

Distributed Control for Improving Power System Stability

David A. Copp, Ph.D.
Sandia National Laboratories
April 12, 2018



Outline

- Motivation
 - Today's electric power grid
 - Changing resources and challenges
 - Power system stability
- Wide-area damping control
 - HVDC and other distributed resources
 - Communication network considerations
- Conclusions & future challenges

The Electric Power Grid

Millions of complex physical, communications, computational, and networked components and systems.



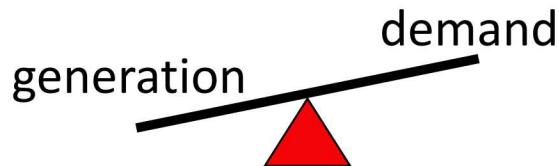
Our complex modern society depends on reliable electric supply, requiring a resilient electric power grid.

New instrumentation, sensing, communication, and automation:

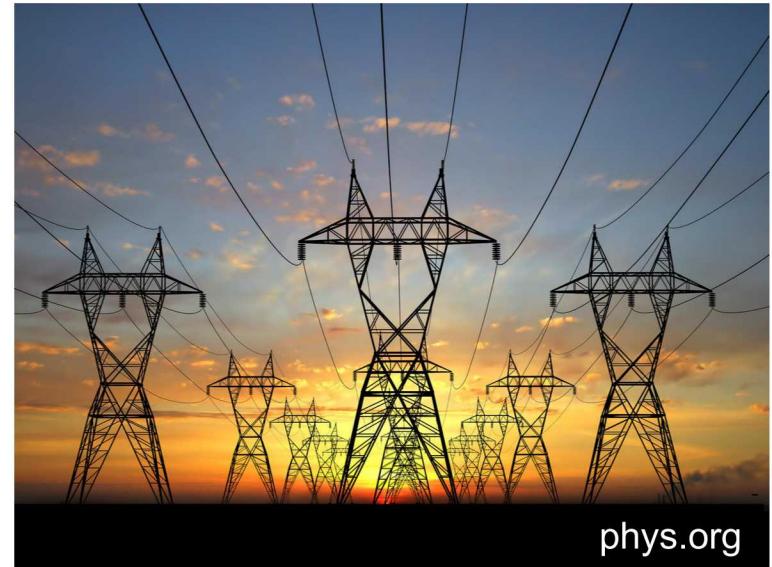
- Pro: Situational awareness, efficient operation, and corrective action
- Con: Additional complexity

Power System Operation and Control

- Balance power generation and demand continuously



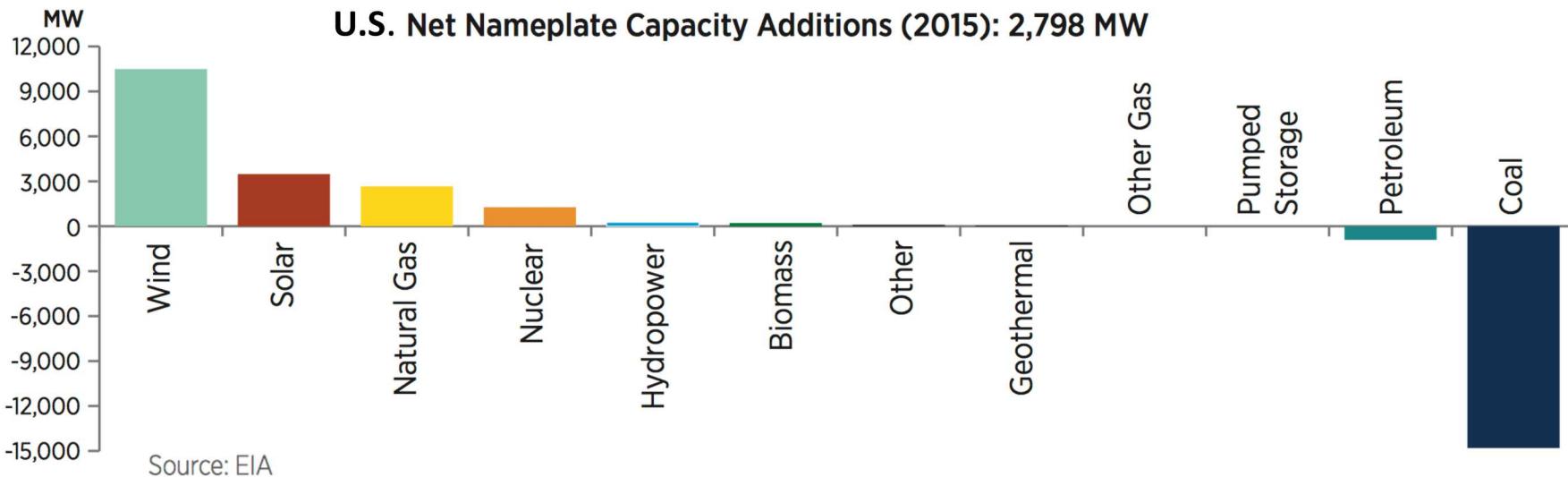
- Maintain scheduled voltages
- Monitor flows and thermal limits
- Maintain system stability
- Operate system reliably even if a contingency occurs, such as the loss of a generator or transmission facility



Historically done with local resources, such as:

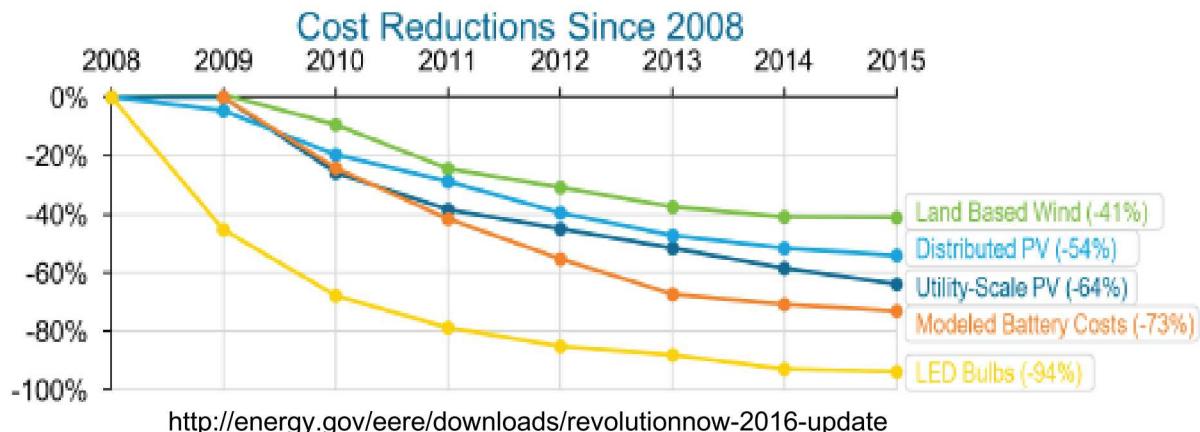
- Generator governor
- Power System Stabilizer (PSS)
- etc.

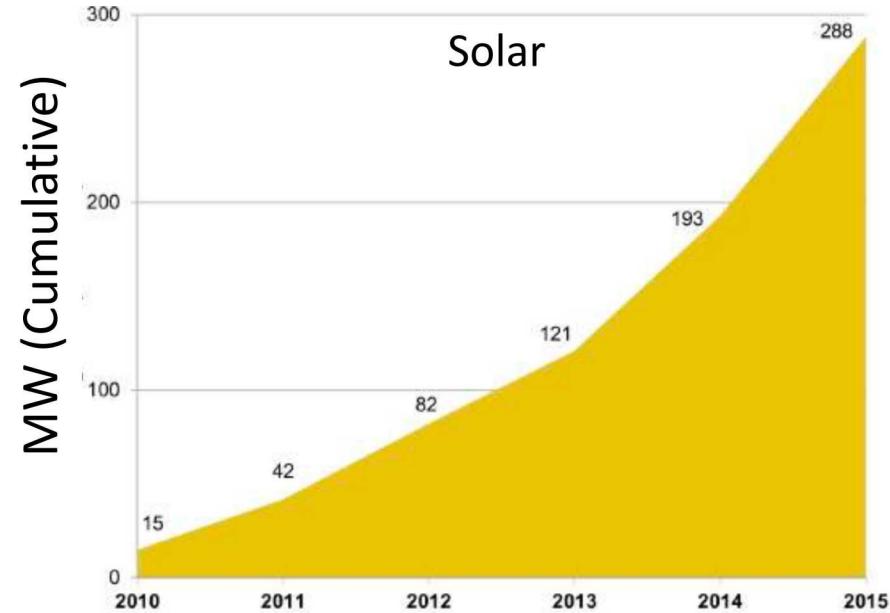
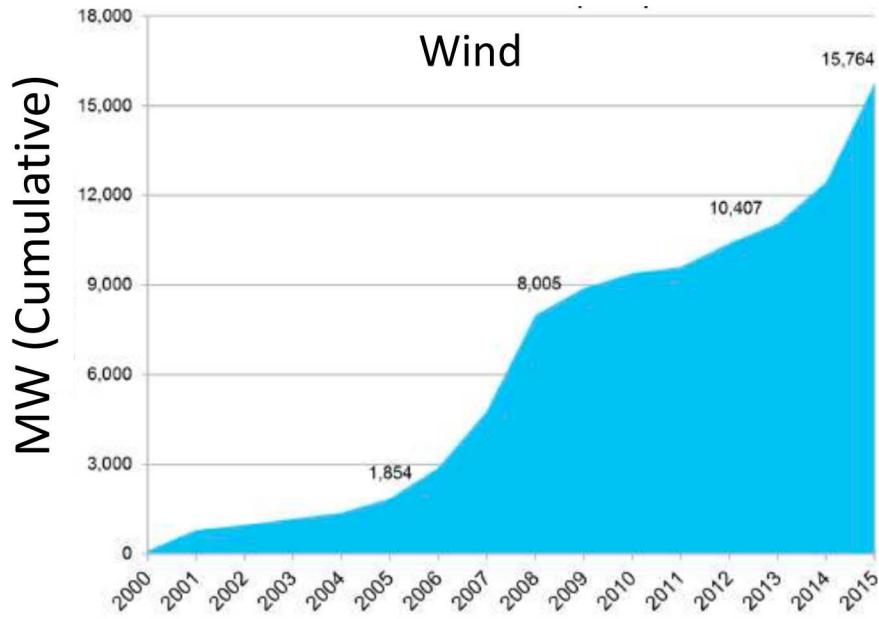
Changing Generation Mix



Reductions in solar and wind capital costs and clean energy tax credits sustaining rapid renewable growth.

Cost reductions primarily due to high volume manufacturing and large scale deployments.

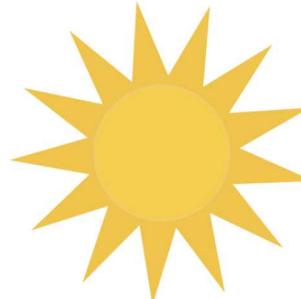




>19,900 MW of installed wind capacity, the most of any state in the nation.

Wind Generation record:
16,141 MW (March 31, 2017)

Wind Penetration record:
54 percent (October 27, 2017)



1,000 MW of utility-scale installed solar capacity as of October 2017

Solar capacity in queue:
2017: 109 MW
2018: 791 MW

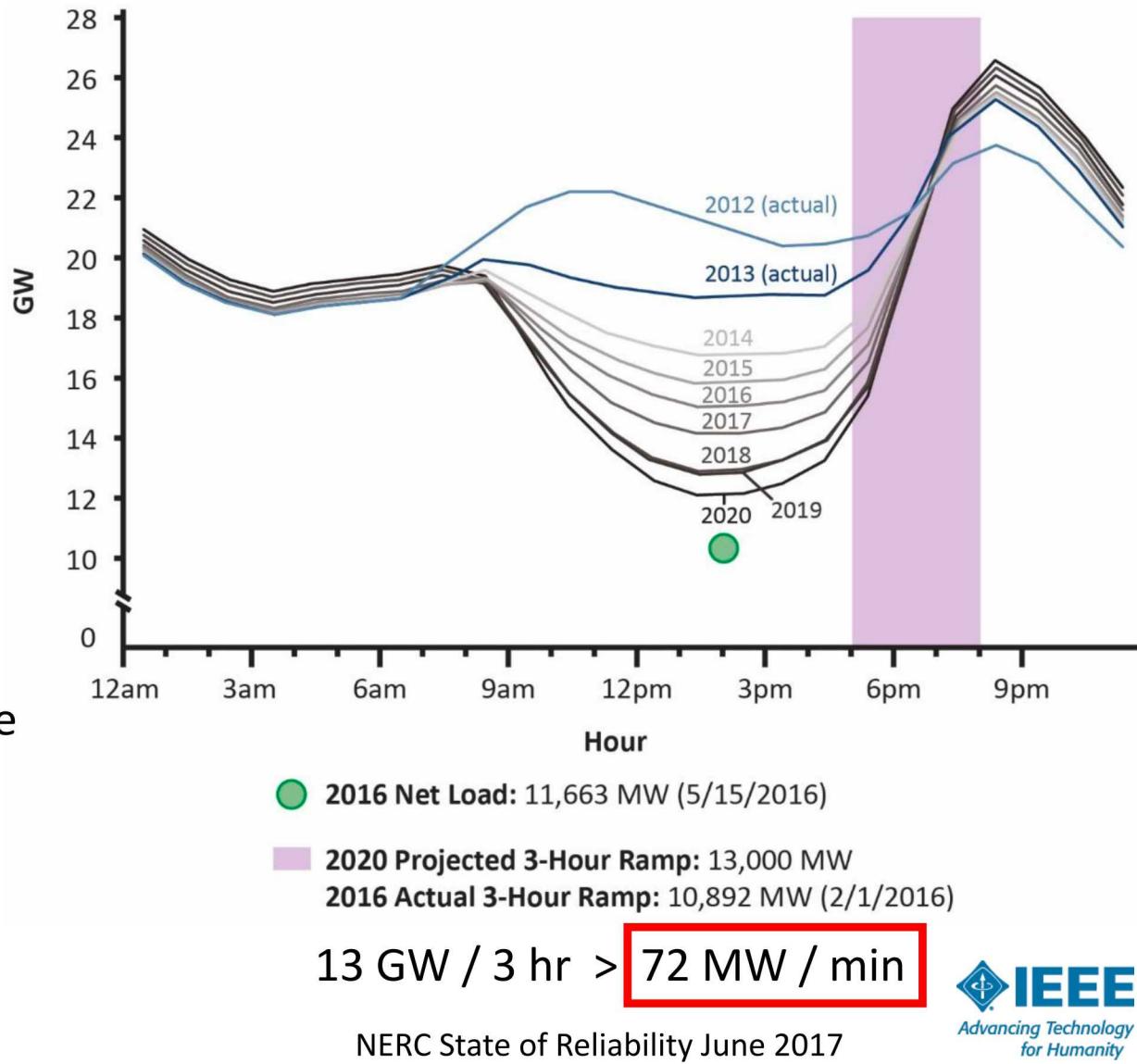
CAISO “Duck Curve”

Energy and environmental goals are driving change.

Emerging grid conditions:

- Short, steep ramps
- Oversupply risk
- Decreased frequency response
 - Lower inertia

Need flexible, controllable resources to match variable demand and variable supply.



www.caiso.com

IEEE
SMARTGRID

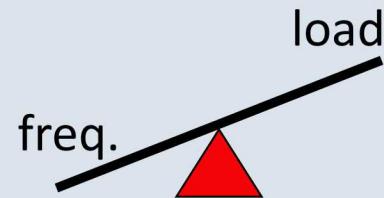
IEEE
Advancing Technology
for Humanity

Stability Challenges Related to Renewables

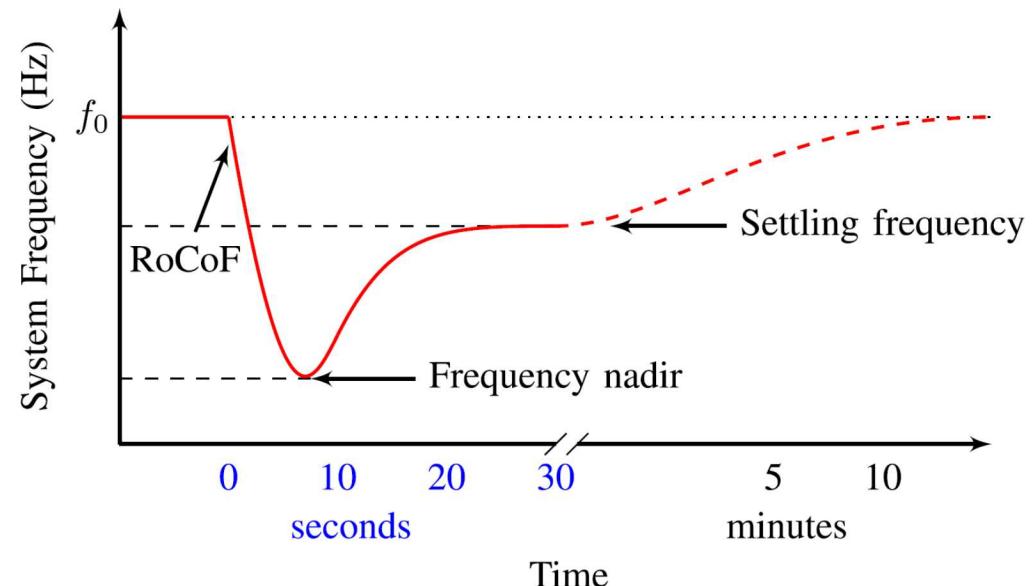
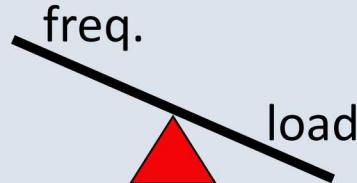
- Need to be firmed and made dispatchable
- Mostly cannot respond to frequency changes
- Lower inertia \rightarrow faster rate of change of freq. (RoCoF) and lower nadir
- Often steep ramps

Frequency control:

Freq. \downarrow with active power deficit.



Freq. \uparrow with active power surplus.

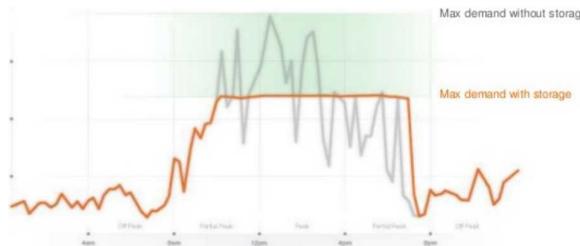


Energy Storage as Flexible Resource

Grid-scale energy storage can enable significant cost savings to industry while improving infrastructure reliability and efficiency

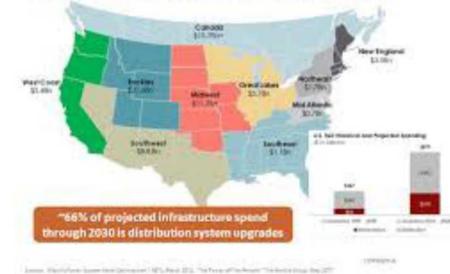


Mitigate \$79B/yr in commercial losses from outages



Reduce commercial and industrial electrical bills through demand charge management. 7.5 million U.S. customers are enrolled in dynamic pricing (EIA 2015)

Regional Spending on T&D Projects Completed by 2020 Heavily Weighted Towards the Rockies



Reduce \$2T in required T&D upgrades



Balance the variability of 825 GW of new renewable generation while improving grid reliability and efficiency.

Energy Storage as Flexible Resource

Grid-scale energy storage can enable significant cost savings to industry while improving infrastructure reliability and efficiency



ULTIMATELY...

Can act as a controllable, flexible resource (source and sink) that can firm renewables, provide synthetic inertia, frequency regulation, limit ramp rates, etc.

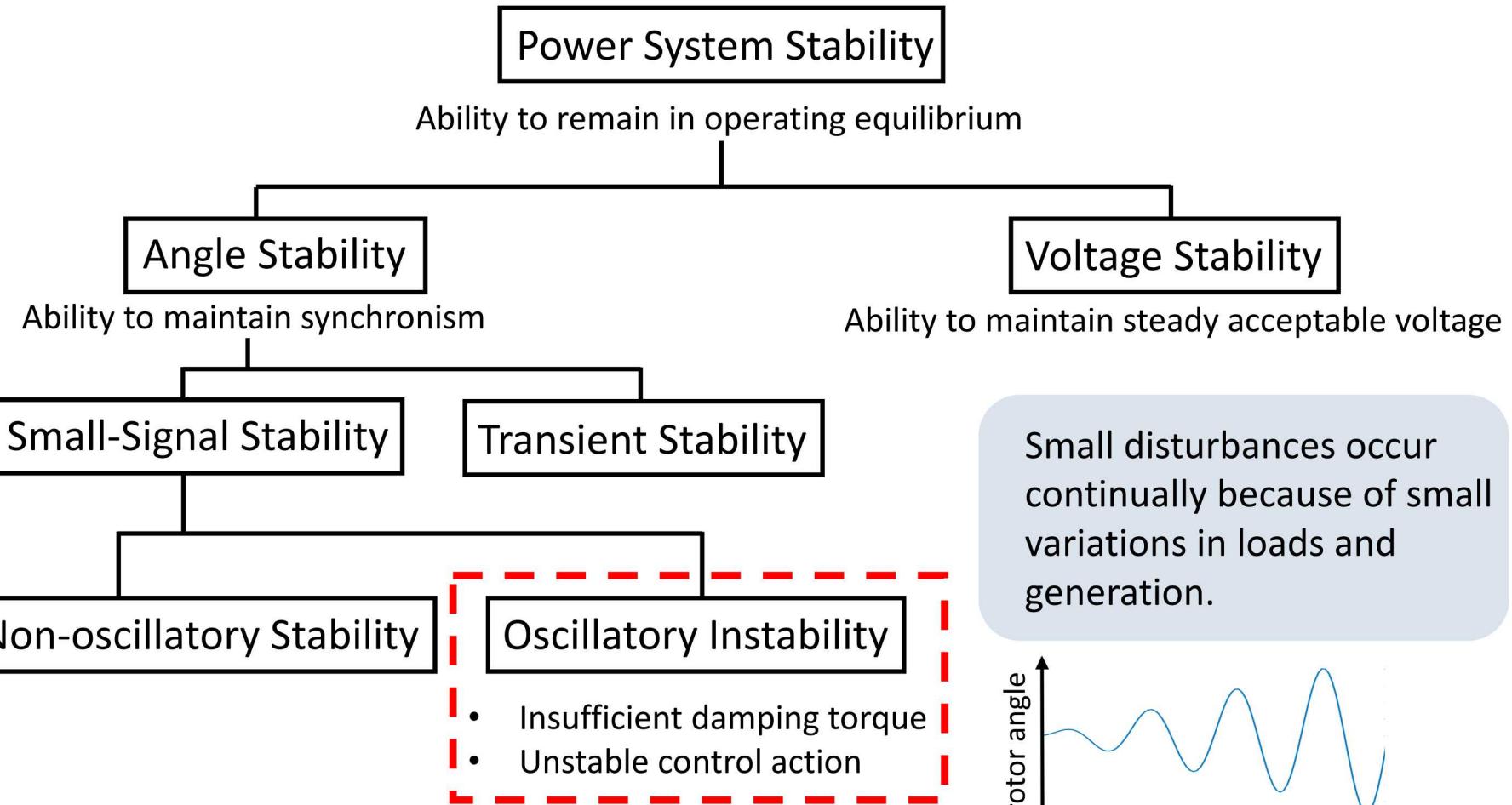


Reduce commercial and industrial electrical bills through demand charge management. 7.5 million U.S. customers are enrolled in dynamic pricing (EIA 2015)



Balance the variability of 825 GW of new renewable generation while improving grid reliability and efficiency.

Power System Stability



Small Signal Stability - Power System Oscillations

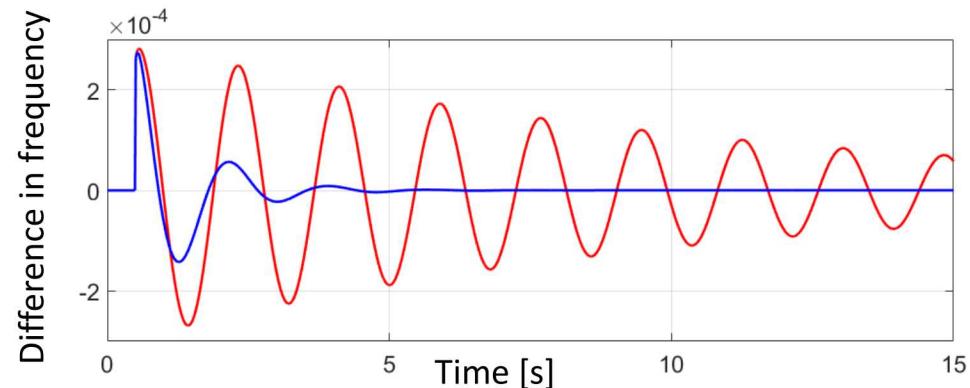
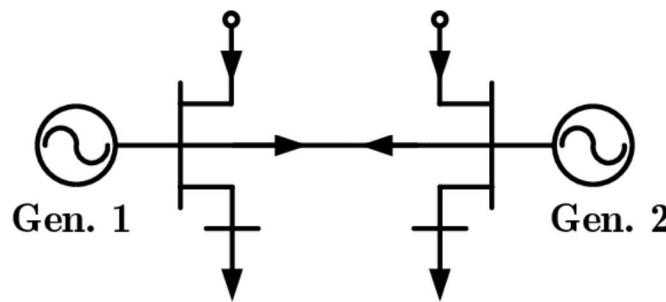
Oscillations can lead to instability and system breakup, so they must be damped effectively to maintain secure and stable system operation.

Intra-area oscillations:

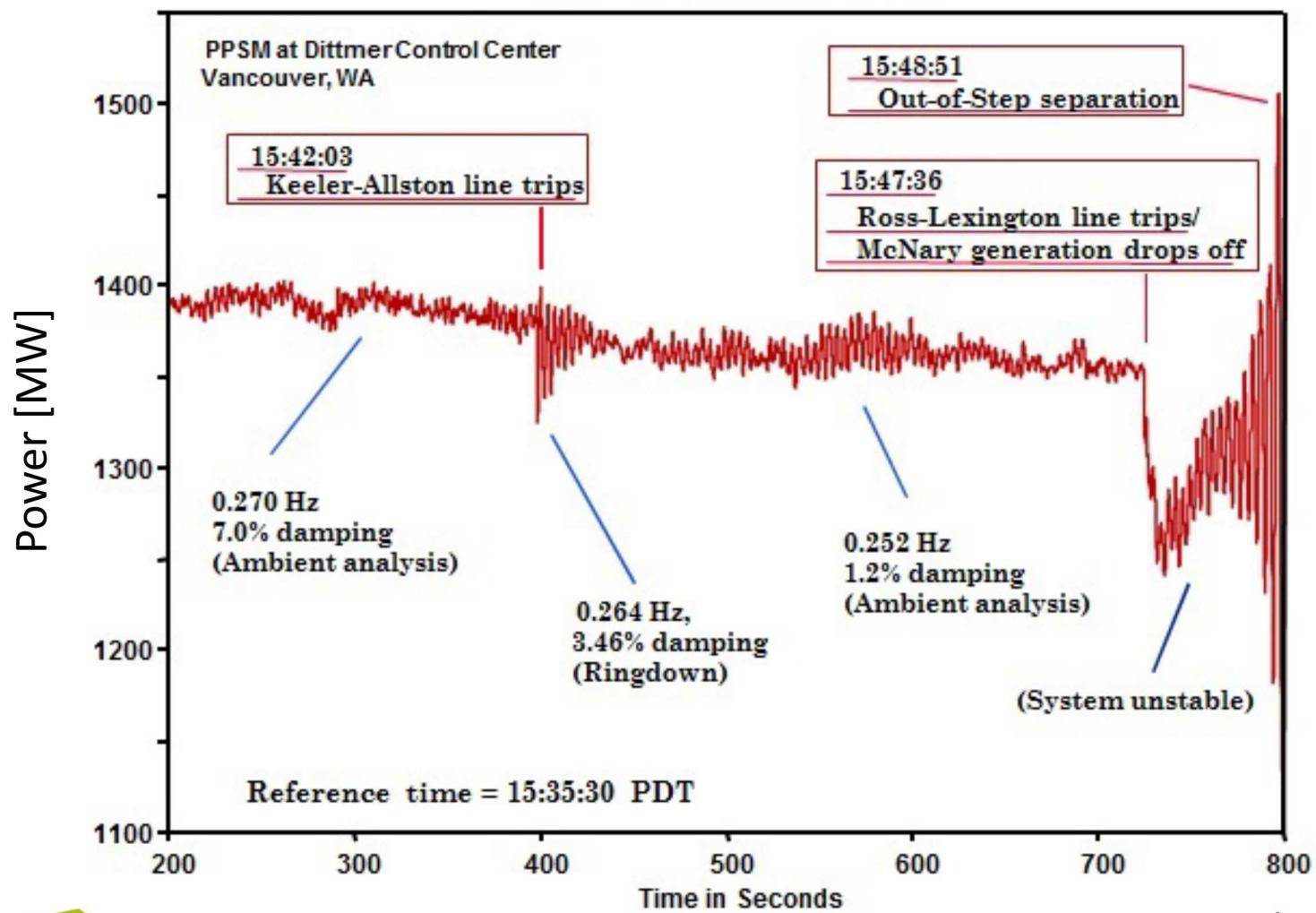
- Low frequency (1-3 Hz) oscillations characteristic of interconnected power systems with synchronous generators in a local region excited by normal variations in system load.
- Power system stabilizers were designed to damp these oscillations.

Inter-area oscillations:

- Very low frequency oscillations (0.1-1 Hz) characteristic of wide-area power grids in which synchronous generators in different regions oscillate against one another.
- Prominent in grids with major load and generation centers separated by long (hundreds of miles) AC transmission corridors.



USA/Canada Western Power System Breakup



Control System for Active Damping



POWER More 

Business & Technology for the Global Generation Industry Since 1882

Official Publication of:  

Decade-Old Power Grid Problem Solved by Smart Grid Technology

01/11/2018 | Sonal Patel

- Only safe and effective way to prevent oscillations has been to reduce the amount of power sent through a transmission line.
- Inter-area oscillations have been studied for more than 40 years.
- Damping (or controlling) them has been elusive, owing to a lack of real-time measurement data throughout the grid.

Other resources:

- [Sandia Labs News Release](#)
- [ECN Magazine](#)
- [Phys.org](#)
- [Science Magazine](#)
- [Daily Energy Insider](#)
- [Metering & Smart Energy International](#)
- [Pbsi](#)
- [EnvironmentGuru](#)
- [Electric Energy Online](#)
- [R&D Magazine](#)
- [In Compliance Mag](#)
- [Power Mag](#)
- [T&D World](#)
- [Machine Design](#)



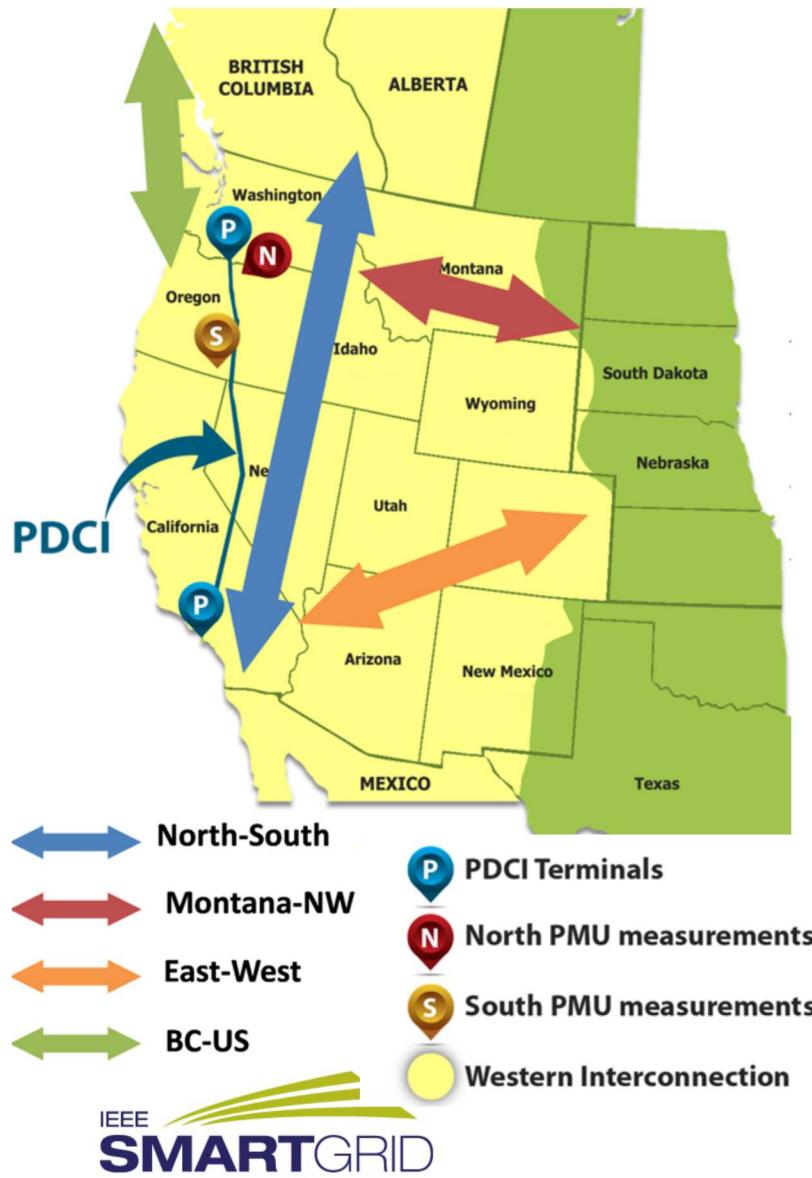
Sandia
National
Laboratories



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



Modulation of Pacific DC Intertie (PDCI)



Project launched in Summer 2013:

- Build, install, and demonstrate a damping controller via real-time feedback modulation of PDCI (Pacific DC Intertie) power.
- Control signal based on wide-area PMU (Phasor Measurement Unit) feedback.

Oct 2015 – Sept 2017:

- System install at BPA Celilo Converter Station, The Dalles, Oregon.
- Closed-loop testing on western North American grid using PDCI.

Jan 2018 – Sept 2019:

- Operationalize controller (cyber security compliance).

High-voltage DC (HVDC) transmission

- Promoted in 1930s in Europe.
- Proven technology in 1950s in Russia.
- Gigawatts, thousands of kilometers, up to 1000kV

Advantage:

- Improved system stability with lower losses

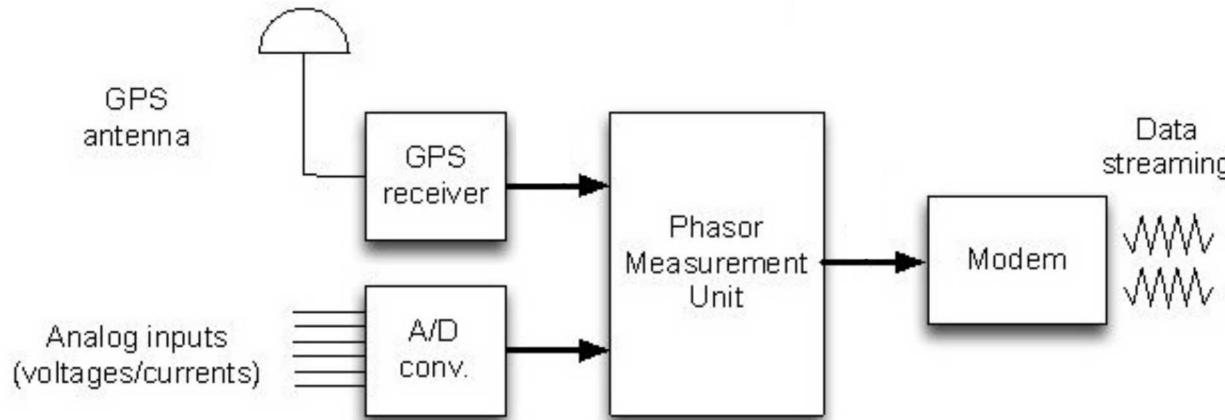
Pacific DC Intertie (PDCI):

- High Voltage DC line: +/- 500 kV
- 3220 MW capacity
- 850 miles long – Celilo to Sylmar
- Operational since 1970
- Annually used for probing tests since 2008 to identify and better understand inter-area oscillations on the western grid



Phasor Measurement Units (PMUs)

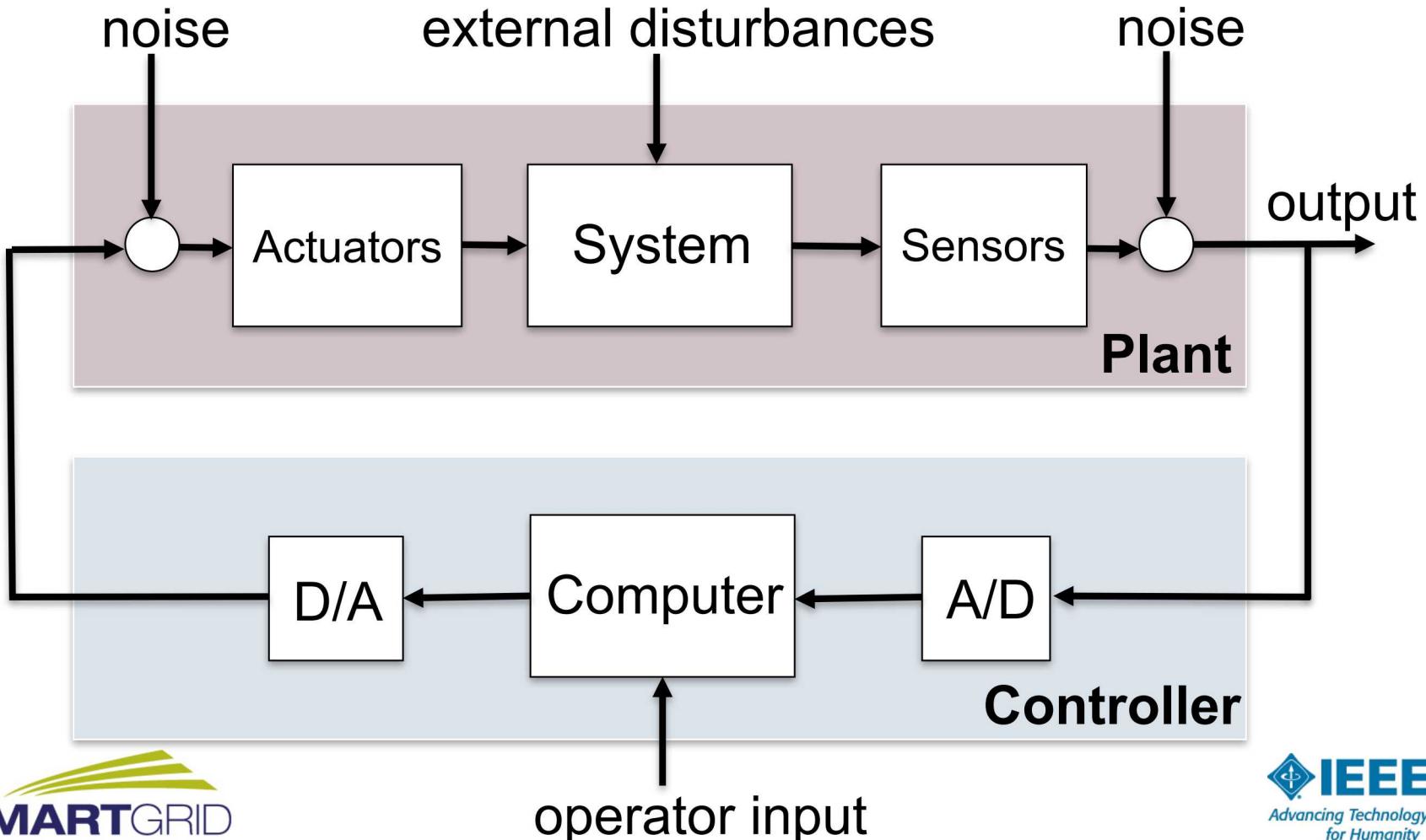
Availability of wide-area measurements has recently enabled wide-area damping control (automated frequency response).



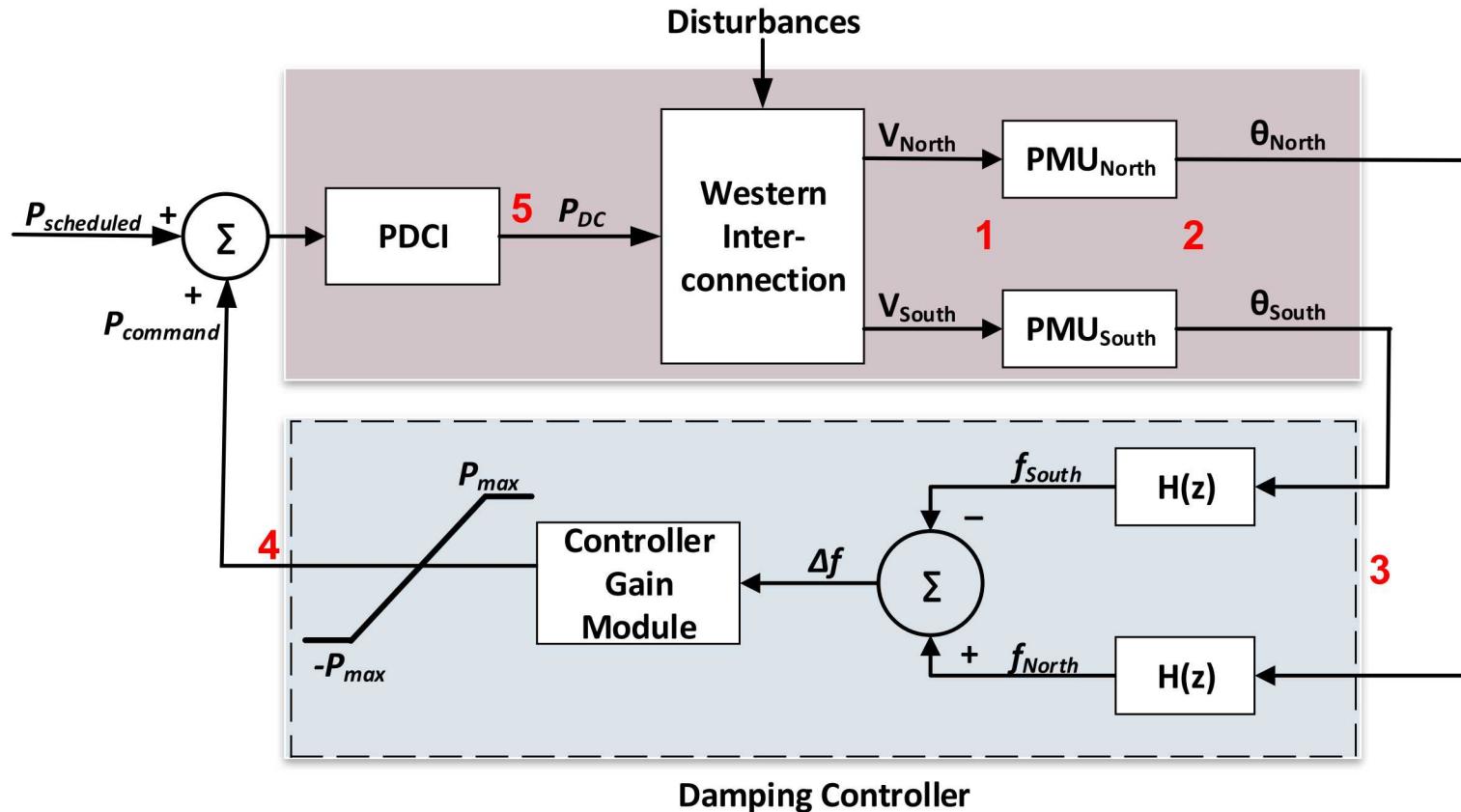
- Prototypes developed at Virginia Tech 1995.
- Time-synchronized using GPS
- Provide measurements throughout system providing significant improvements in monitoring and situational awareness
- Measures 50/60 Hz waveform (voltages and currents)
- In general, 30-240 samples per second (often 60 for existing devices)

(Feedback) Control System

Control: The design of an action that affects a system in a desired way.



Damping Controller



1 PMUs take measurements

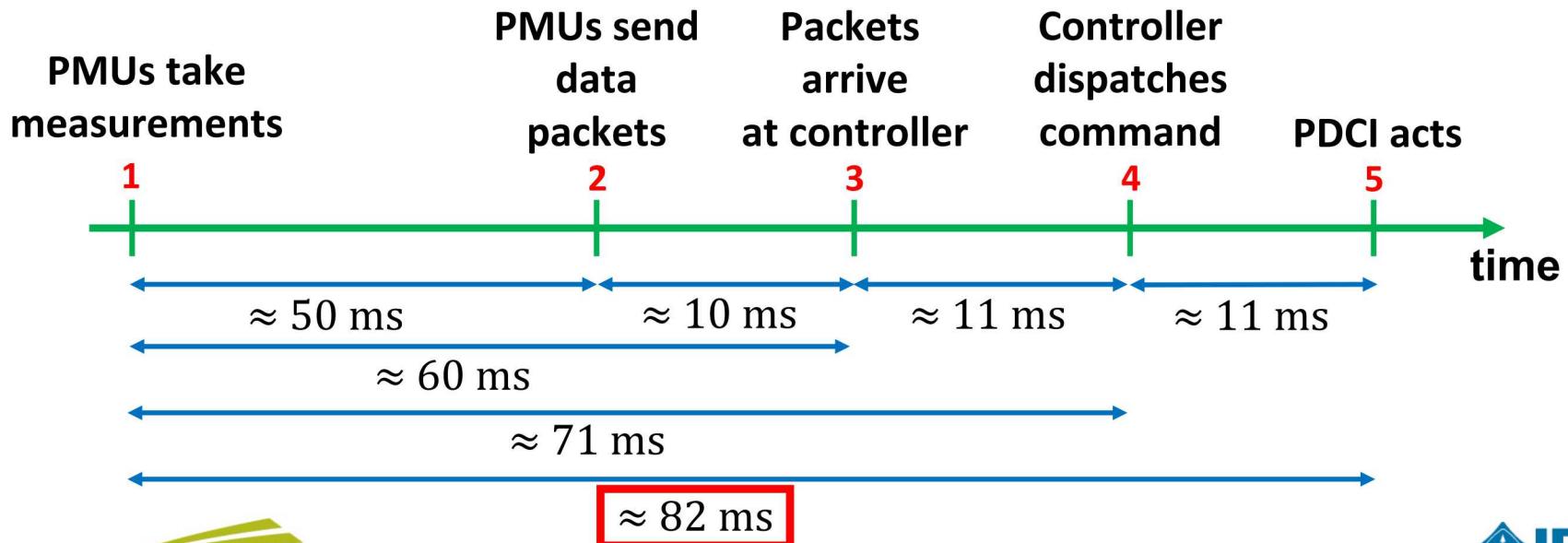
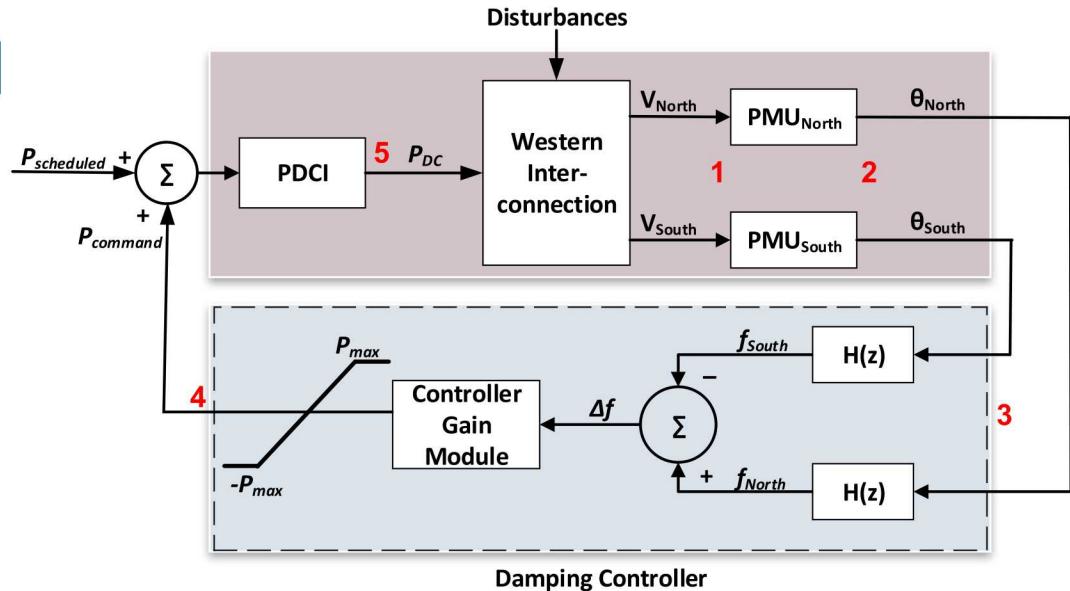
2 PMUs send data packets over network

3 Packets arrive at damping controller

4 Controller sends power command to PDCL

5 PDCL injects power command into grid

Time Delays in PDCI Damping Control



Additional Requirements

Real-time Supervisor

Disarm controller if abnormal condition detected.

Oscillation detection

- Detect out-of-band oscillations in feedback signal or on PDCI

Islanding detection

- Detect islanding between local and remote signal locations

PMU validity & latency management

- Monitor measurements and latencies

Emergency stop

Asynchronous Supervisor

Gain/Phase margin monitoring

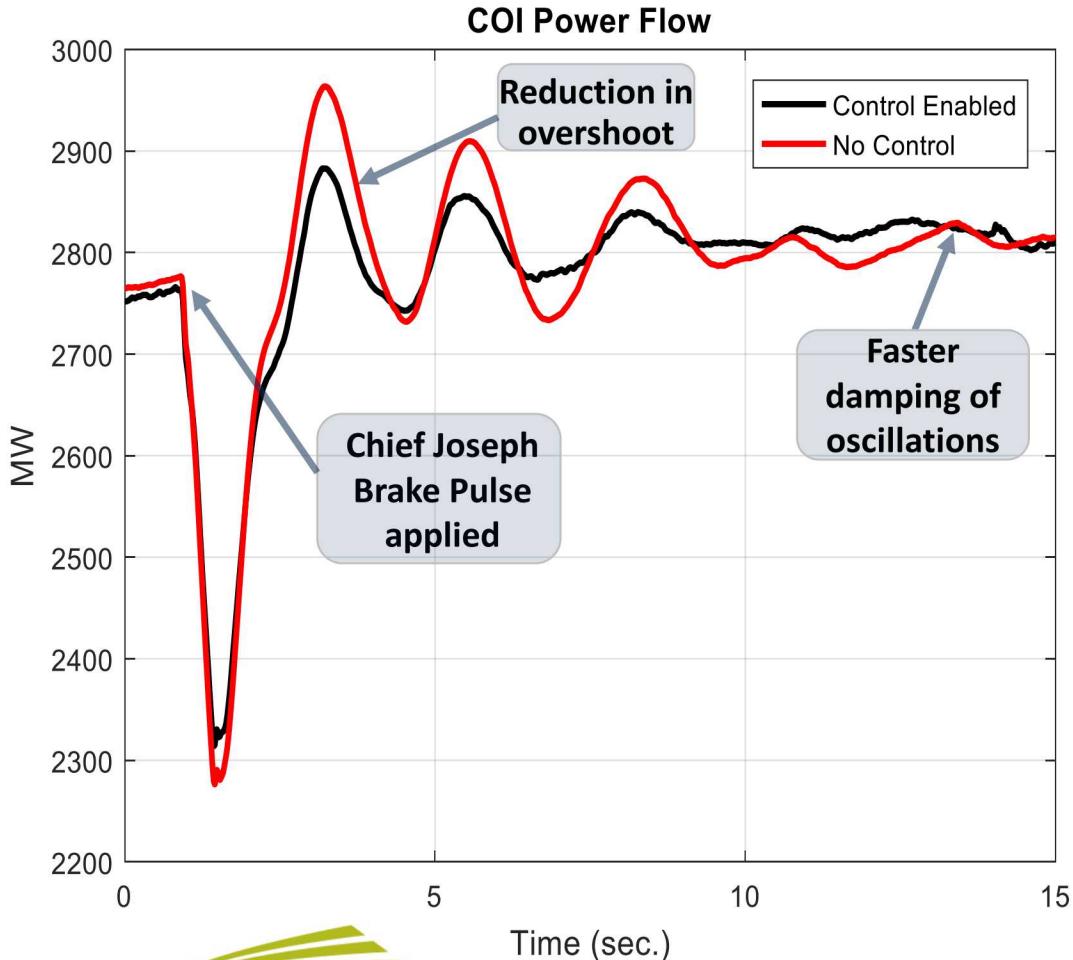
- Makes sure controller is **NOT** destabilizing any modes
- Requires periodic low-level probing

PDCI monitoring

- Makes sure commanded modulation is entering PDCI system

Grid Demonstrations

Experiments conducted at Celilo Converter Station Sept 2016, May & June 2017



Chief Joseph
brake
test

Damping of North-South
Mode improved in closed-
loop vs. open-loop
operation.



All tests

Controller consistently
improves damping and
does no harm to grid.

Summary of Project Accomplishments

- First successful demonstration of wide-area control using real-time PMU feedback in North America.
- Experience gained in networked controls will advance control design using other network-enabled assets, such as energy storage, smart inverters, and demand response.
- Supervisory system architecture and design can be applied to future real-time grid control systems to ensure “Do No Harm”.



Summary of Project Accomplishments

- First demonstration of HVDC transmission modulation for damping inter-area oscillations
- But...
- Damping via HVDC transmission modulation has some limitations:
 - **Need HVDC line installed**
 - Only area-pairs can be damped
 - Limited controllability of some modes
 - Approximately symmetric power flows
 - Future implementations may not have proprietary, fiber-based communication network.



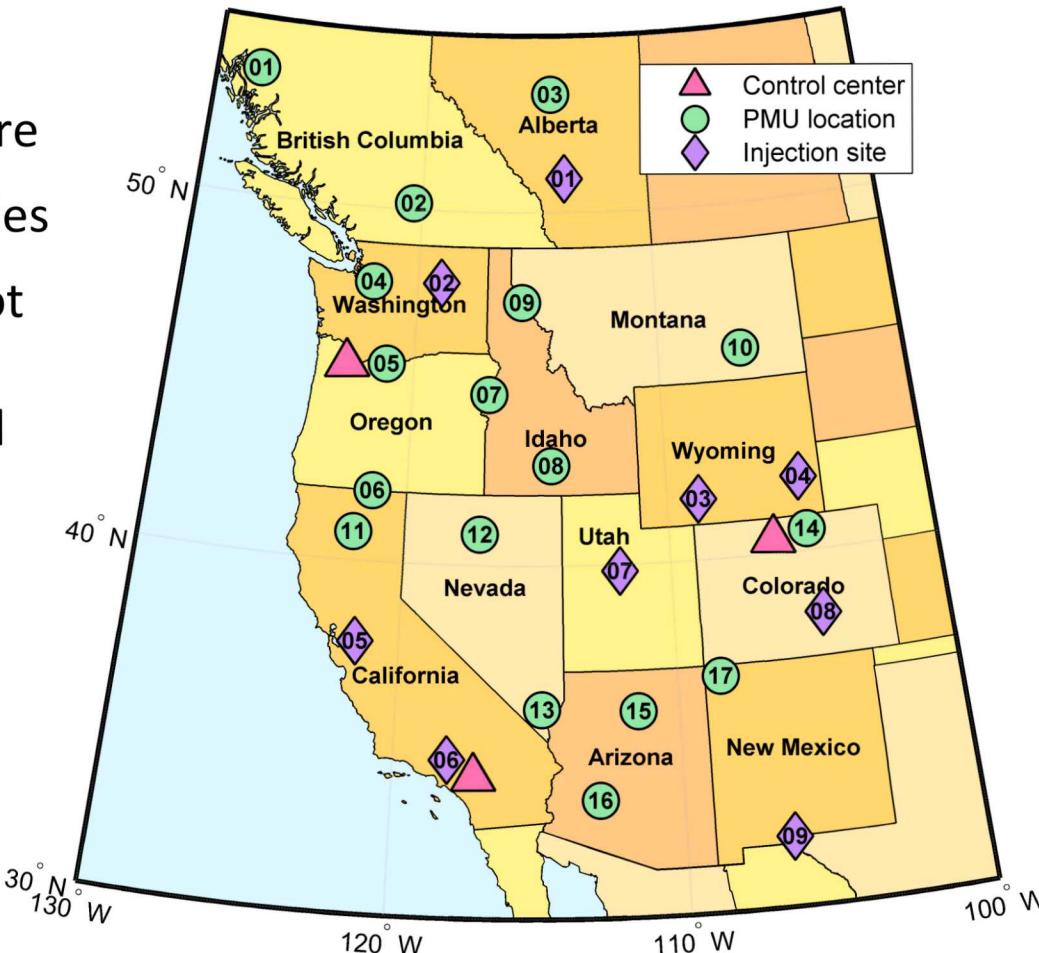
What about multi-node distributed control?

Advantages:

- Robust to single points of failure
- Controllability of multiple modes
- Size/location of a single site not as critical as more distributed energy resources are deployed

Challenges:

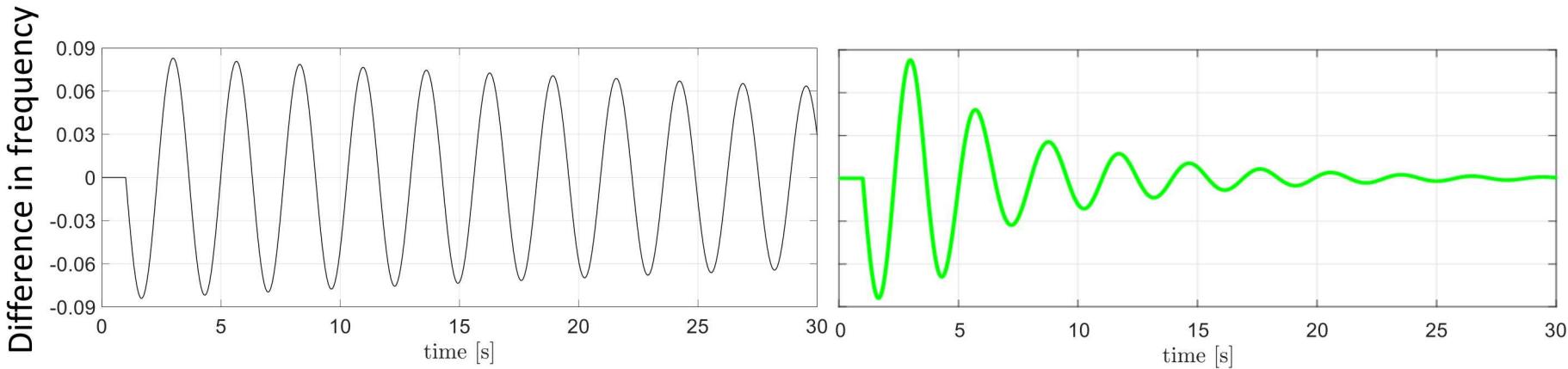
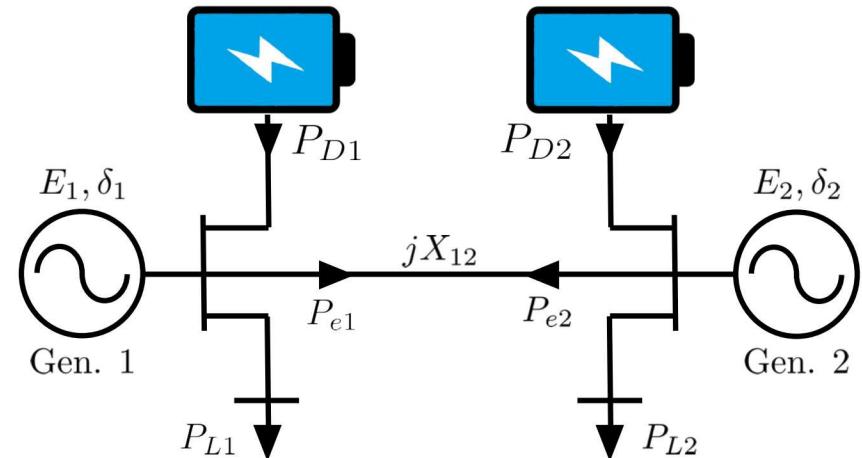
- Siting and sizing multiple resources
- Communication
- Distributed algorithms



Multi-node distributed control

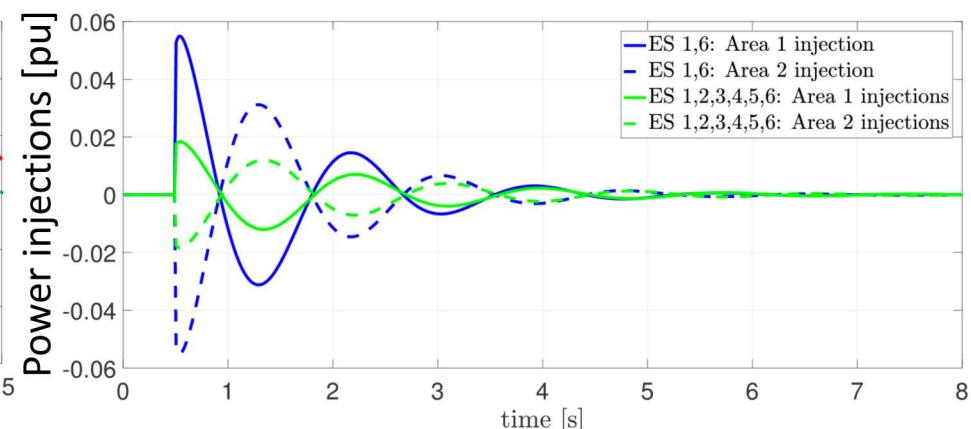
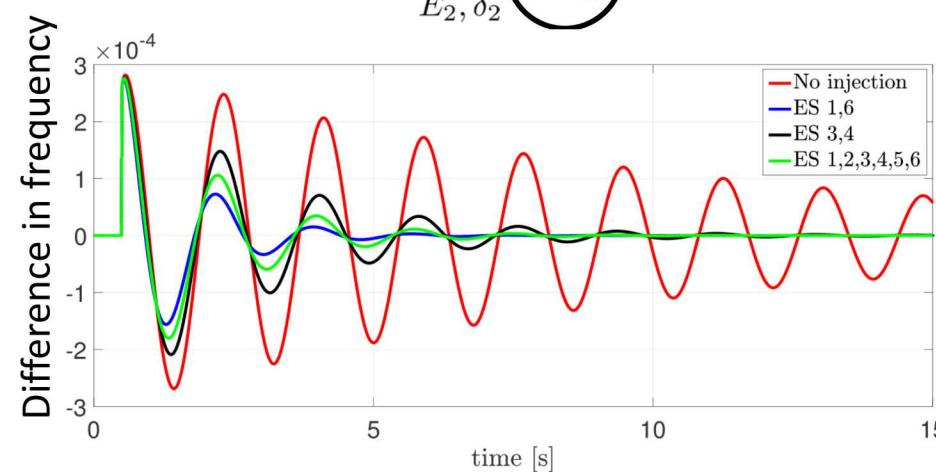
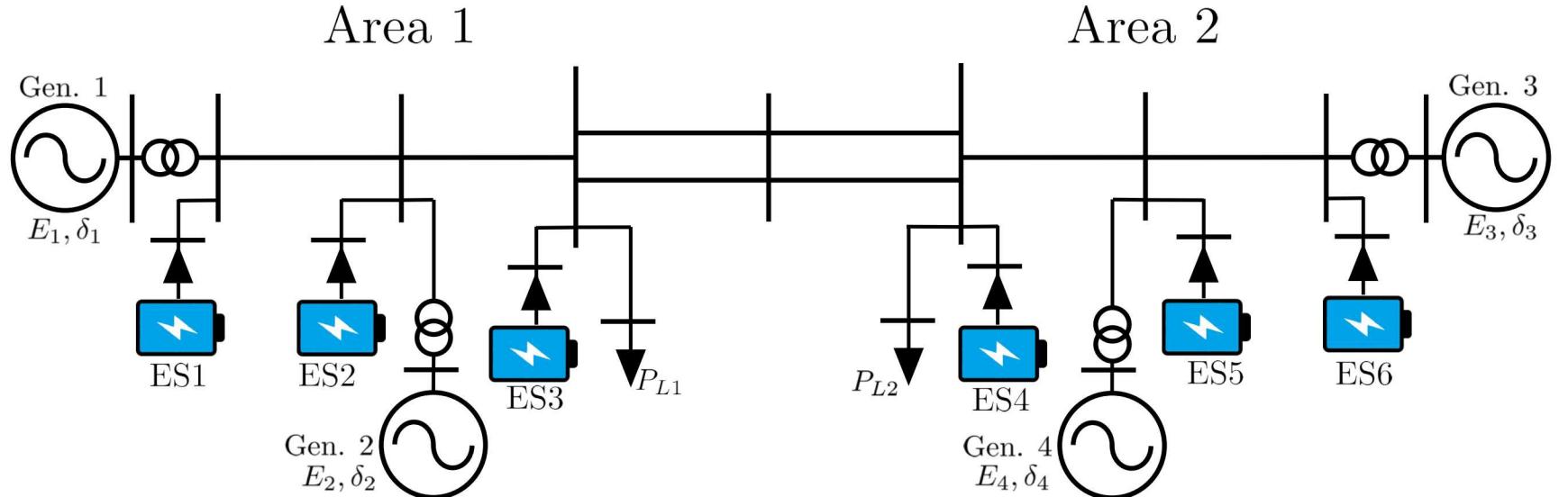
Objective:

- Damp oscillations using power injections from multiple distributed resources.
- Wide-area measurements (e.g. from PMUs) can be used for feedback.



Siting and Sizing

Where to locate the resources, and how large should they be?



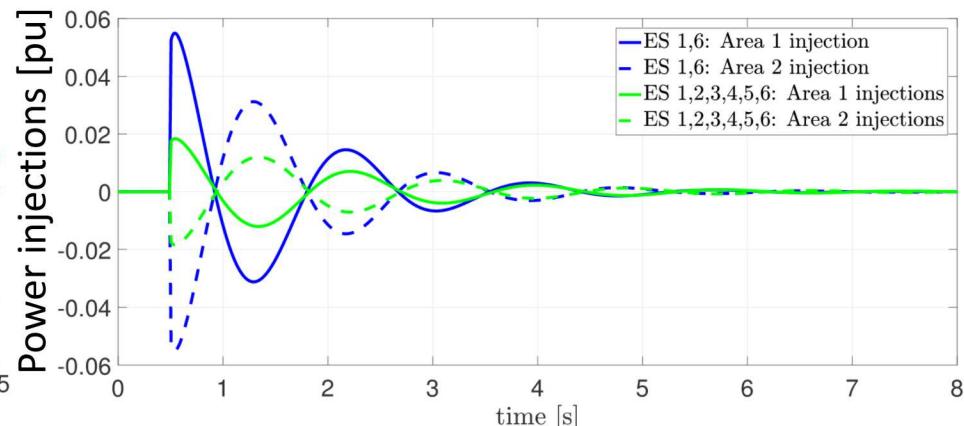
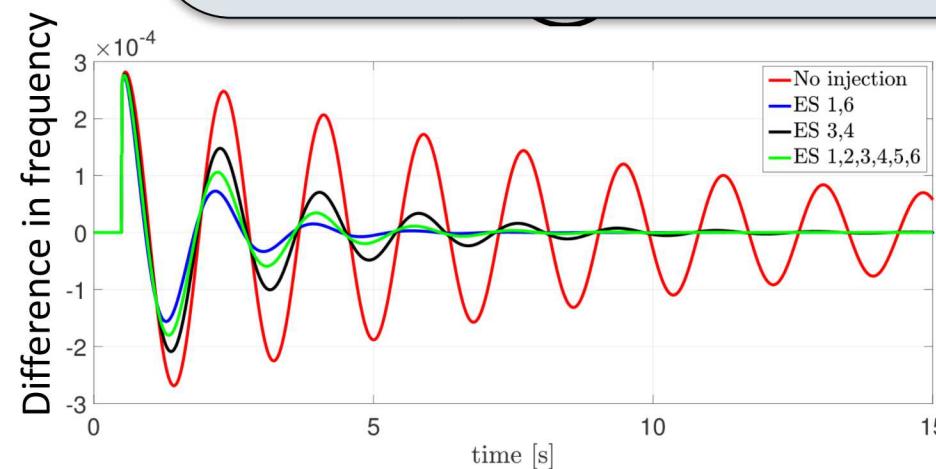
Siting and Sizing

Where to locate the resources, and how large should they be?

Area 1

Area 2

- Performance depends on power level and locations of injections
- Performance is proportional to power level.
- The same size injections in different locations may result in better/worse performance.
- More smaller injections can produce better results than fewer larger injections (if larger injections are in poor locations).



Communication Network Considerations

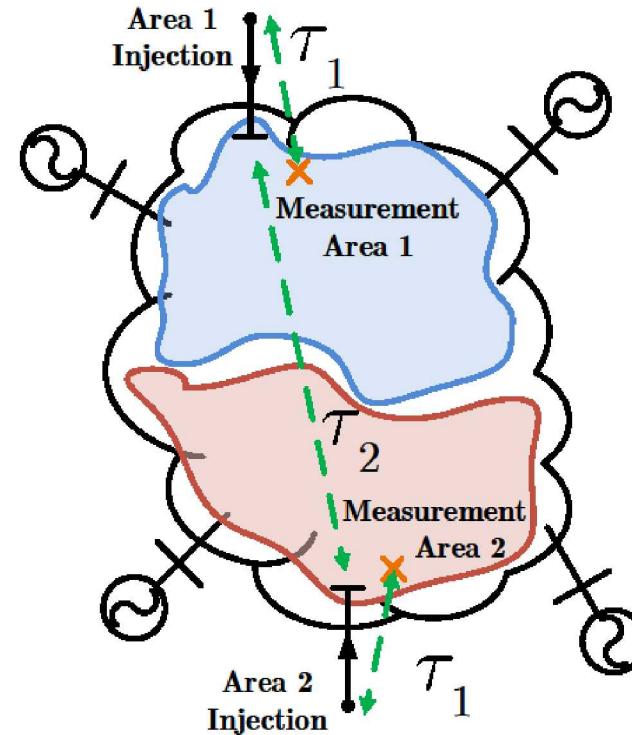
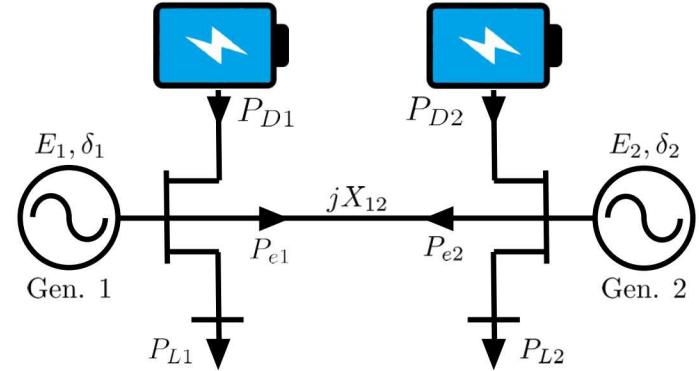
Future implementations will not be on secure, resilient, efficient networks.

Need to accommodate:

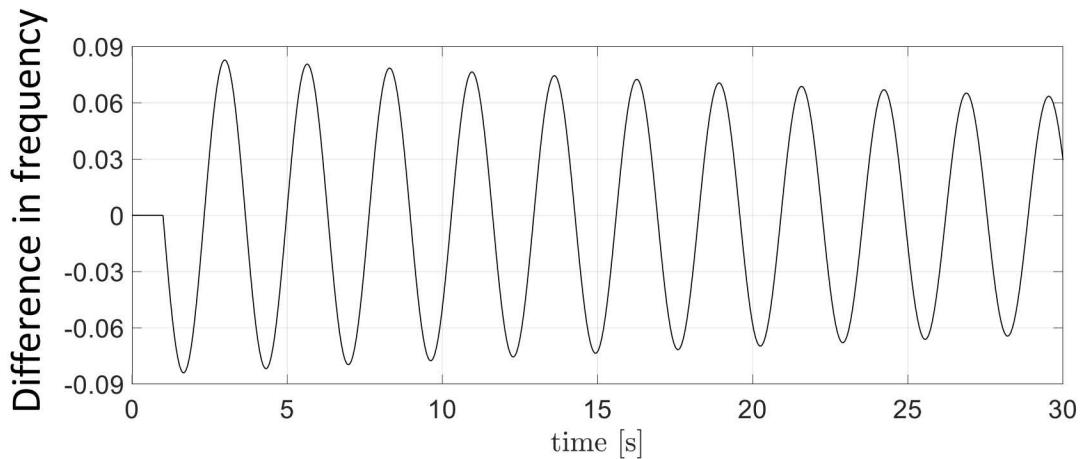
- Packet dropouts
- Privacy concerns
- Latency (time delays)

How much delay can the system handle?

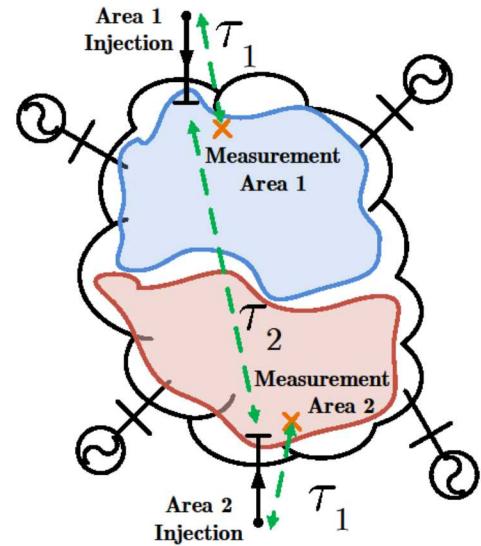
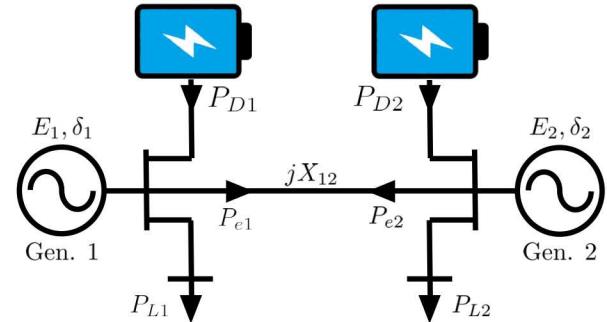
How does the distributed control action affect stability in the presence of delays?



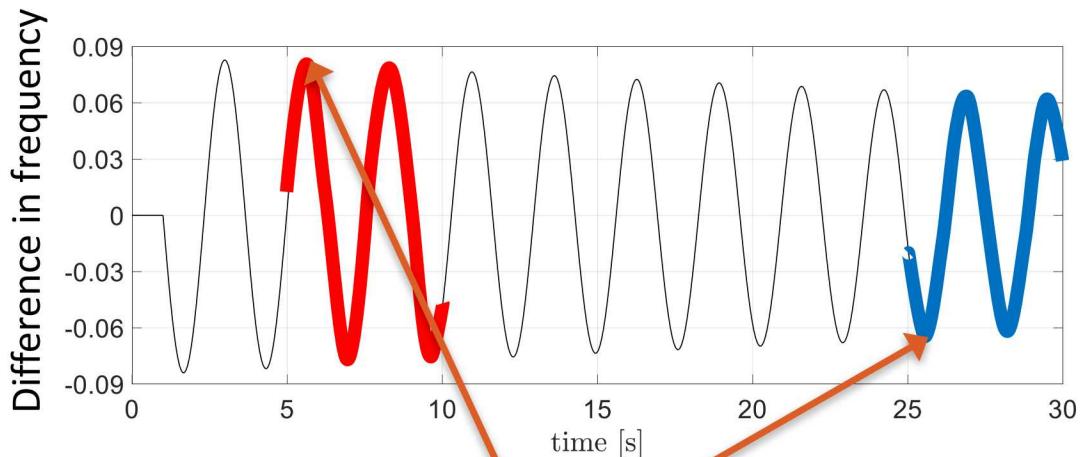
Stability Criterion



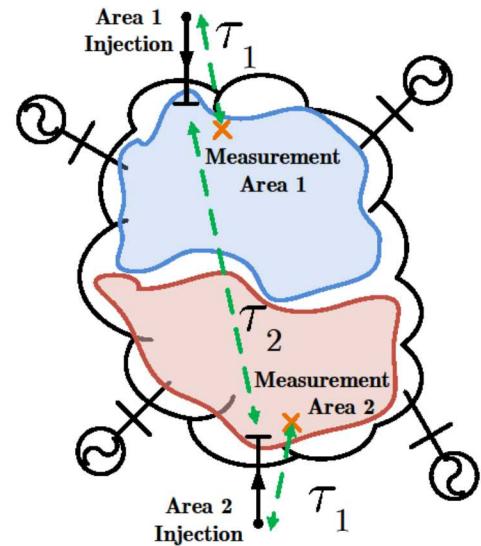
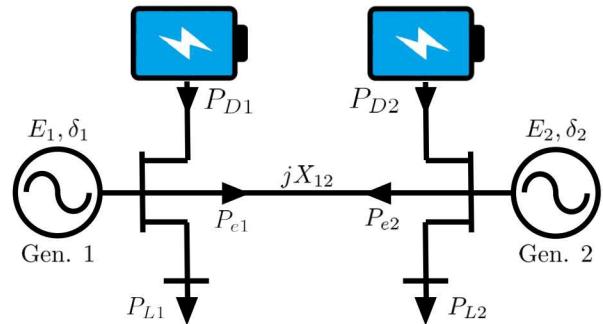
Natural system response after sudden change in load.



Stability Criterion



Largest amplitude in red $>$ largest amplitude in blue
→ stable

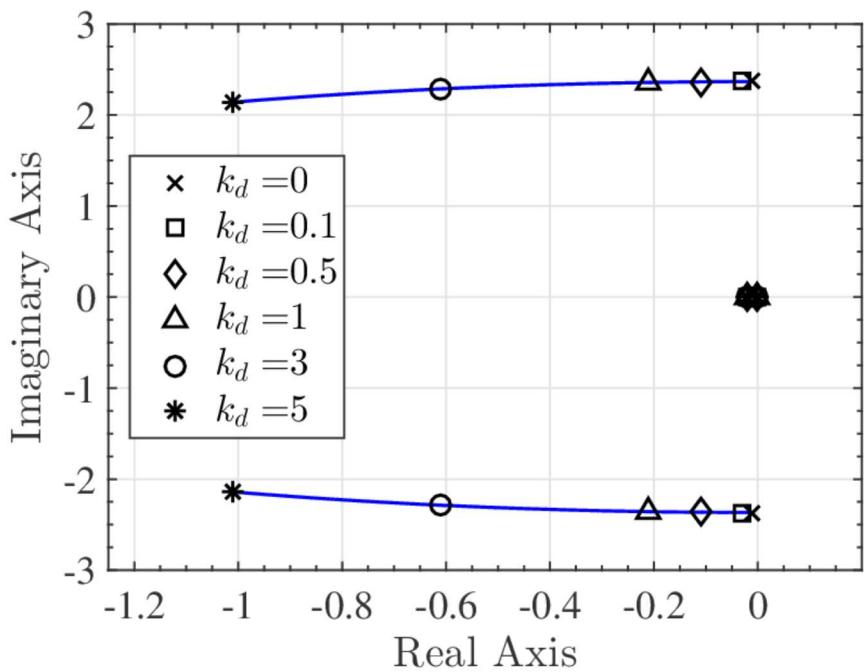


Using this criterion, determine regions of stability that depend on time delays τ_1 , τ_2 and damping gain k_d .

Eigenvalues and Regions of Stability

Eigenvalues

Without delays, increasing damping improves stability (eigenvalues move to the left).

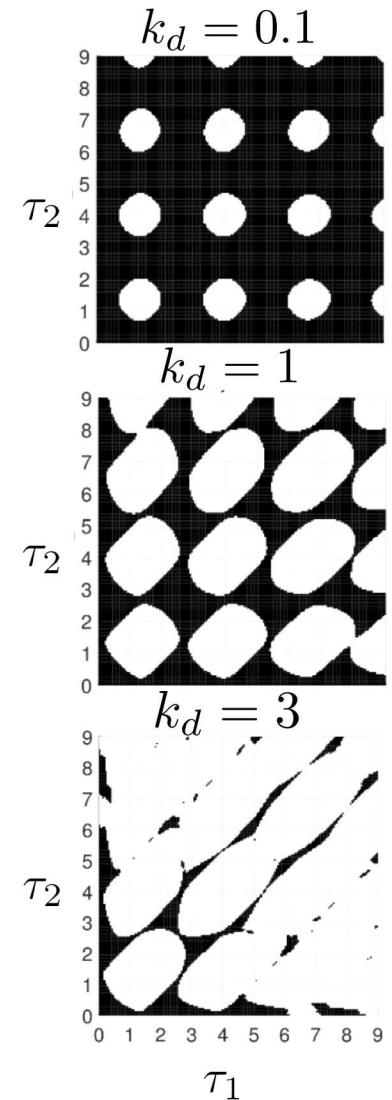


Regions of stability

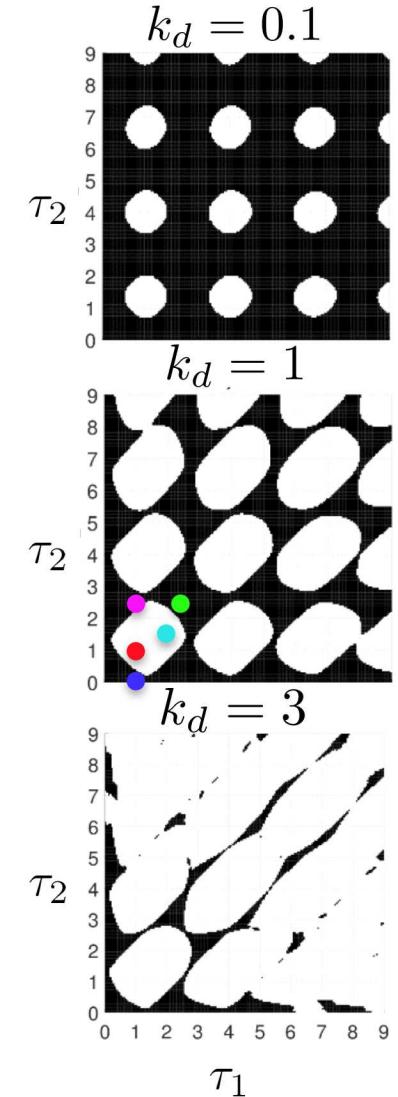
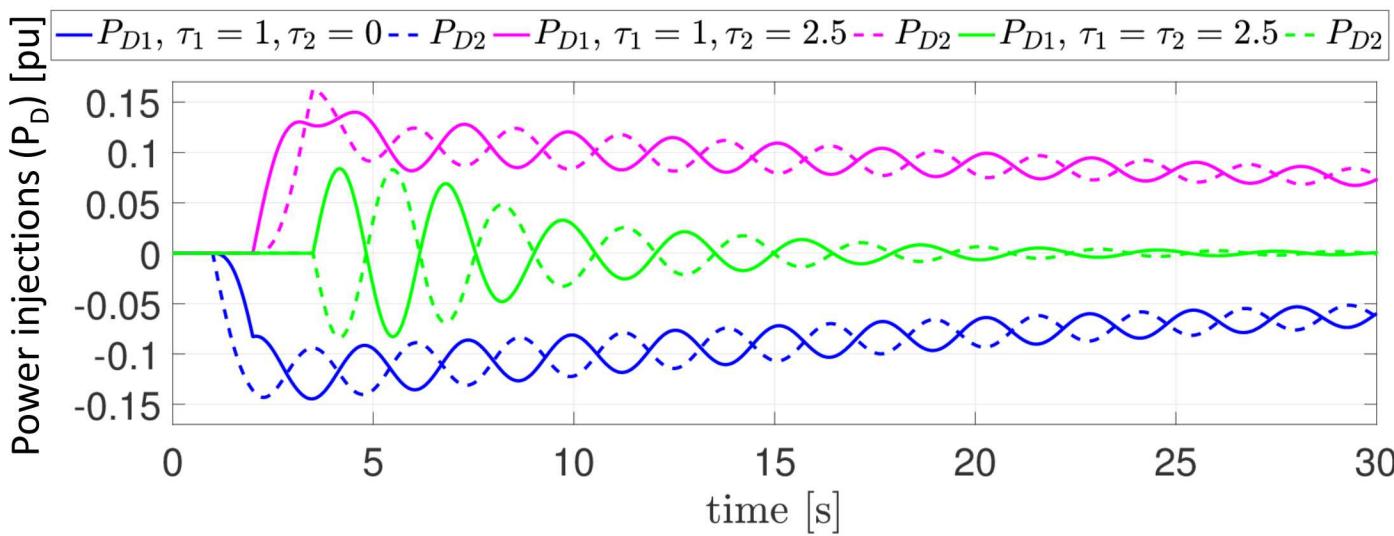
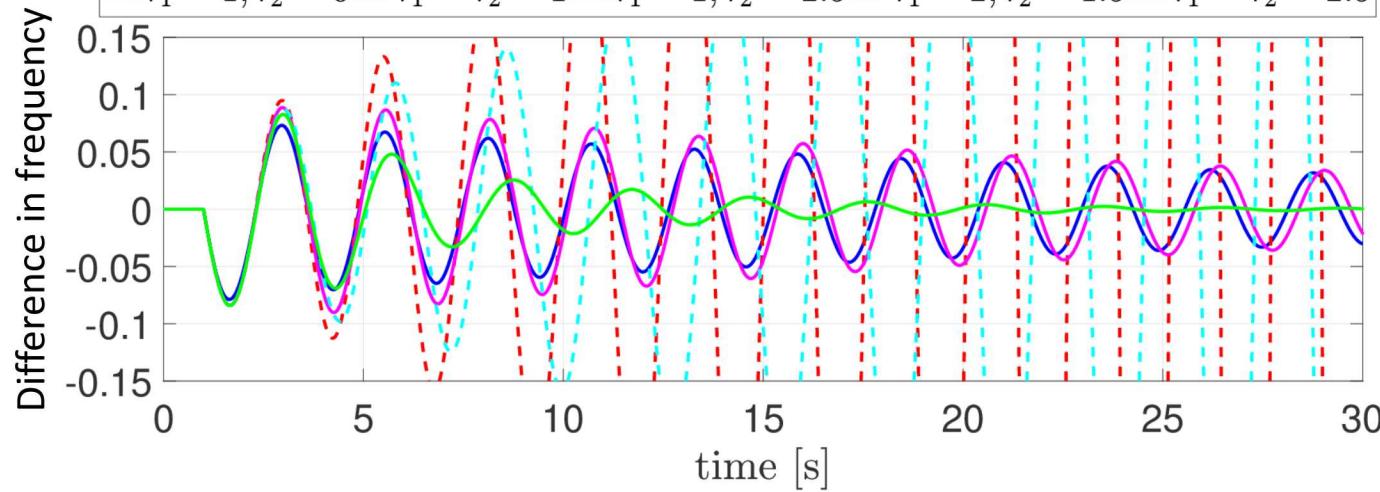
Black: Stable

White: Unstable

In the presence of delays, increasing damping may lead to instability.



Time Domain Simulations



Conclusions

- Grid conditions are changing
- Need flexible and controllable resources with the right operational characteristics in the right locations.
- All interconnected power systems experience oscillations.
- Wide-area damping control can be used to damp inter-area oscillations.
- Wide-area measurements (e.g. from PMUs) can be used for feedback.
- Oscillations can be damped with power injections.
- Several challenges considered:
 - Choose locations and sizes of resources.
 - Time delays in the feedback signals can cause the damping control to destabilize the system, and stability depends on the size of the delays as well as the size of the control gain.

Future Challenges

- ❑ (Optimal) distributed and networked approaches to wide-area damping control
- ❑ Big data methods to handle thousands of sensor measurements
- ❑ Simulation tools for studying transient stability of both transmission and distribution grids
- ❑ Addressing cyber-security and privacy (intellectual property) concerns related to networked systems

Acknowledgements

Dr. David Schoenwald

Dr. Raymond Byrne

Dr. Felipe Wilches-Bernal

Dr. Tu Nguyen

Dr. Babu Chalamala



Sandia National Laboratories



Funding for Sandia related work provided by US DOE Energy Storage Program managed by Dr. Imre Gyuk of the DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.



dcopp@sandia.gov



References

- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Enhancing the Resilience of the Nation's Electricity System*. National Academies Press, 2017.
- NERC. *State of Reliability*. June 2017.
- P. Kundur, N. Balu, and M. Lauby, "Power system stability and control," Vol. 7. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994.
- G. Rogers, "Power system oscillations," *Springer Science & Business Media*, 2012.
- R. Cresap, W. Mittelstadt, D. Scott, and C. Taylor, "Operating experience with modulation of the Pacific HVDC intertie," *IEEE Trans. on Power Apparatus and Systems*, vol. PAS-97, no. 4, pp. 1053-1059, July/Aug. 1978.
- D. Trudnowski, D. Kosterev, and J. Undrill, "PDCI damping control analysis for the western North American power system," *IEEE PES General Meeting*, Vancouver BC, July 2013.
- J. Neely, J. Johnson, R. Byrne, and R. Elliott, "Structured Optimization for Parameter Selection of Frequency-Watt Grid Support Functions for Wide-Area Damping," *International Journal of Distributed Energy Resources and Smart Grids*, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 69-94, 2015.
- D. Trudnowski and J. Pierre, "Signal processing methods for estimating small-signal dynamic properties from measured responses," in *Inter-Area Oscillations in Power Systems*, A. R. Messina, Ed. New York, NY, USA: Springer, 2009.
- J. H. Chow and K. W. Cheung, "A toolbox for power system dynamics and control engineering education and research," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, vol. 7, no. 4, pp. 1559-1564, Nov. 1992.
- R. H. Byrne, D. Trudnowski, J. Neely, R. Elliott, D. Schoenwald, and M. Donnelly, "Optimal locations for energy storage damping systems in the Western North American interconnect," in *IEEE PES General Meeting*, 2014.
- M. Shelton, P. F. Winkelman, W. A. Mittelstadt, and W. J. Bellerby, "Bonneville Power Administration 1400-MW braking resistor," *IEEE Trans. Power Apparatus & Syst.*, vol. 94, no. 2, pp. 606-611, 1975.
- B. Pierre, R. Elliott, D. Schoenwald, J. Neely, R. Byrne, D. Trudnowski, and J. Colwell, "Supervisory system for a wide area damping controller using PDCI modulation and real-time PMU feedback," in *IEEE PES General Meeting*, 2016.
- F. Wilches-Bernal, B. J. Pierre, R. Elliott, D. Schoenwald, R. Byrne, J. Neely, and D. Trudnowski, "Time delay definitions and characterization in the pacific DC intertie wide area damping controller," in *IEEE PES General Meeting*, 2017.
- B. Pierre, F. Wilches-Bernal, D. Schoenwald, R. Elliott, J. Neely, R. Byrne, D. Trudnowski, "Open-loop testing results for the pacific DC intertie wide area damping controller," in *IEEE Manchester PowerTech*, 2017.
- Schoenwald, D. A., Pierre, B. J., Wilches-Bernal, F., & Trudnowski, D. J. (2017). Design and Implementation of a Wide-Area Damping Controller Using High Voltage DC Modulation and Synchrophasor Feedback. *IFAC-PapersOnLine*, 50(1), pp. 67-72, 2017.
- D. A. Copp, F. Wilches-Bernal, I. Gravagne, D. Schoenwald, "Time-domain analysis of power system stability with damping control and asymmetric feedback delays," in *North American Power Symposium*, 2017.
- R. H. Byrne, T. A. Nguyen, D. A. Copp, B. R. Chalamala, I. Gyuk, "Energy Management and Optimization Methods for Grid Energy Storage Systems," *IEEE Access*, 2017.

QUESTIONS?

Today's presentation will be
made available on the
IEEE Smart Grid Portal

Smartgrid.ieee.org