (P_{MT}, P_{CHP})$. The charging and discharging power of the energy storage service providers in each period is represented by $L_3 = (P_{EY}, P_{HY})$. The demand response of the load aggregator in each period is expressed as $L_4 = (P_t, P_h)$. Here, P_t and P_h are the electrical and heat loads of the system, respectively. The payment function $C = \{C_{ESR}, C_{EP}, C_{EU}, C_{ESP}\}$ is the benefit cost for the four subjects, which can be calculated using Equations (7) and (10): Suppose the seller's equilibrium strategy is L_1^* and the optimal response strategy sets of the energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators are L_2^* , L_3^* , and L_4^* , respectively. If the optimal response of sellers, energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators satisfies (21),

$$\begin{cases} C_{ESR}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \geq C_{ESR}(L_{1(-i)}^*, L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \\ C_{EU}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \geq C_{EU}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \\ C_{ESP}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \geq C_{ESP}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \\ C_{EP}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \geq C_{EP}(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*) \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

then the strategy set $(L_1^*, L_2^*, L_3^*, L_4^*)$ is the equilibrium solution of the IES when the interests of the players in the game are maximum. $L_{1(-i)}^*$ is another strategy besides L_{1i}^* . When the game reaches an equilibrium solution, no player can increase their profits by adjusting their own strategy sets.

The above scenario shows that the constraints of the strategy sets of the sellers, energy producers, energy storage service provider, and load aggregators satisfy (18)-(20). Hence, the strategy sets of the game are all bounded, nonempty, convex closed sets. Because the objective functions are continuous convex functions of each set of strategies, the master-slave Stackelberg game presented in this study has a unique solution at equilibrium.

To obtain the equilibrium solution of the IES, the KKT condition and linear relaxation technique in the convex optimization theory were used to transform the bilayer optimization model into a single-layer optimization model. First, the lower-layer nonlinear programming problem was

transformed into a constraint problem between electricity and heat prices and the power of each unit using KKT conditions. The bilayer optimization model was transformed into a single-layer model by introducing the relaxation variables $\mu_1 \sim \mu_{14}$ and defining the lower-layer model Lagrangian function, as expressed in (22).

$$\begin{aligned} L = \max C_2 + \mu_1(P_{CHP} - P_{CHP}^{\min}) + \mu_2(P_{CHP}^{\max} - P_{CHP}) + \\ \mu_3(P_{P2G} - P_{P2G}^{\min}) + \mu_4(P_{P2G}^{\max} - P_{P2G}) + \mu_5(P_{CCS} - \\ P_{CCS}^{\min}) + \mu_6(P_{CCS}^{\max} - P_{CCS}) + \mu_7(P_{GT} - P_{GT}^{\min}) + \mu_8 \\ (P_{GT}^{\max} - P_{GT}) + \mu_9(H_{es} - H_{es}^{\min}) + \mu_{10}(H_{es}^{\max} - H_{es}) + \\ \mu_{11}P_h^{sell} + \mu_{12}(P_{max}^{ch} - P_h^{sell}) + \mu_{13}P_h^{buy} + \mu_{14}(P_{max}^{dis} - P_h^{buy}) \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

The specific solution process of the lower-layer model is shown in Appendix A.

Through the above process, the original nonconvex problem can be transformed into a convex problem and finally solved by calling the commercial solver complex.

Figure 3 shows the flowchart for solving IES.

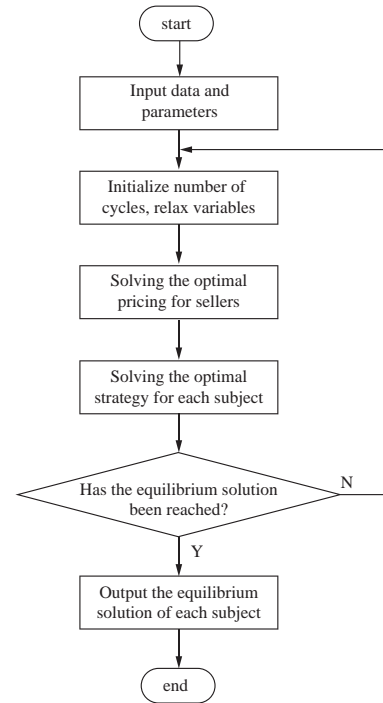


Fig. 3 IES solution flowchart

5 Case Study

This study simulated an IES coupled with an IEEE 39-node electrical grid system, a six-node heat network system, and a six-node gas network system. The P2G equipment is connected to 32 nodes of the electrical grid and two nodes of the gas network, and the CCS is connected to 39 nodes of the electrical grid. Appendices B1, B2, and B3 present the values of the IES node parameters. The test system is

described in Appendix C. Table 1 presents the operating parameters of the IES.

Table 1 Operation parameters of the equipment in IES

Equipment parameter	Value	Equipment parameter	Value
β_1	0.15	κ_{P2G}	139.8 (yuan/MW)
β_2	0.2	κ_{CCS}	139.8 (yuan/MW)
χ	0.85	κ_{GT}	381.5 (yuan/MW)
a_1	0.89	κ_{WT}	763 (yuan/MW)
a_2	0.0017	κ_{PV}	763 (yuan/MW)
a_{CO_2}	26.15	ε	1.09 (t/MWh)
δ	1.02 (t/MWh)	μ	0.798
α	0.5 (MWh/t)	λ	190.7 (yuan/MW)
Q_0	5 MW	η_{GT}	0.6
P_{min}^{CHP}	10 MW	η_l	0.95
P_{max}^{CHP}	35 MW	P_{min}^{GT}	5 MW
P_{min}^{P2G}	0	P_{max}^{GT}	30 MW
P_{max}^{P2G}	15 MW	P_{max}^{CCS}	10 MW
P_{min}^{CCS}	0		

Figure 4 shows the forecast curves for the system load demand, wind power, and PV power generation.

5.1 Stackelberg equilibrium analysis of master-slave game

Based on the Stackelberg master-slave game, three different scenarios were established to verify the superiority of the proposed IES optimal scheduling strategy. Scenario

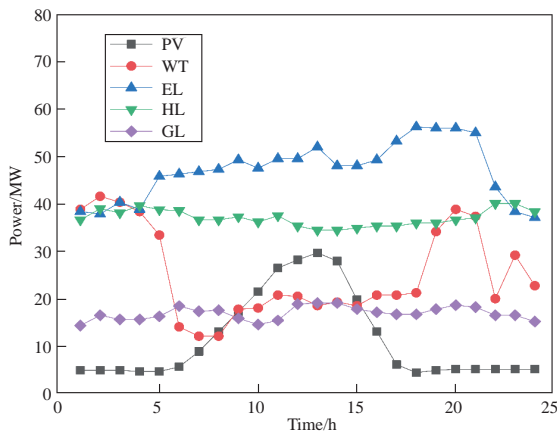


Fig. 4 Power prediction curve

1 involves an IES without any P2G devices or CCS. In Scenario 2 involves independent operations of the CHP unit, P2G equipment, and CCS unit in the IES. Scenario 3 involves the joint operation of the CHP, P2G, and CCS units. The optimized IES was obtained according to the three different scenarios, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 IES operation results in different scenarios

Scenario	Power of discarded wind and light/MW	Cost of purchasing energy/yuan	Carbon emission cost/yuan	Carbon emissions /t
1	478	214659	63899	2364
2	405	191835	63720	2304
3	56	201793	62998	2224

As shown in Table 2, comparing Scenarios 1 and 3, we find that Scenario 3 considers P2G equipment and CCS to capture the CO₂ generated by the CHP units; thus, CO₂ emissions are reduced by 5.9% compared with Scenario 1. In Scenario 3, the P2G device performs electrical conversion on the wind power output, decreasing the phenomenon of wind and light abandonment and reducing the energy purchase and carbon emission costs of the system. Comparing Scenarios 2 and 3, the CHP-CCS-P2G combined operation mode in Scenario 3 helped reduce the transmission cost of CCS, carbon sequestration cost of the P2G equipment, the total operation cost, and carbon emissions of the IES.

Figure 5 shows the scenery output curves in the three different scenarios.

As shown in Fig. 5, the P2G equipment and CCS are introduced in the IES for joint operation with the CHP units. CCS provides the captured CO₂ to the P2G equipment,

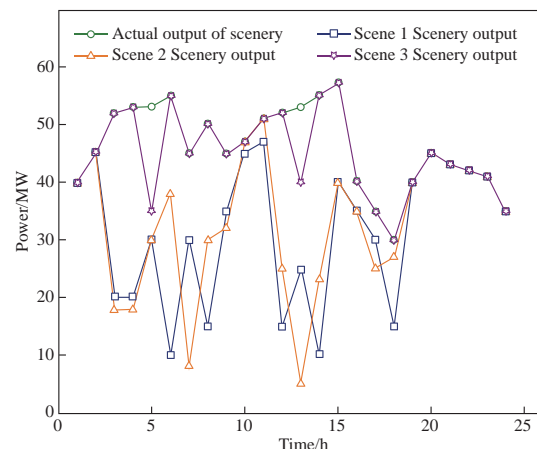


Fig. 5 Scenery output curves in three different scenarios

which converts the CO₂ into natural gas to ensure the energy efficiency of the system and overcome the limitation of the CHP heat-to-electricity model on the consumption rate of renewable energy units. During peak electricity prices, the output of the renewable energy increases, and the CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation mode improves the utilization rate of the renewable energy.

5.2 Optimization analysis of the integrated energy system under Stackelberg master-slave game

The IES in Scenario 3 is optimized under the Stackelberg master-slave game balance. As the leader, the top seller sets the electricity and heat prices according to the TOU price. The lower-layer energy producers, storage providers, and load aggregators adjust the output of the system equipment according to the vendor's pricing plan. The upper and lower layers determine the optimal pricing strategies. Figures 6 and 7 show the electricity and heat price optimization curves of the combined CHP-CCS-P2G system under the Stackelberg master-slave game, respectively.

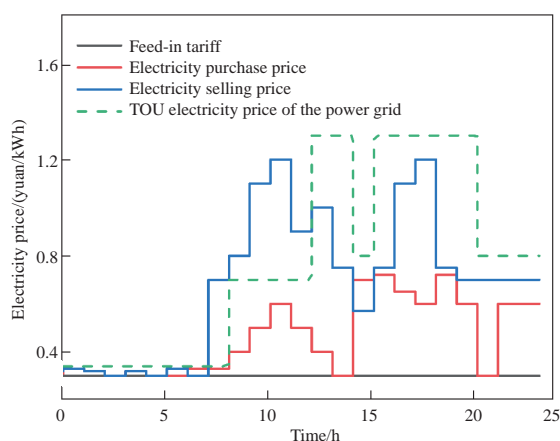


Fig. 6 Electricity price in the Stackelberg master-slave game

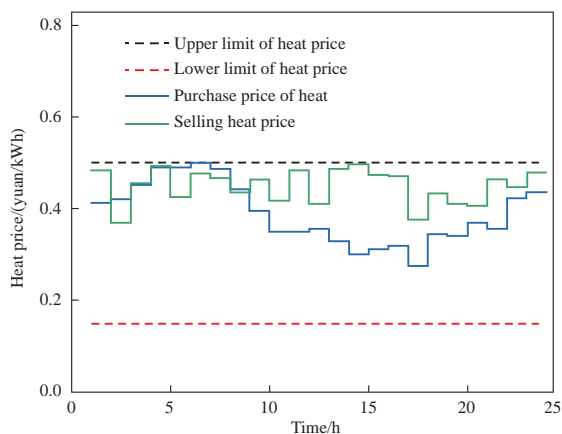


Fig. 7 Heat price in the Stackelberg master-slave game

As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the game equilibrium solution is solved by considering the standard operation of the CHP-CCS-P2G mode according to the TOU electricity and heat prices. The sellers, as the upper leaders, set the electricity and heat prices. The three players in the lower layer develop their trading strategies according to the operating procedure of the pricing adjustment system of the seller. When the game reaches equilibrium, each player receives the highest returns. The optimization results are consistent with the leader's advantage in making the first decision in the master-slave match. Simultaneously, the follower can choose his own optimal decision based on the leader's optimal pricing decision.

Figure 8 shows the profits of each player in Scenario 3 under the Stackelberg master-slave game equilibrium.

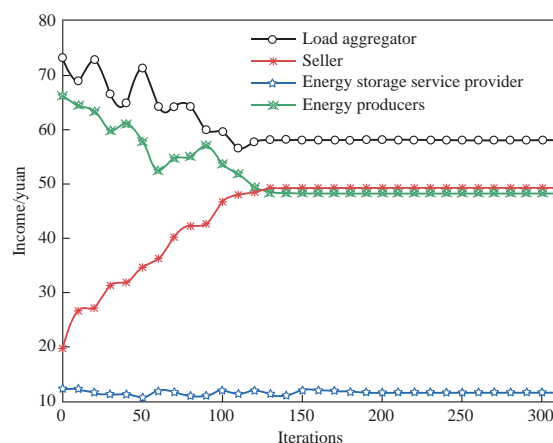


Fig. 8 Return curve of each subject

As shown in Fig. 8, the game reaches equilibrium, and the seller's aggregate interests exhibit an upward trend. The benefits to the service providers are at a steady layer. Energy producers and load aggregators saw their earnings decrease and then plateau. When the game reaches equilibrium under the price set by the upper leader, the subjects in the upper and lower layers cannot obtain higher returns by adjusting their strategies independently, and each subject reaches its optimal state.

When the upper seller sets the heating price, the lower main body adjusts the optimization results of the electrical load, as shown in Fig. 9.

As shown in Fig. 9, the storage device is in the charging state from 0:00 to 08:00. Because the cost of operating and maintaining a wind turbine is low, the output of the WT is used to supply the electrical load required by the system. During this period, lower electricity prices allowed the energy storage service providers to buy electricity at lower storage prices. The load aggregator also charges the device with as much power as possible

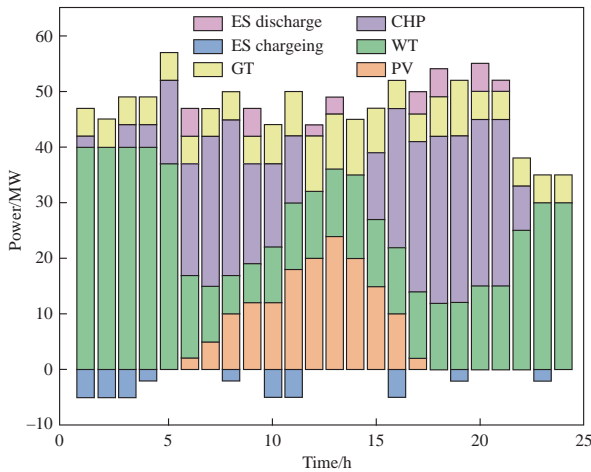


Fig. 9 Electrical load optimization results

from wind sources, and the PV power is sold to the energy producers. During peak electricity consumption, the generating set has more output, and surplus electricity can be stored through the storage device. This reduces the cost of abandoning wind power and improves the energy efficiency. From 09:00 to 12:00, the system relies on discharging the WT, PV, CHP, and storage devices to meet the electrical load requirements. The P2G equipment converts the CO₂ captured by the CCS, and the electricity price is higher during this period. The joint operation of CHP-CCS-P2G helps reduce the amount of electricity purchased by the system from the best power grid and reduces the cost of electricity purchase. During 1:00-19:00 and 22:00-24:00, the electrical load of the system was mainly provided by the CHP and WT.

Figure 10 shows the heat load optimization.

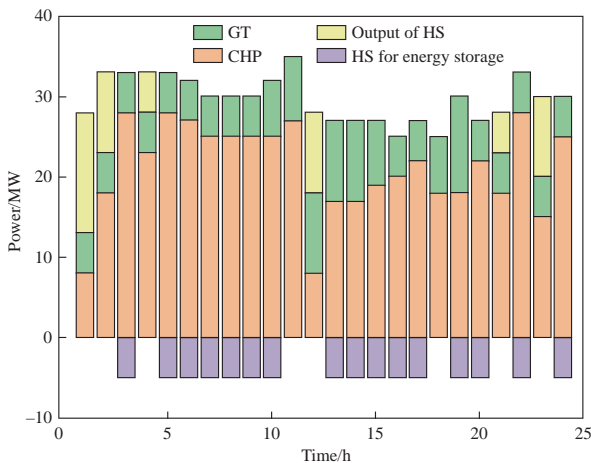


Fig. 10 Heat load optimization results

The heat load is primarily provided by the CHP units, heat storage devices, and gas turbines, as shown in Fig.

10. During the peak hours of the heat load, the CHP unit output increases. When the heat load demand reaches a maximum, the heat storage device discharges, and at this time, the GT output increases, which jointly provides the heat load required by the system. With the decrease in the heat load demand, the heat-storage device is charged, and the heat load of the system is mainly provided by the GT and CHP units. Figure 11 shows the results of the gas load optimization.

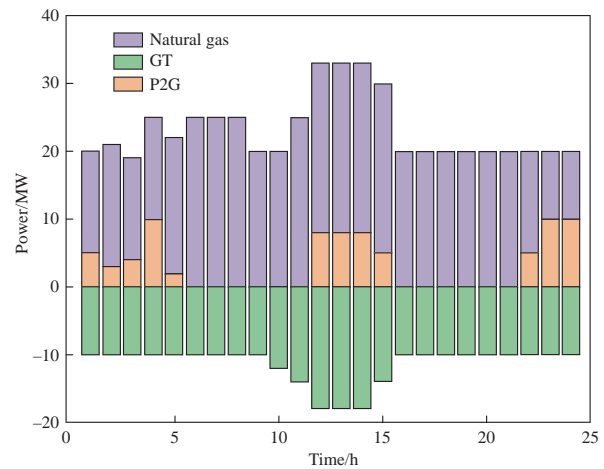


Fig. 11 Gas load optimization results

As shown in Fig. 11, the gas power consumed by the GT units is provided by the gas source and the CHP units. From 22:00 to 4:00 and from 12:00 to 15:00, the WT and PV units reach their maximum outputs. The P2G equipment can convert the surplus electric energy of the WT and PV units into gas energy to meet the demand of the gas load. The introduction of P2G equipment reduces the amount of gas purchased by the system, reduces the operating costs of the system, and also improves the utilization rate of wind power and solar energy, breaking the traditional “heat-to-electricity” operation mode of cogeneration. The introduction of power-to-gas equipment reduces the amount of gas purchased and operating costs by the system, and also improves the utilization rate of wind power and solar energy, breaking the traditional CHP unit “heat to electricity” operation mode.

The above results show that in the bilayer optimal model of the multiagent CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation of the IES, the lower-layer followers reasonably adjust the operational strategy of the system equipment according to the upper-layer leader’s pricing to maximize the benefits of each main body. This model overcomes the limitations of the conventional heat-to-electricity mode and improves the energy efficiency, thus verifying its superiority.

5.3 Benefit analysis of ladder-type carbon emission trading mechanism

We used ladder-type carbon emission trading to analyze the carbon emission trading costs of the IES jointly operated by CHP-CCS-P2G. By dividing the difference between the actual carbon emissions of the system and the initial carbon emission quota into several intervals, we analyzed the CO₂ emitted to the atmosphere at different growth rates and carbon emission trading prices. Figure 12 shows the carbon emissions under different growth rates and carbon emission trading prices. Clearly, with an increase in the price growth rate, the ladder price difference increases, and the CO₂ emitted to the atmosphere by the IES jointly operated by CHP-CCS-P2G is more sensitive to the carbon emission trading price, and the corresponding carbon emission trading price gradually decreases when the system is stable. After the carbon emission trading price reached 150 yuan, the carbon emissions of the IES tended to stabilize.

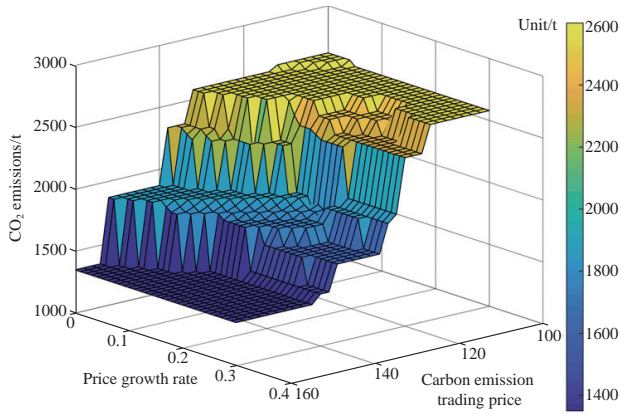


Fig. 12 Carbon emissions under different growth rates and carbon emission trading prices

6 Conclusions

An IES is associated with a low energy utilization rate and high carbon emissions. In this study, we extensively investigated the influence of the heat-to-electricity mode of the CHP units on the optimum operation of the system and the joint operation mechanism of the CHP units, P2G equipment, and CCS. The proposed IES bilayer low-carbon optimal scheduling method is based on the Stackelberg master-slave game applied to multiagent joint operation. By introducing P2G equipment and CCS, we established an IES bilayer low-carbon optimal scheduling model for CHP-CCS-P2G joint operation. Sellers were the upper optimization subjects, while the energy producers, energy storage service providers, and load aggregators were the

lower optimization subjects. The lower-layer followers reasonably adjusted the output of each unit based on the electricity and heat prices set by the upper-layer sellers and provided feedback regarding the power value to the upper layer. The upper layer adjusted the energy prices based on input from the lower layer. The interests of each subject were maximized by playing games in the upper and lower layers. Finally, a simulation was conducted wherein the IES was coupled with an IEEE 39-node electrical grid system, a six-node heat network, and a six-node gas network. The results showed that the incorporation of the P2G and CCS devices helped reduce the carbon emissions of the system, while improving the utilization efficiency of the wind and PV energies. The carbon emissions of the IES jointly operated by CHP-CCS-P2G under different carbon emission trading prices were analyzed. When the carbon emission trading price reached 150 yuan, the carbon emissions of the IES remained unchanged.

We did not explore an energy market trading mechanism suitable for IES. Therefore, the impact of market factors on the operational economy of IES should be the focus of future studies.

Appendix A Solving process of the lower-layer model

The KKT transformation constraints for the lower model are expressed in (1).

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{CHP}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{P2G}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{CCS}} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{GT}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial H_{es}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_h^{sell}} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_h^{buy}} = 0 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The complementary relaxation conditions are expressed in (2).

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{CHP} - P_{CHP}^{\min} \perp \mu_1 \geq 0, 0 \leq P_{CHP}^{\max} - P_{CHP} \perp \mu_2 \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq P_{P2G} - P_{P2G}^{\min} \perp \mu_3 \geq 0, 0 \leq P_{P2G}^{\max} - P_{P2G} \perp \mu_4 \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq P_{CCS} - P_{CCS}^{\min} \perp \mu_5 \geq 0, 0 \leq P_{CCS}^{\max} - P_{CCS} \perp \mu_6 \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq P_{GT} - P_{GT}^{\min} \perp \mu_7 \geq 0, 0 \leq P_{GT}^{\max} - P_{GT} \perp \mu_8 \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq H_{es} - H_{es}^{\min} \perp \mu_9 \geq 0, 0 \leq H_{es}^{\max} - H_{es} \perp \mu_{10} \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq P_h^{sell} \perp \mu_{11} \geq 0, 0 \leq P_{max}^{ch} - P_h^{sell} \perp \mu_{12} \geq 0 \\ 0 \leq P_h^{buy} \perp \mu_{13} \geq 0, 0 \leq P_{max}^{dis} - P_h^{buy} \perp \mu_{14} \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

The nonlinear constraint (2) is converted to a linear constraint using the big M method, as expressed in (3)-(9):

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{CHP} - P_{CHP}^{\min} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_1 \\ 0 \leq P_{CHP}^{\max} - P_{CHP} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_2 \\ 0 \leq \mu_1 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_1) \\ 0 \leq \mu_2 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_2) \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{P2G} - P_{\min}^{P2G} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_3 \\ 0 \leq P_{\max}^{P2G} - P_{P2G} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_4 \\ 0 \leq \mu_3 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_3) \\ 0 \leq \mu_4 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_4) \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{CCS} - P_{\min}^{CCS} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_5 \\ 0 \leq P_{\max}^{CCS} - P_{CCS} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_6 \\ 0 \leq \mu_5 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_5) \\ 0 \leq \mu_6 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_6) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_{GT} - P_{\min}^{GT} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_7 \\ 0 \leq P_{\max}^{GT} - P_{GT} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_8 \\ 0 \leq \mu_7 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_7) \\ 0 \leq \mu_8 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_8) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq H_{es} - H_{\min}^{es} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_9 \\ 0 \leq H_{\max}^{es} - H_{es} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_{10} \\ 0 \leq \mu_9 \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_9) \\ 0 \leq \mu_{10} \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{10}) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_h^{sell} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_{11} \\ 0 \leq P_{\max}^{ch} - P_h^{sell} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_{12} \\ 0 \leq \mu_{11} \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{11}) \\ 0 \leq \mu_{12} \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{12}) \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 \leq P_h^{buy} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_{13} \\ 0 \leq P_{\max}^{dis} - P_h^{buy} \leq M \cdot \varepsilon_{14} \\ 0 \leq \mu_{13} \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{13}) \\ 0 \leq \mu_{14} \leq M \cdot (1 - \varepsilon_{14}) \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Here, M is a sufficiently large positive number, and $\varepsilon_1 \sim \varepsilon_{14}$ are variables ranging from 0 to 1.

After the KKT condition transformation of the lower model, (1) is taken as the equality constraint of the upper model, and Equations (3)-(9) are taken as the inequality constraints of the upper model. The bilayer optimization model is converted to a single-layer model, as expressed in (10).

$$\max C_1 = C_{sell} - C_{buy} - C_{penal} \quad (10)$$

The constraints are expressed in (11).

$$\begin{cases} \text{Equality constraint:} \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{CHP}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{P2G}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{CCS}} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_{GT}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial H_{es}} = 0, \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_h^{sell}} = 0 \\ \frac{\partial L}{\partial P_h^{buy}} = 0 \\ \text{Inequality constraint:} \\ \text{Equation(3) - Equation(9)} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Because the objective function was nonlinear, the original nonlinear nonconvex problem was relaxed using the McCormick envelope method. We transformed the product term $[\rho \cdot P]$ of the price and power into an objective function. ρ is a parameter of $\{\rho_e^{sell}, \rho_h^{sell}, \rho_e^{buy}, \rho_h^{buy}\}$, and P is a parameter of a $\{P_{ES}, P_{ES}, P_{EU}, P_{HU}, P_{EP}, P_{HP}, P_{EY}, P_{HY}\}$. Let $Y = \rho \cdot P$. The objective function is transformed as expressed in (12).

$$\begin{cases} \varpi = \rho - \rho_{\min} \\ \sigma = P - P_{\min} \\ \varpi \cdot \sigma \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

Here,

$$Y \geq \rho_{\min} \cdot P + \rho \cdot P_{\min} - \rho_{\min} \cdot P_{\min} \quad (13)$$

Appendix B The values of the IES node parameters

Table B1 Unit parameters of CHP

Vertex Number	Power output/MW	Heating output/MW
L1	81.0	104.8
L2	215.0	180.0
L3	247.0	0
L4	98.8	0

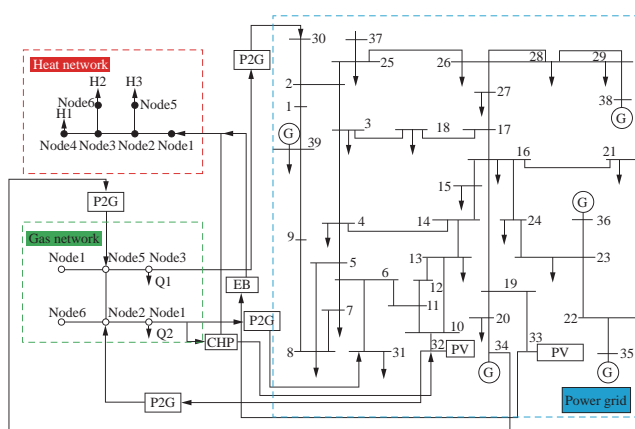
Table B2 Gas turbine unit parameters

Grid nodes	Gas network node	Minimum electrical power /MW	Climbing / (MW·h ⁻¹)
30	1	100	100
31	3	10	20

Table B3 Node data parameters of the natural gas system

node	Upper limit of flow/Mm ³	Lower limit of flow/Mm ³
1	1.7391	0.90
2	1.26	0
3	0.72	0
4	2.3081	1.0
5	0.27	0
6	1.44	0

Appendix C

**Fig. C IES testing system**

Acknowledgements

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Declaration of Competing Interest

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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