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Results of Model Intercomparison - Predicted vs. Measured System Performance

Joshua Stein
Sandia National Laboratories
Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

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Goals and Objectives

- **Blind modeling study to illustrate the variability expected between PV performance model results**
  - What is the modeling uncertainty?
  - Do certain models do better than others?
  - How can performance modeling be improved?
  - What are the sources of uncertainty?

Exercise Participants

- **17 Individuals submitted modeling results**
- **25 model sets of model results (template files)**
  - Some individuals submitted several sets of results
  - One individual used TMY weather file
- **Modelers were from a wide sample of the market landscape (except module manufacturers)**
  - Integrators, consultants, academia, national labs, state government

Models Used

- **5-Parameter Model (Univ. of Wisconsin)**
  - Solar Advisor Model
  - Other implementations (array temperature model)
- **PVSyst (V. 5.20, 5, and not specified)**
- **Sandia Photovoltaic Array Performance Model**
  - Solar Advisor Model (versions?)
  - PV Design Pro
  - Clean Power Research (PV Simulator ™)
  - Homemade versions
- **PVWatts**
  - Solar Advisor, other?
- **PVForm**
- **Internal Models**
  - UC Boulder
  - SRCL

Models Used

Model Forms

Implementation

	5-Par	5-Par Modifed Temp	SAPM	PVSyst	PVWatts	Internal	Other
SAM	***		*		*		
PVWatts					*		
PVForm							*
PVSyst				***** **			
EES		***					
CECPV	*	*					
Internal			*			**	
Other			*				*

Total = 24

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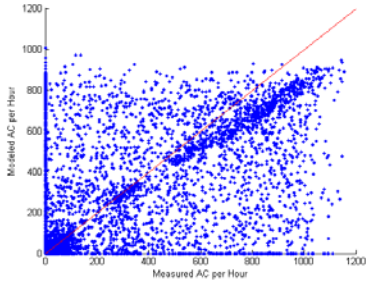
Problems and Uncertainties

- **Problems encountered include**
  - Missing data (month of Dec for System 1) caused some problems
  - Several results were not usable (time mismatch?)
  - Oversized inverters
- **Uncertainties encountered include:**
  - Modules and inverters not in database
  - Not sure how to set derate factors
    - Some guessed
    - Some did not include derate factors



General Issues

- Not all models were able to simulate all systems.
- Some models (e.g., PVWatts on the web) cannot accept user-supplied weather data (SAM can)
- Not all participants included details about assumptions (e.g., derate factors)

- Each system has different set of models applied…

Comparison Methods

- Hourly Energy Comparisons
- Monthly Energy Comparisons
- Annual Energy Comparisons
- Module Temperatures

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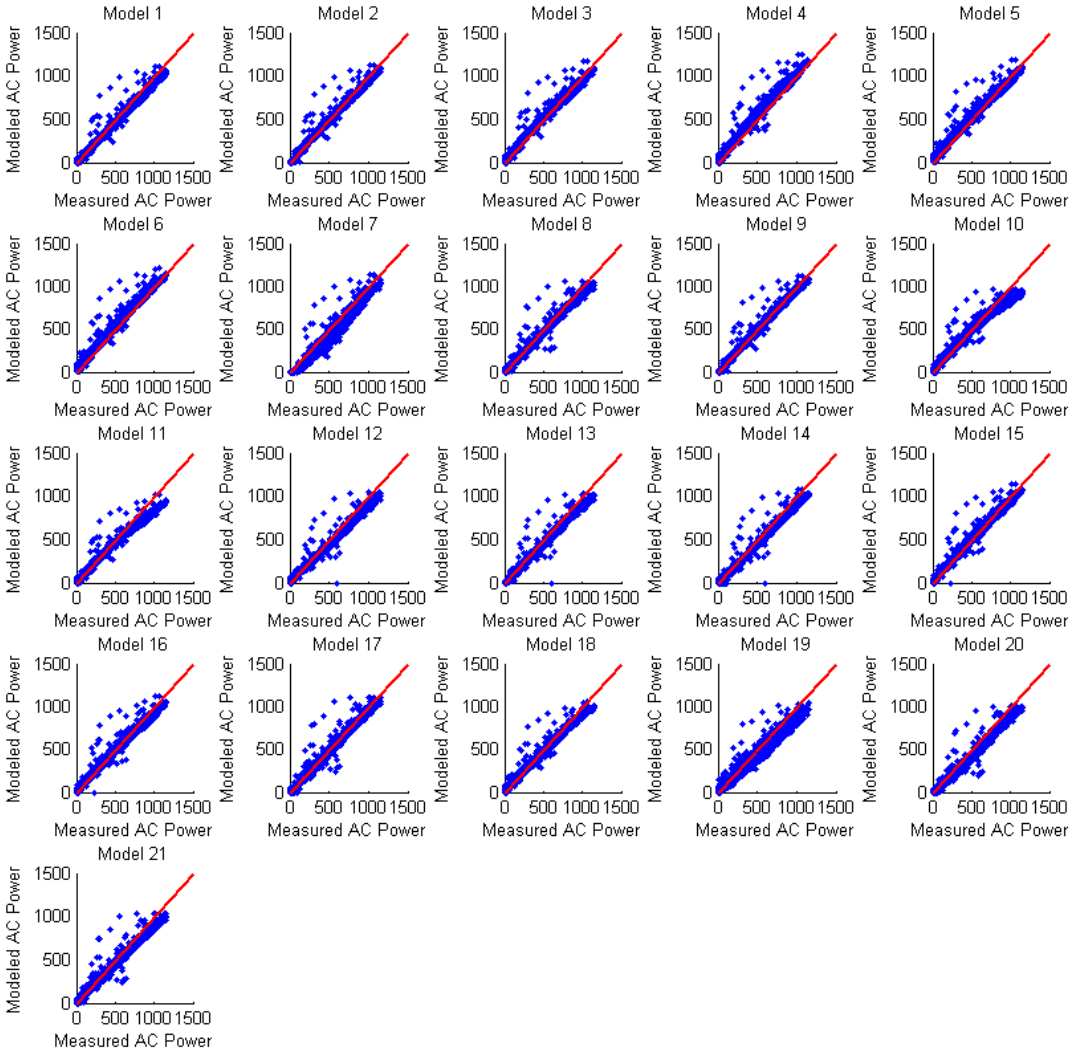
Hourly Comparisons (System 1)



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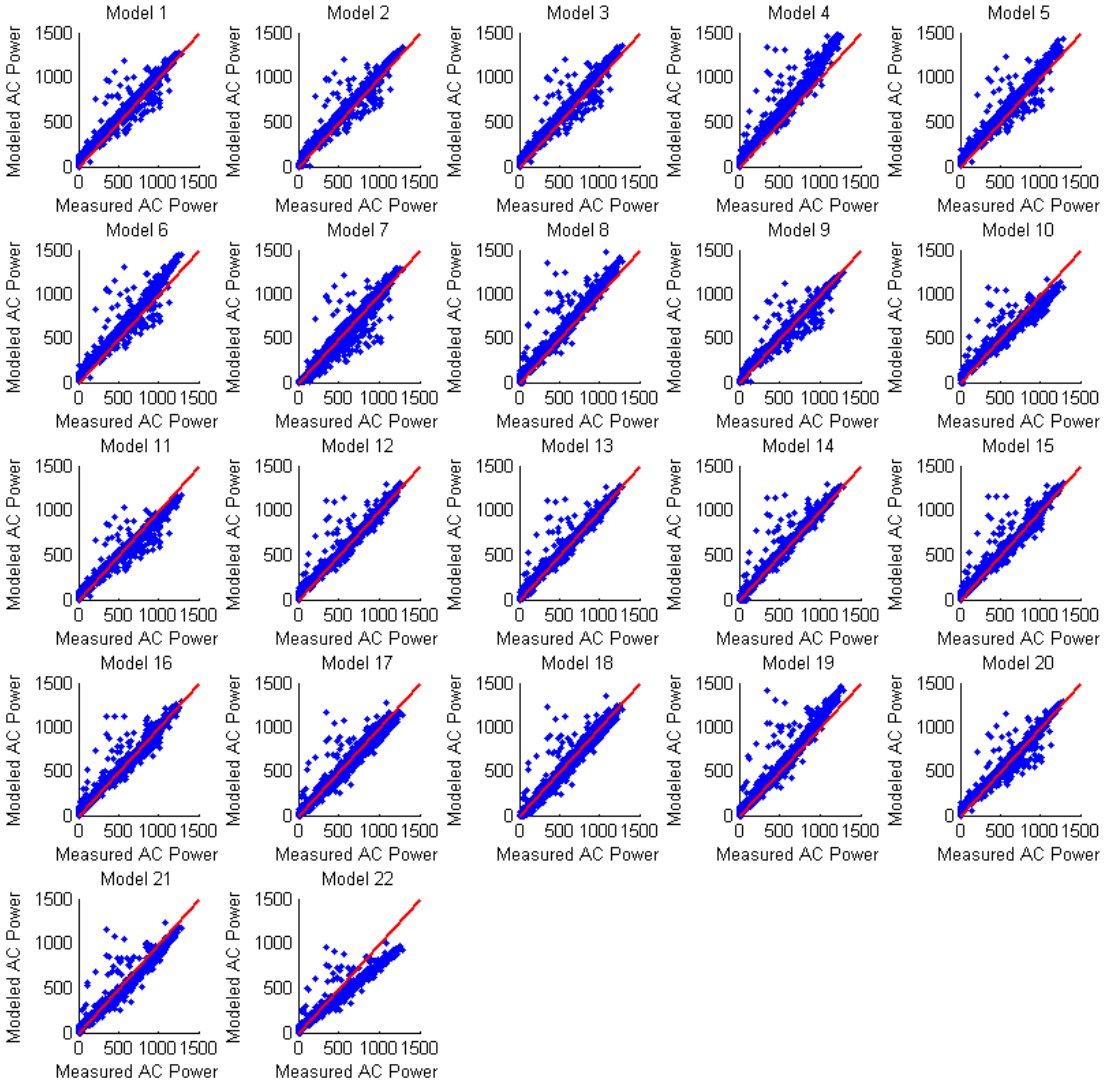
Hourly Comparisons (System 2)



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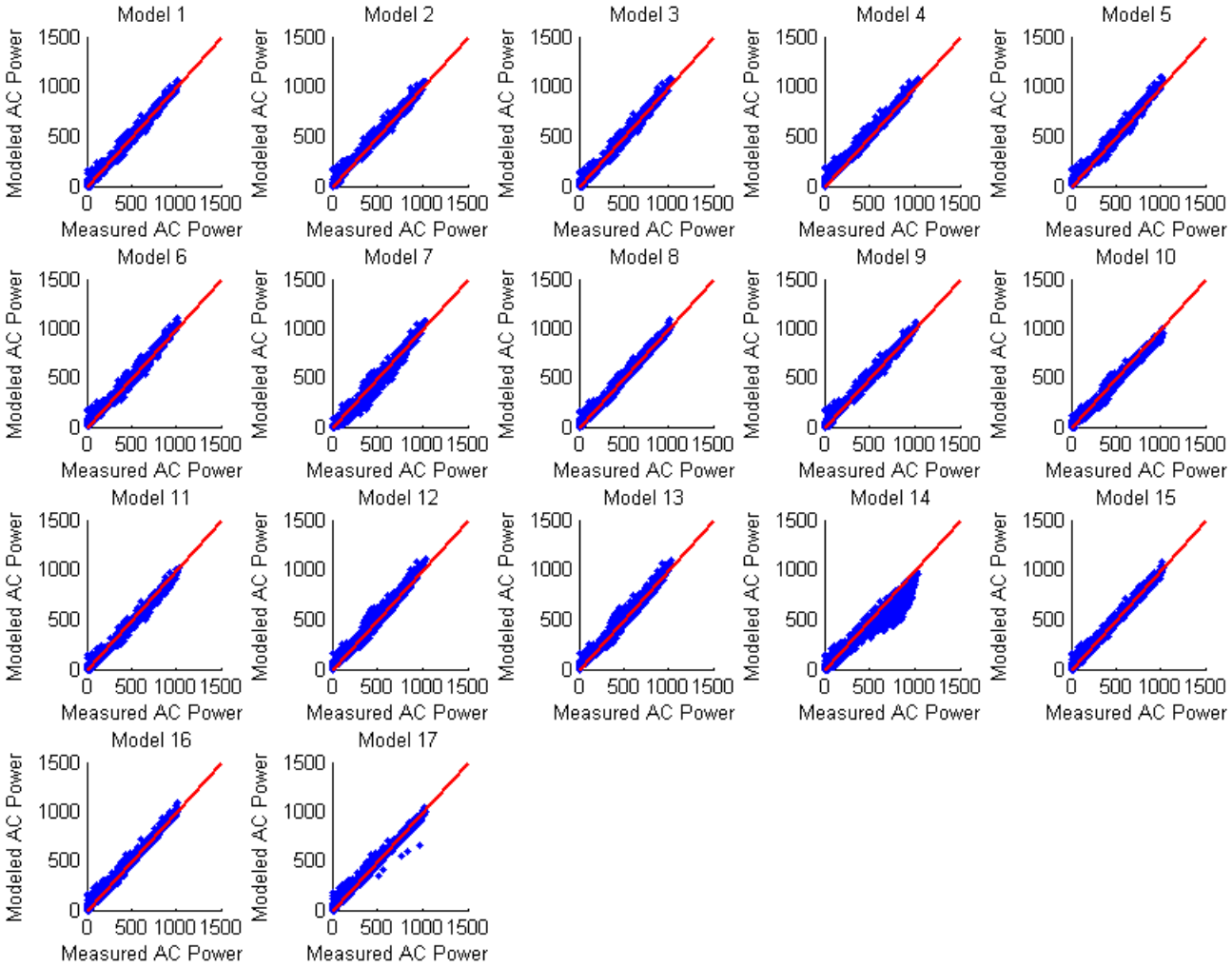
Hourly Comparisons (System 3)



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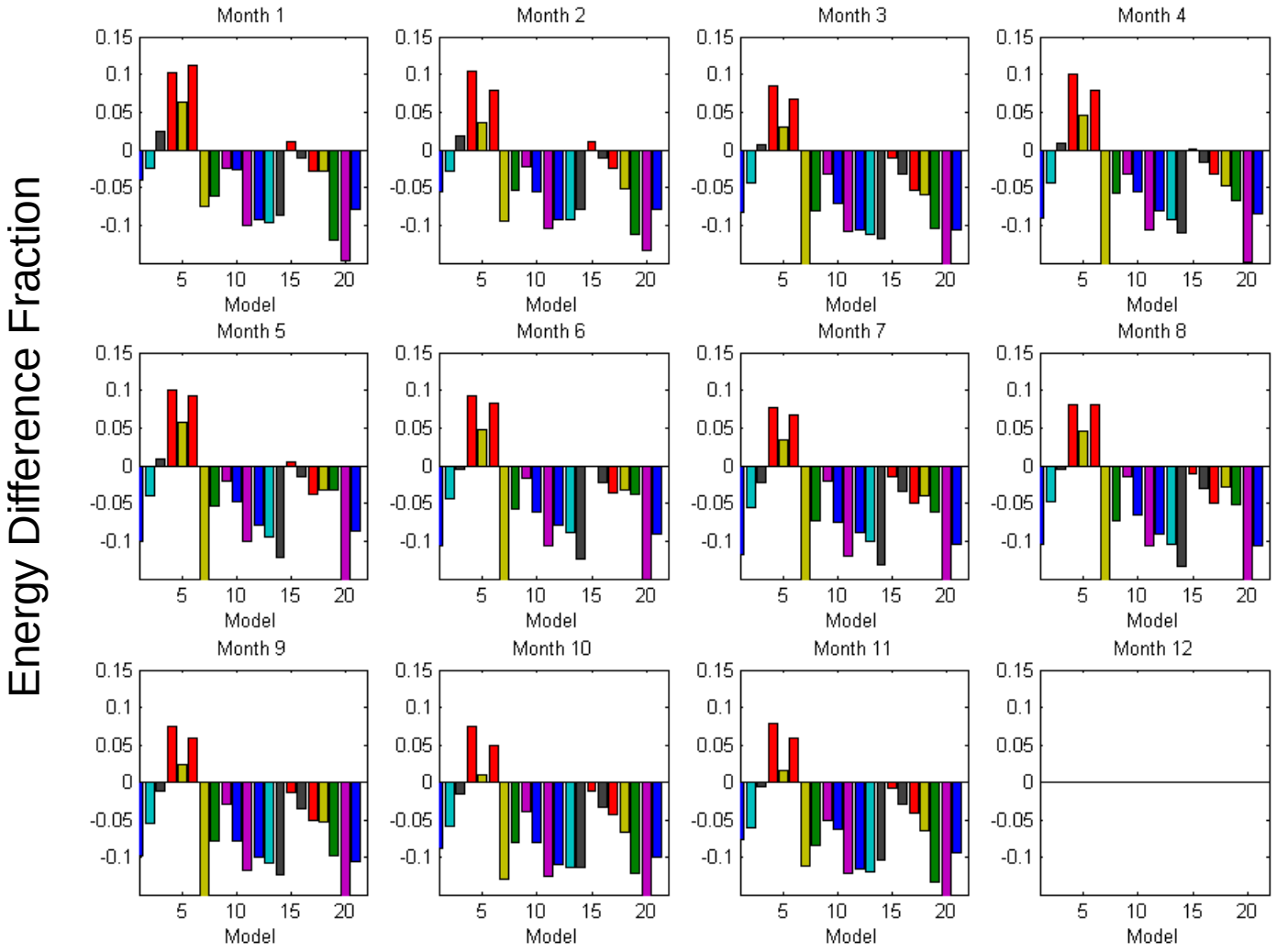
System 1 Comparison by Month



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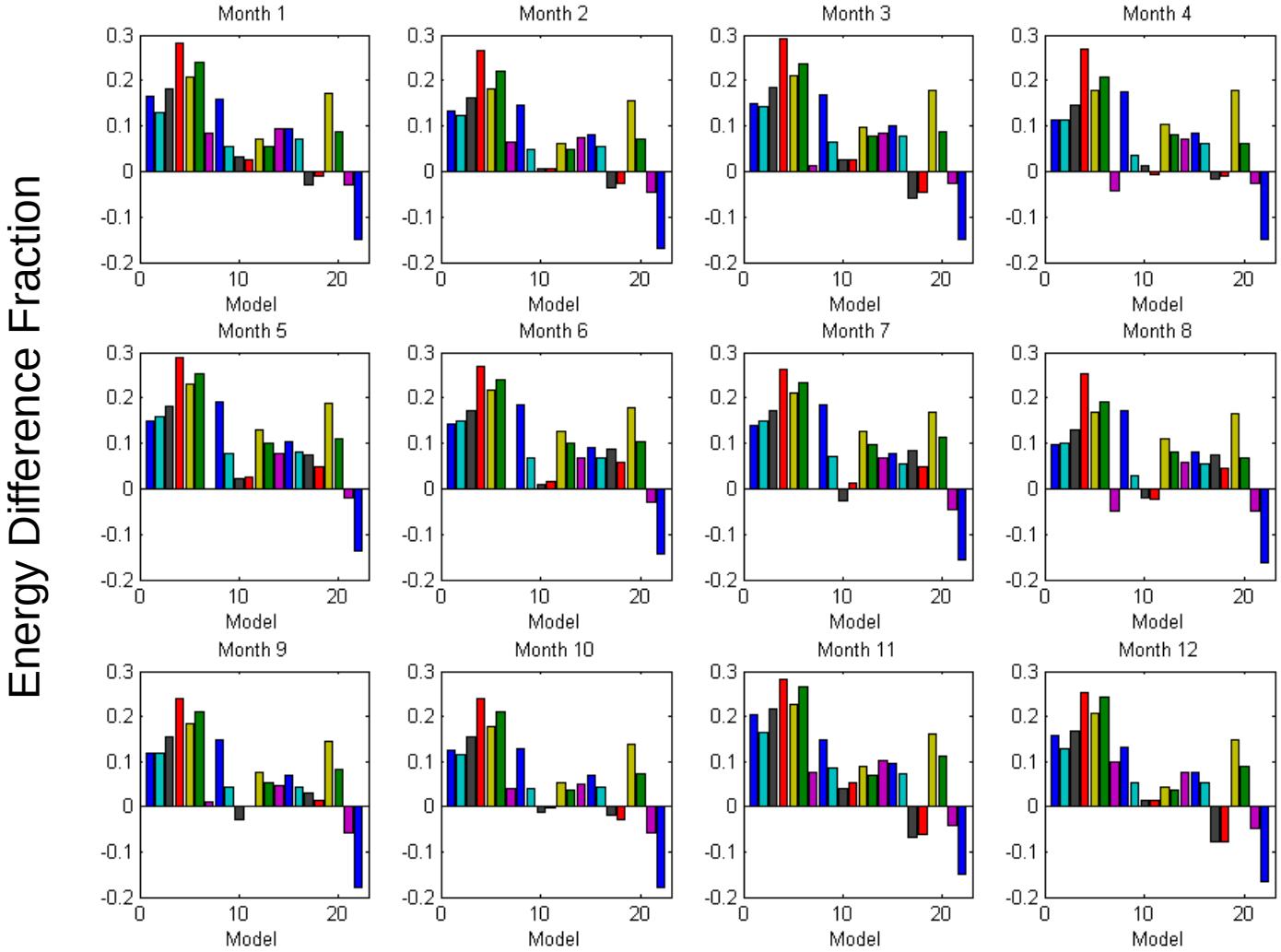
System 2 Comparison by Month



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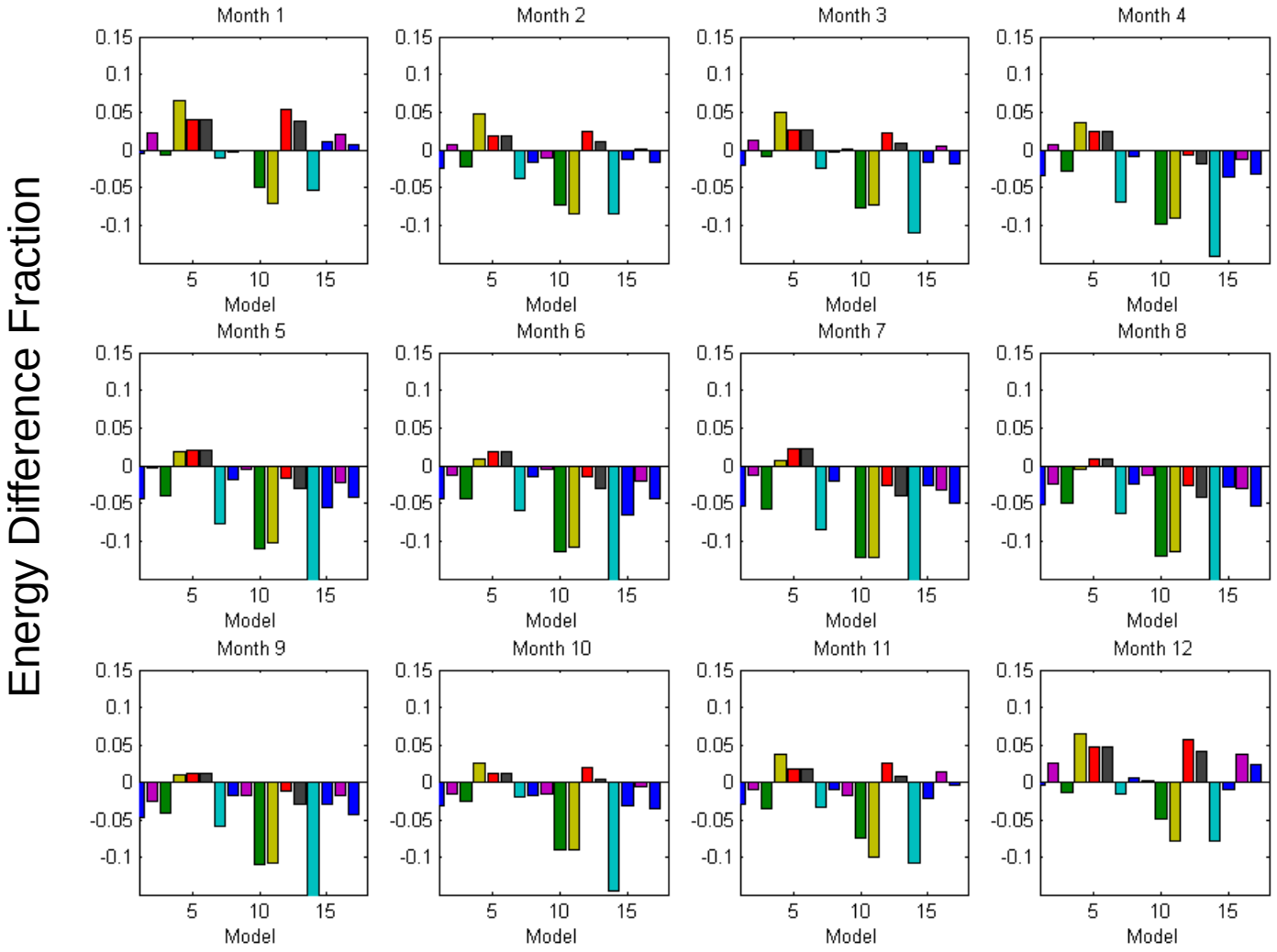
System 3 Comparison by Month



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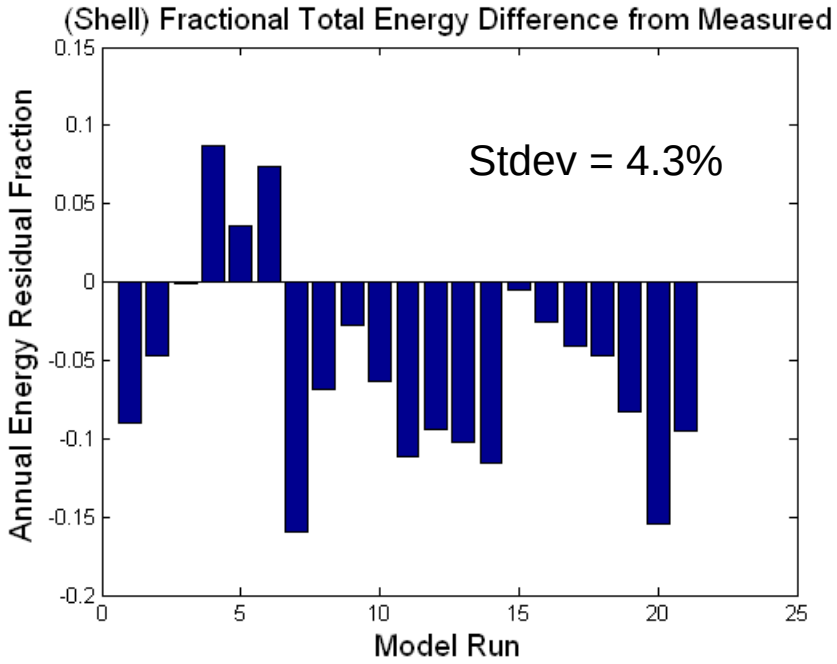
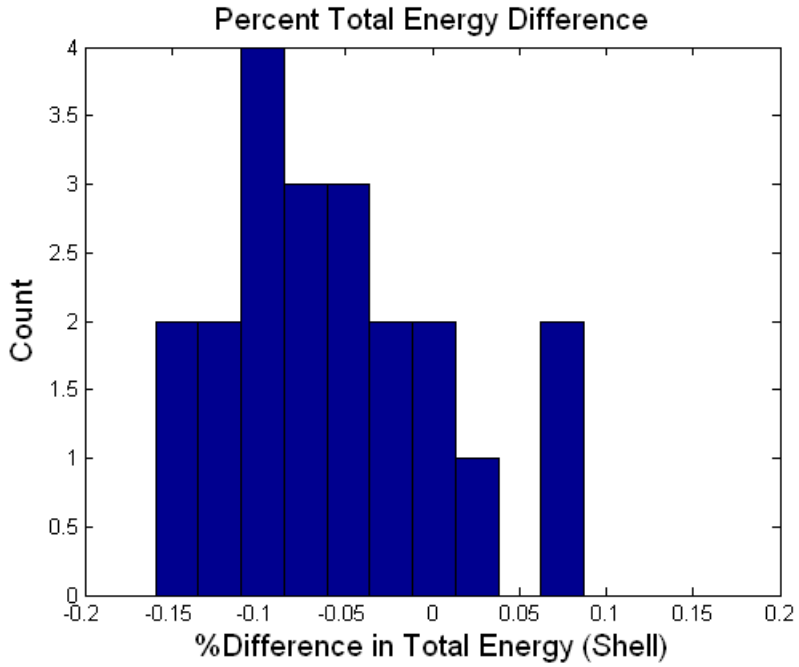
Total Energy Residuals (System 1)

- Relative difference in total energy production:
  $(Energy_{mod} – Energy_{meas}) / Energy_{meas}$





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Total Energy Residuals (System 2)

- Relative difference in total energy production:
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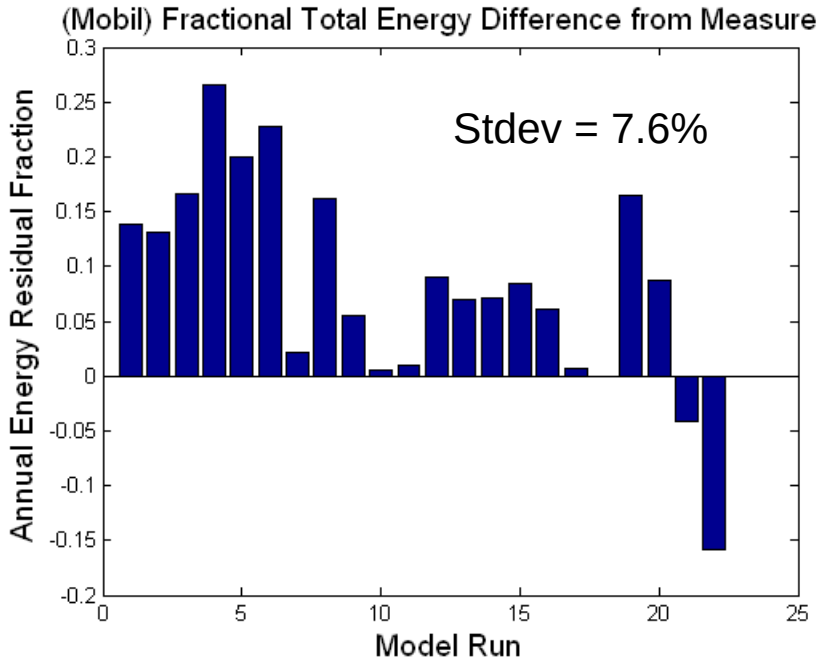

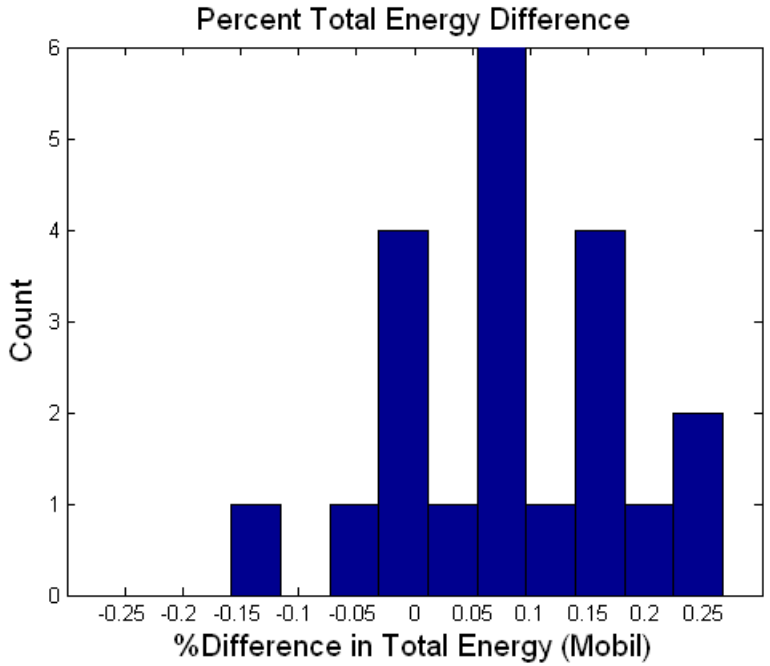

Inverter load = ~18 W

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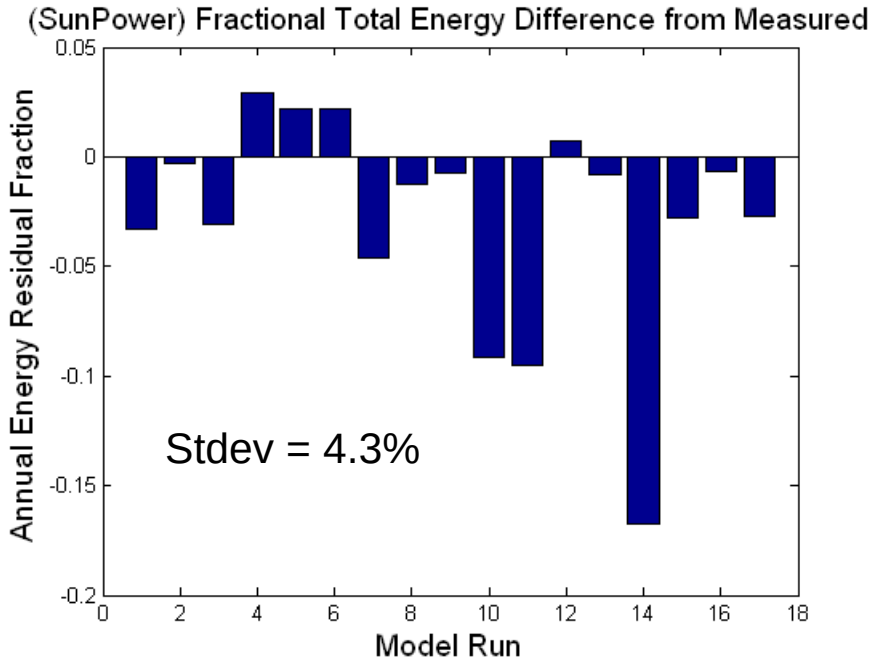
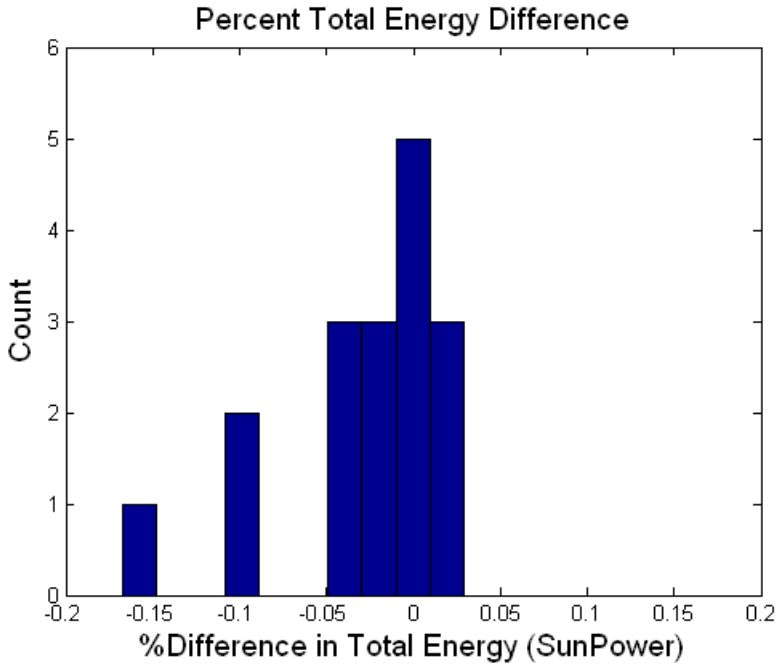
Total Energy Residuals (System 3)

- Relative difference in total energy production:
  $(Energy_{mod} – Energy_{meas}) / Energy_{meas}$





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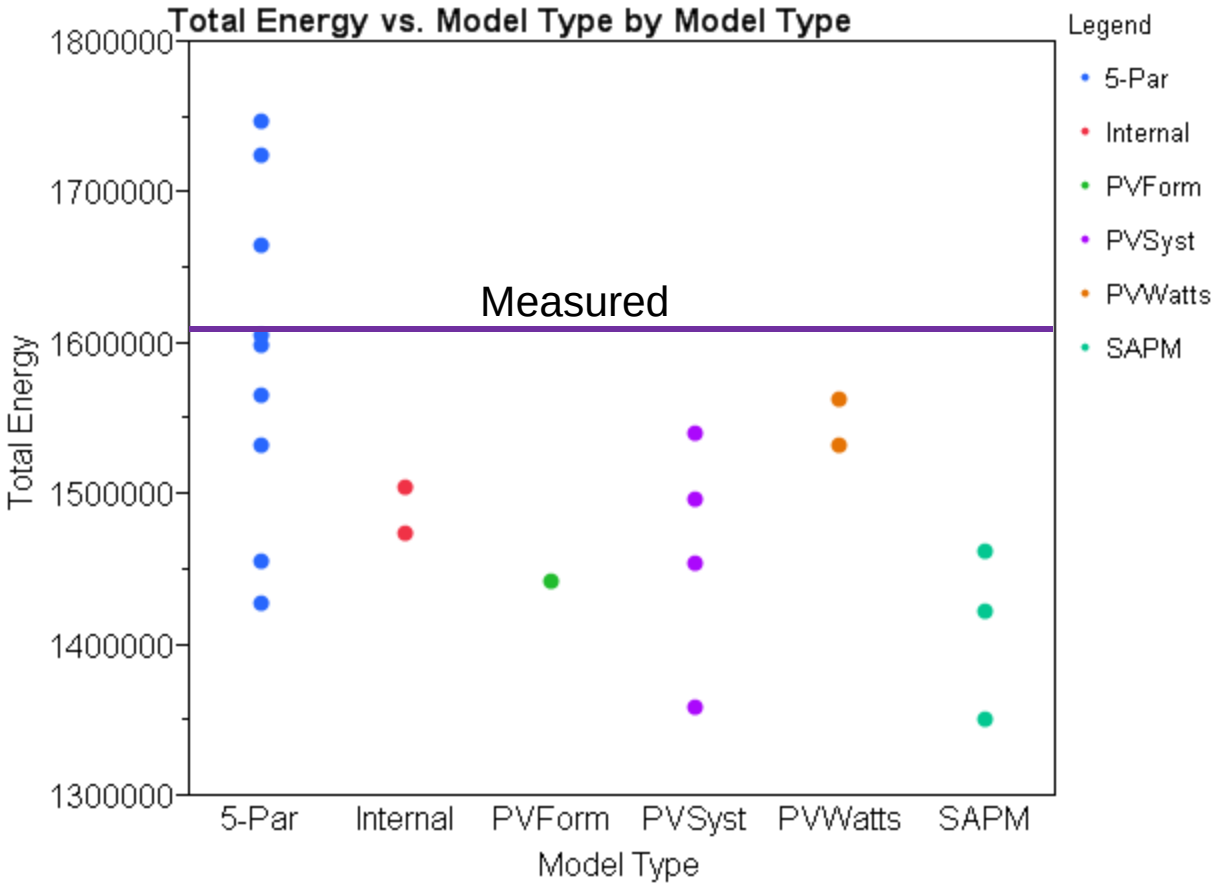
System 1 Totals by Model Type



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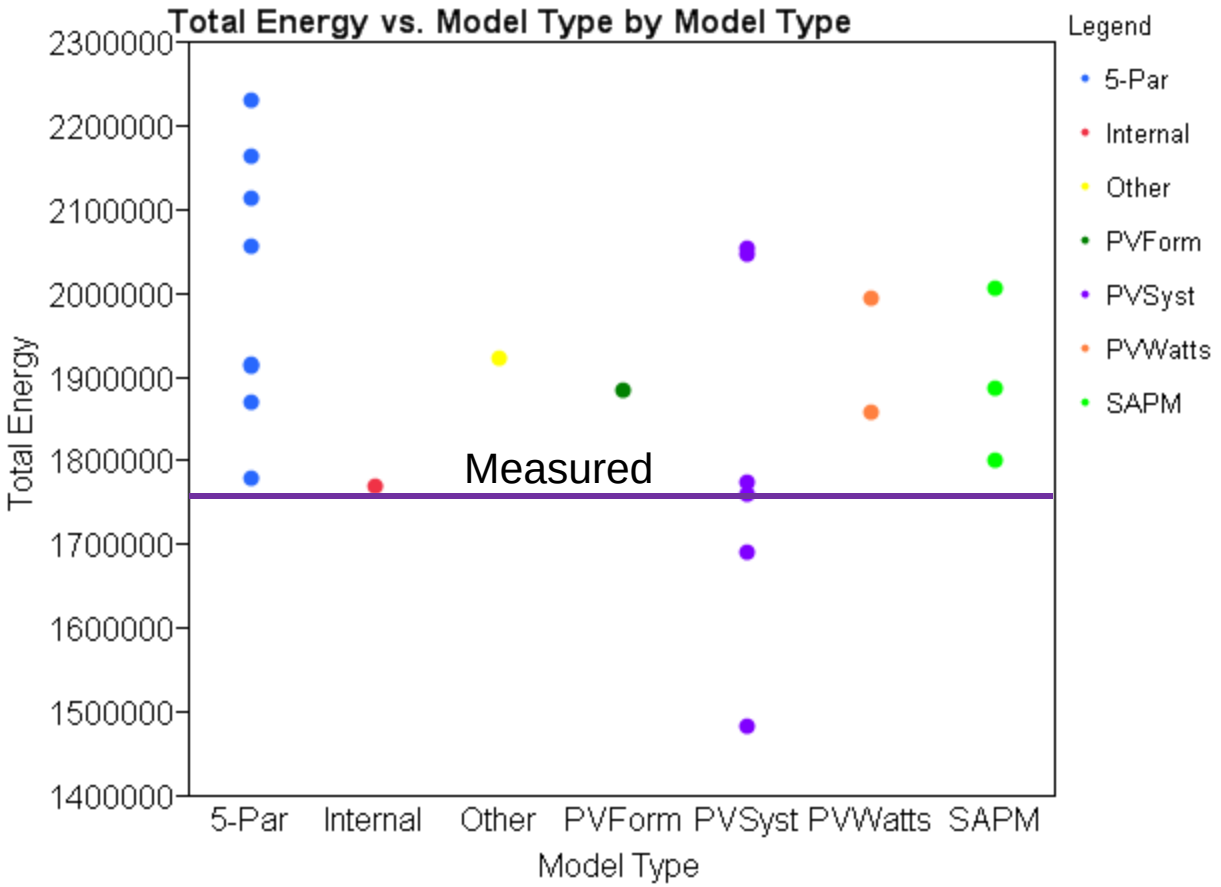
System 2 Totals by Model Type



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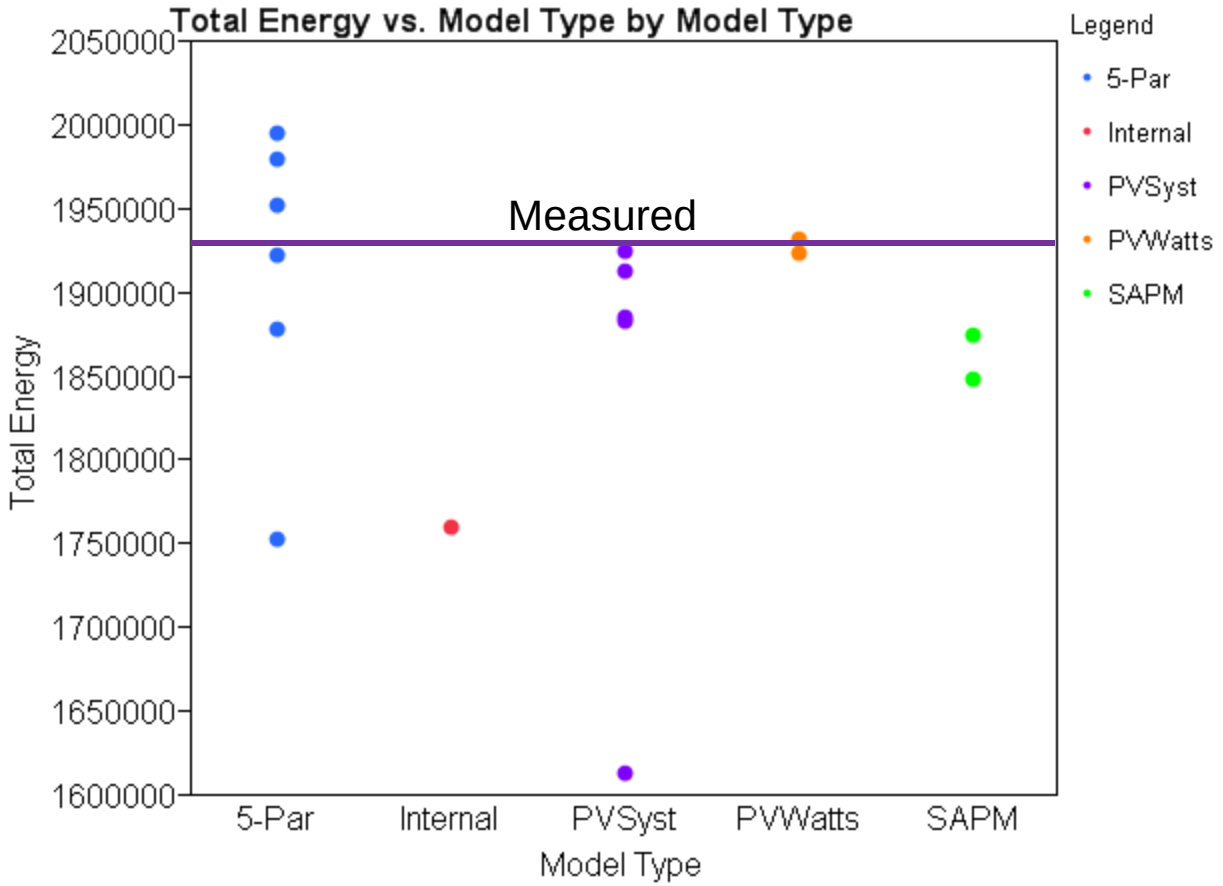
System 3 Totals by Model Type



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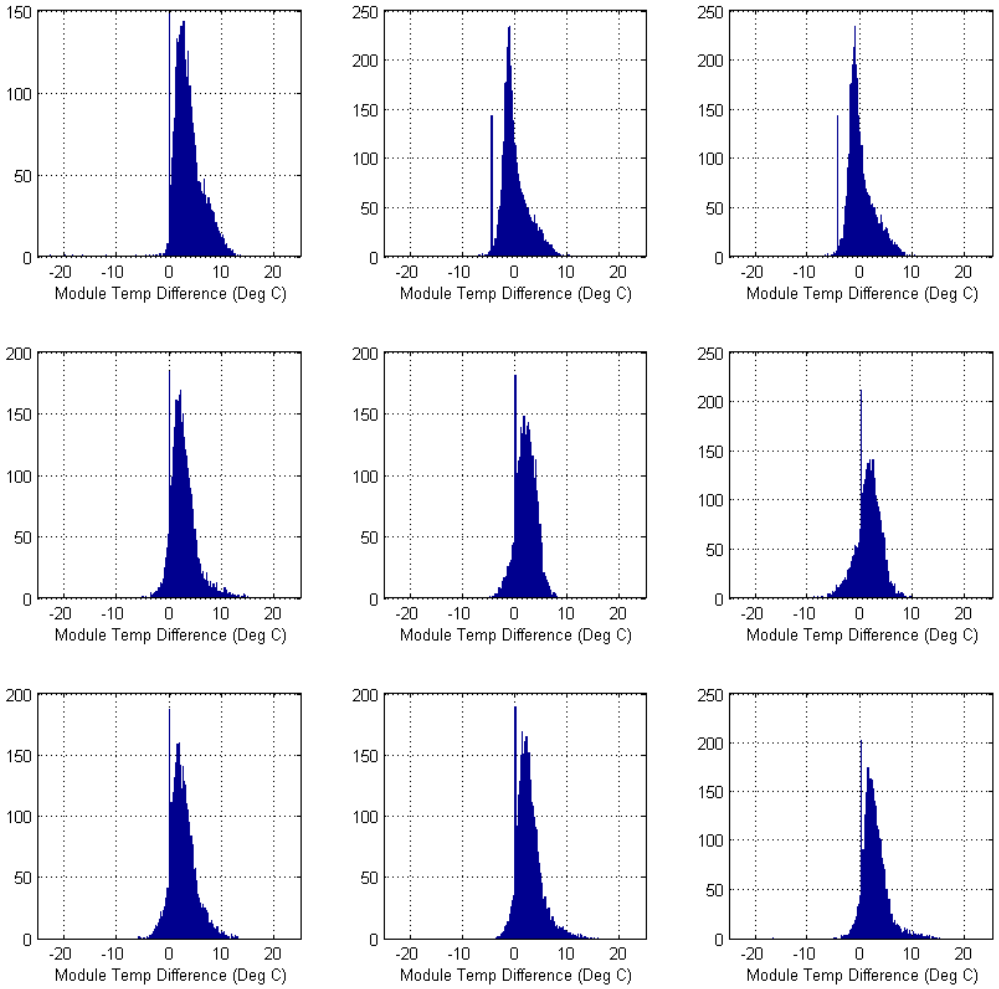
Module Temperature Results

- **Model Output: Module temperature or cell temperature?**
  - Module backside temperature is measured quantity

Example Module Temperature Results System 3



- Most module temperature models appear to behave well.
- Mean bias error range: (-0.17 – 3.6 deg C
- Stdev range: (2-2.5 deg C

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Preliminary Conclusions

- **Large variation seen in model results**
- **Variation not entirely consistent across systems**
- **Uncertainty in assigning derates**
- **Discomfort when components are not included in database.**
  - Is there comfort when the components are in the database???
- **Residual analysis will help to uncover additional patterns in the models.**