

# Getting More from PV Field Data: Data mining and analysis for module diagnostics



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## Motivation: Mechanistic PV Performance and Degradation Modeling



Mechanistic understanding of photovoltaic array performance can decrease the Levelized Cost of Photovoltaic Energy via:

- Decreased Operation/Maintenance Costs
- Increased Energy Production
- Reduced Degradation

in the industrial and R&D sectors.

$$LCOE = \frac{\sum_{t=0}^n \frac{(I_t + O_t + M_t + F_t)}{(1+r)^t}}{\sum_{t=0}^n \frac{S_t(1-d)^t}{(1+r)^t}}$$

***I*** - initial cost

***O*** - operational cost

***M*** - maintenance cost

***F*** - interest expenditure

***S*** - energy production

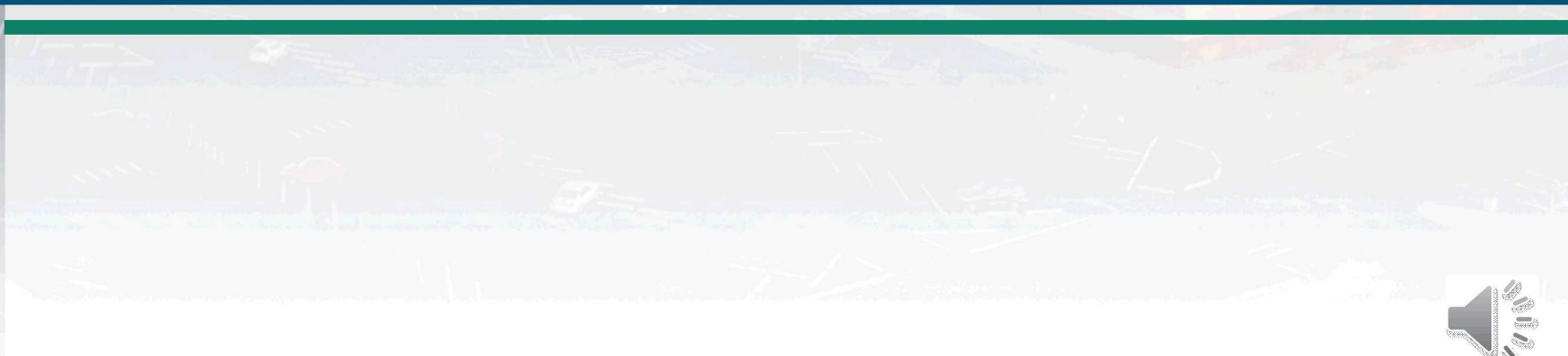
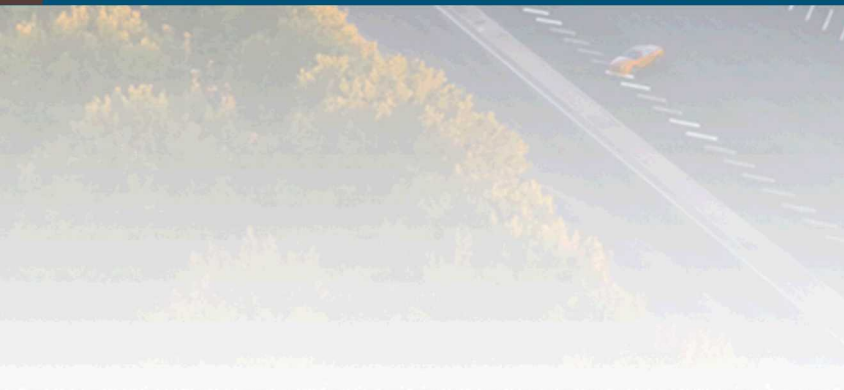
***r*** - inflation and uncertainty

***(1-d)*** - degradation term





# Analytic $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ and Power Loss Modes





PV systems at all scales produce large amounts of time-series data.

“Smart” inverters or microinverters measure I-V curves on the string or module level.

Parameterizing I-V curves and looking at long-term trends improves understanding of system performance, but:

- values are not directly comparable
- changes in these quantities are not necessarily proportional to power loss

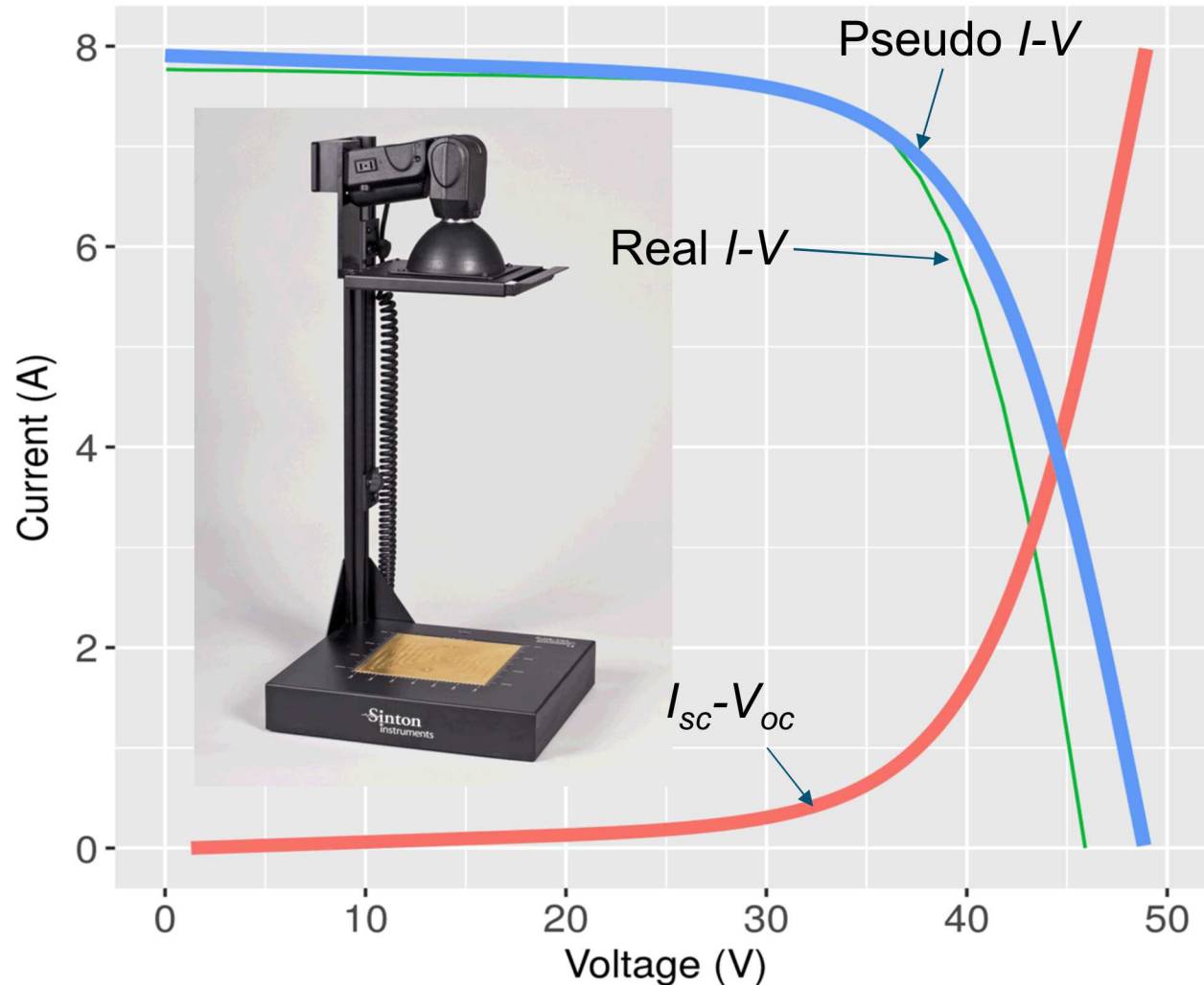




# Laboratory-Based Suns- $V_{OC}$



■ Isc-Voc curve ■ I-V curve at 1 sun irradiance ■ Pseudo I-V curve



$Suns-V_{OC} / I_{SC}-V_{OC}$

- from I-V at varying light intensities
- used to calculate pseudo I-V curve

Pseudo I-V curve

- “ideal” I-V
- without series resistance or current mismatch
- gain insight about degradation

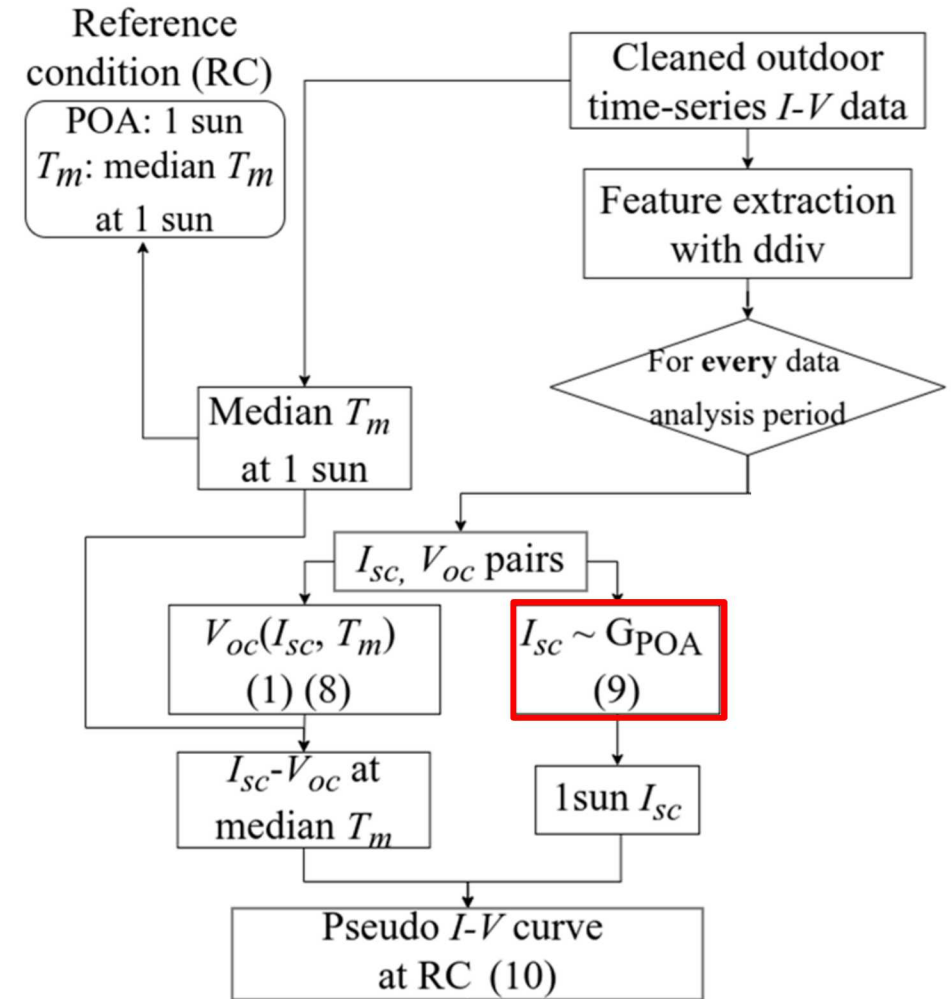


- Sufficiently long to collect enough low irradiance data to build  $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$
- But short enough to ensure pseudo-stability of the module
- To evaluate trends in power loss modes



# Outdoor $I_{sc}$ - $V_{oc}$ Curve Construction

$$I_{sc}(G_{POA}) = k \cdot G_{POA} + \epsilon \quad (9)$$

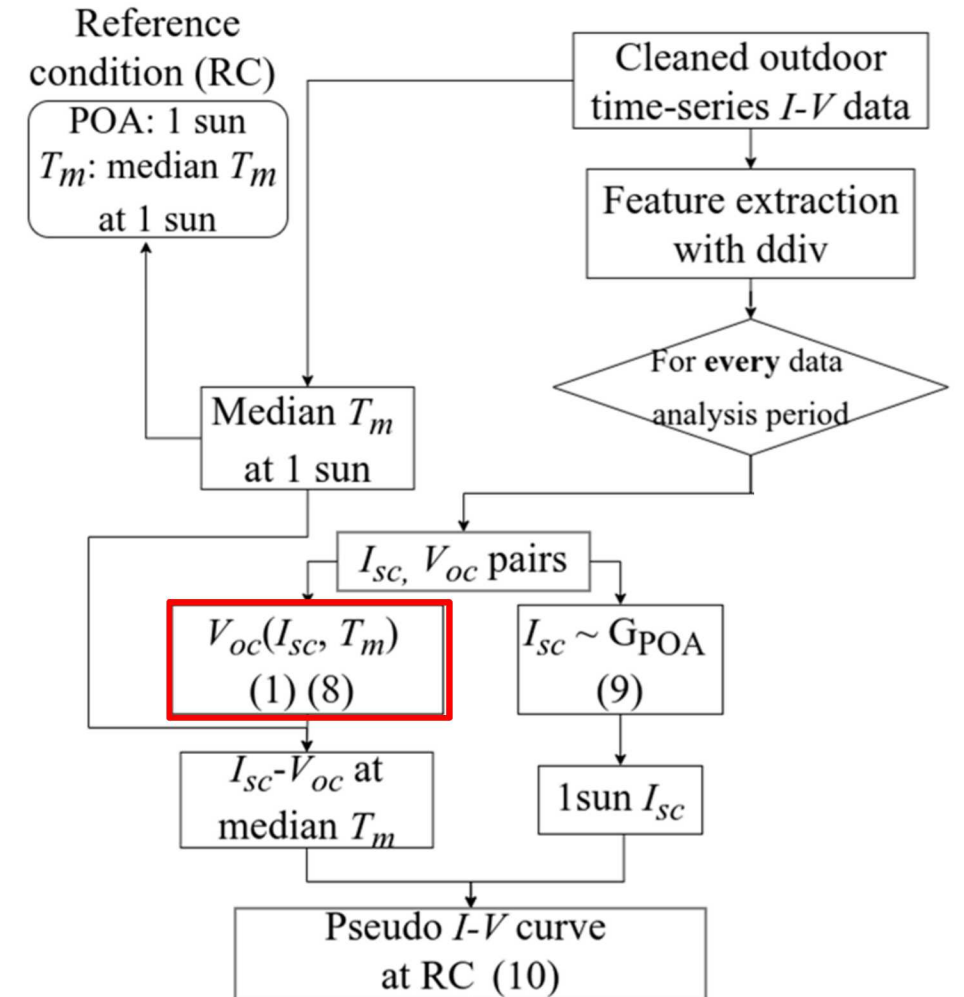


# Outdoor $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Curve Construction



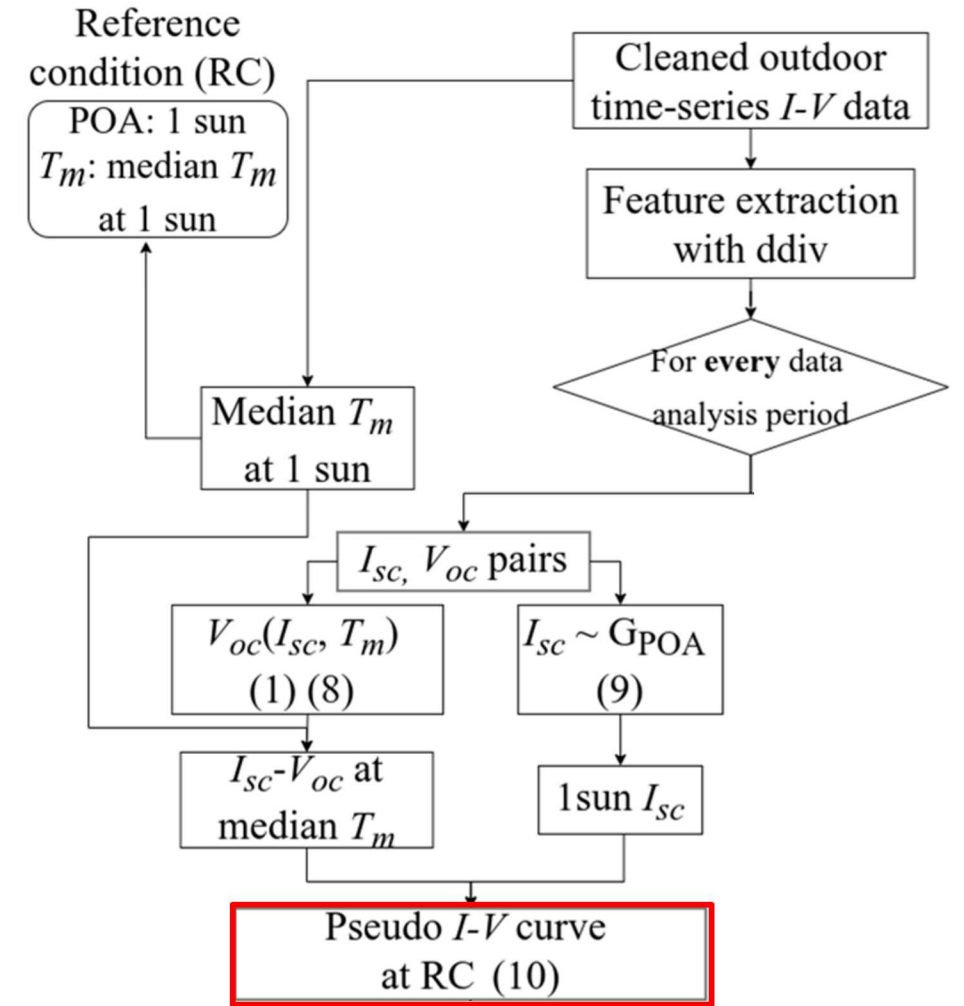
$$V_{oc} = V_{oc0} + N_C \cdot \delta(T_c) \ln(E_e) + \beta_{V_{oc}} (T_c - T_0) \quad (1)$$

$$V_{oc}(I_{sc}, T_m) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot (T_m + 273.15) \cdot \ln(I_{sc}) + \alpha_2 \cdot (T_m + 273.15) + \epsilon \quad (8)$$





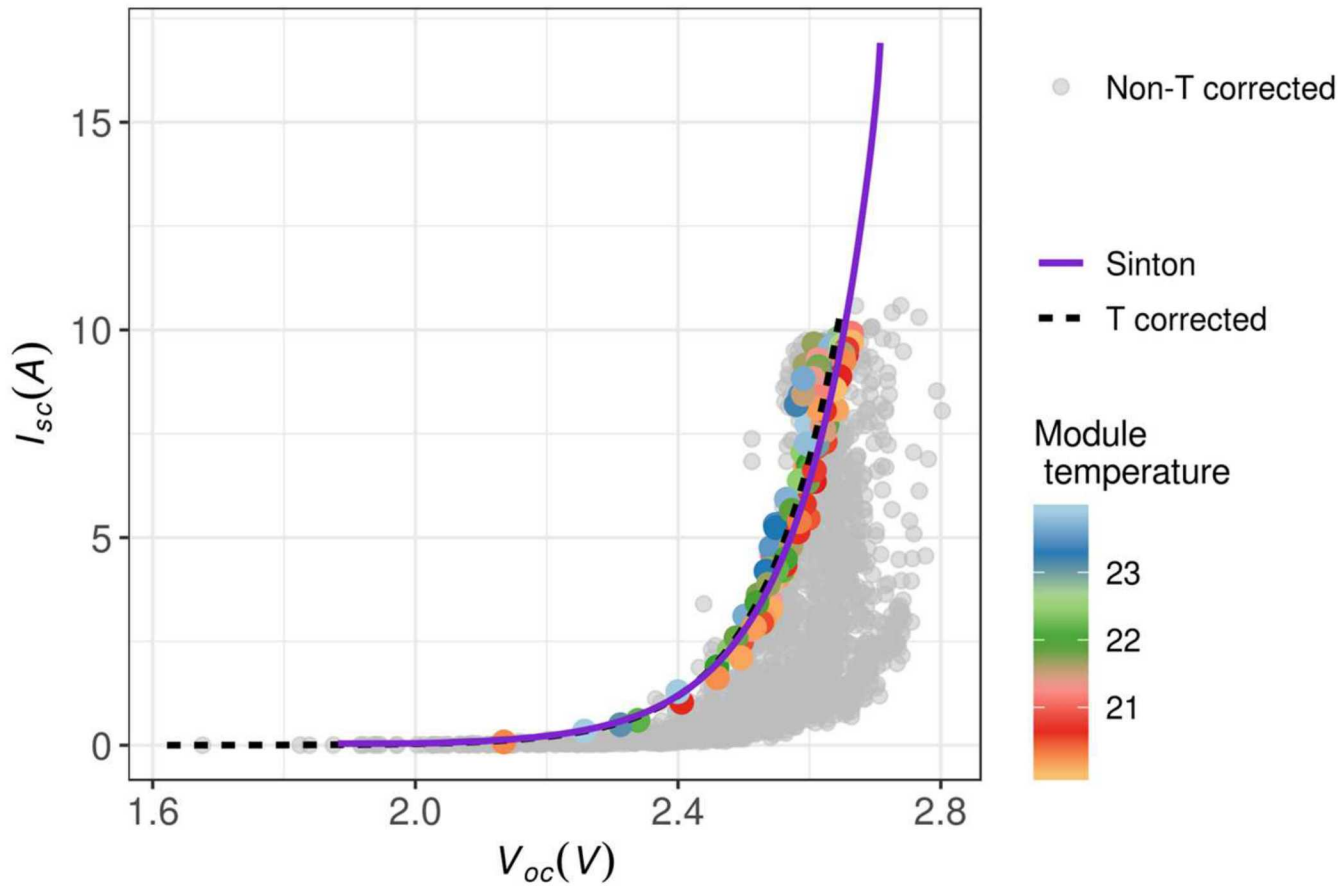
# Outdoor $I_{sc}$ - $V_{oc}$ Curve Construction



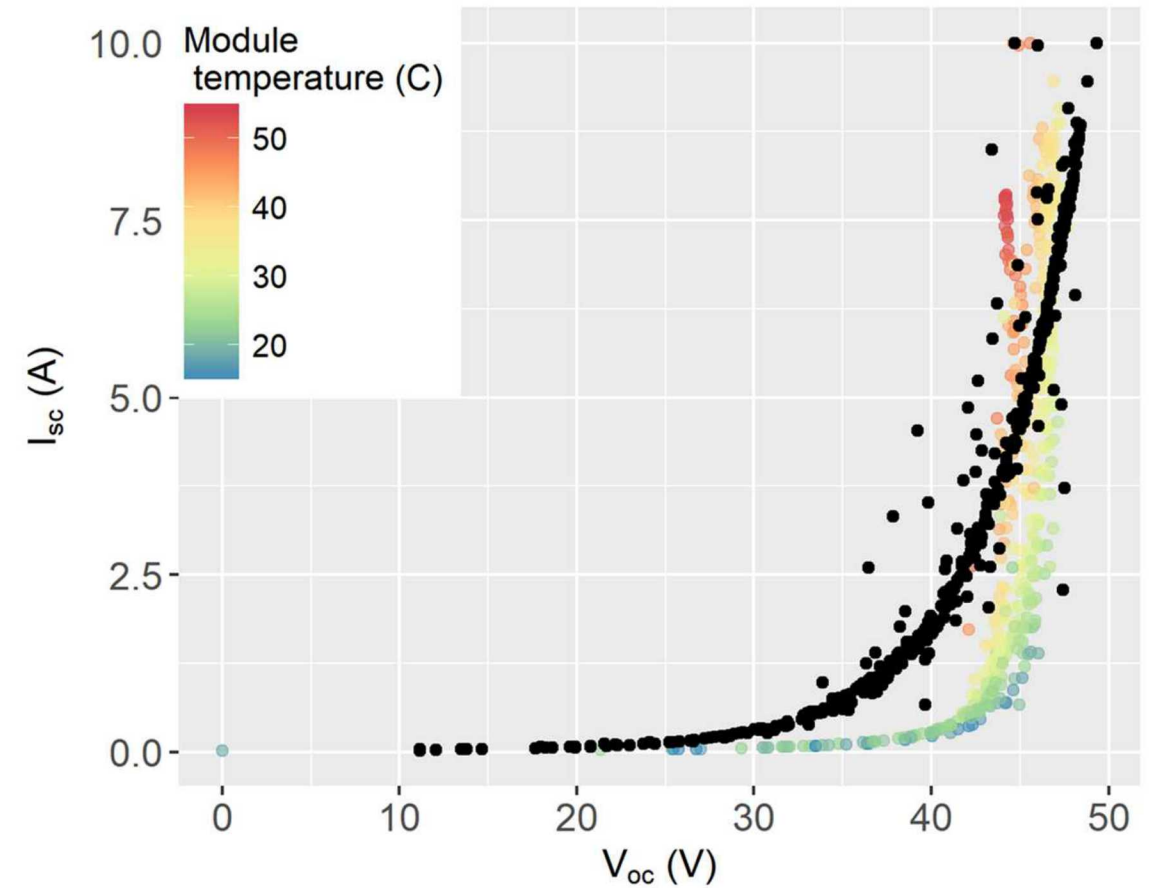
$$I_{psd} = I_{sc}^{RC} - I_{sc} \quad (10)$$



# $V_{oc}$ temperature correction results



Mini-module method validation



Full-size module temp correction



# Quantifying power loss mechanisms from $I_{sc}$ - $V_{oc}$



## Detecting loss mechanisms of c-Si PV modules by $I_{sc}$ - $V_{oc}$ and $I$ - $V$ measurement

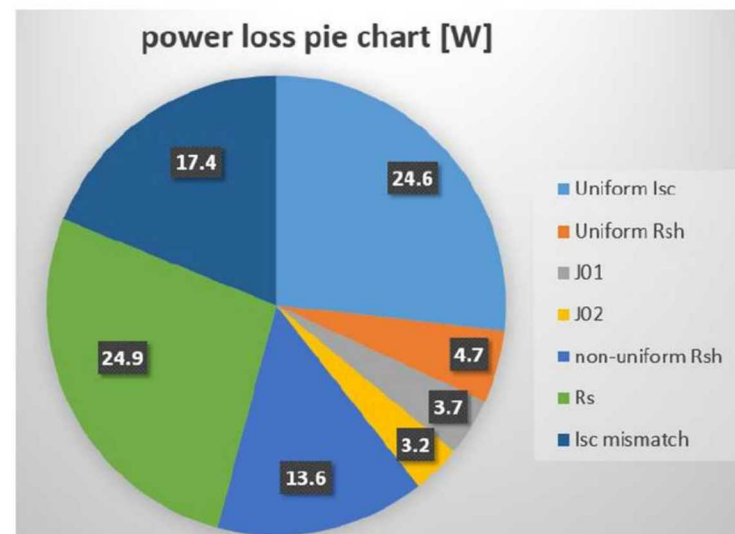
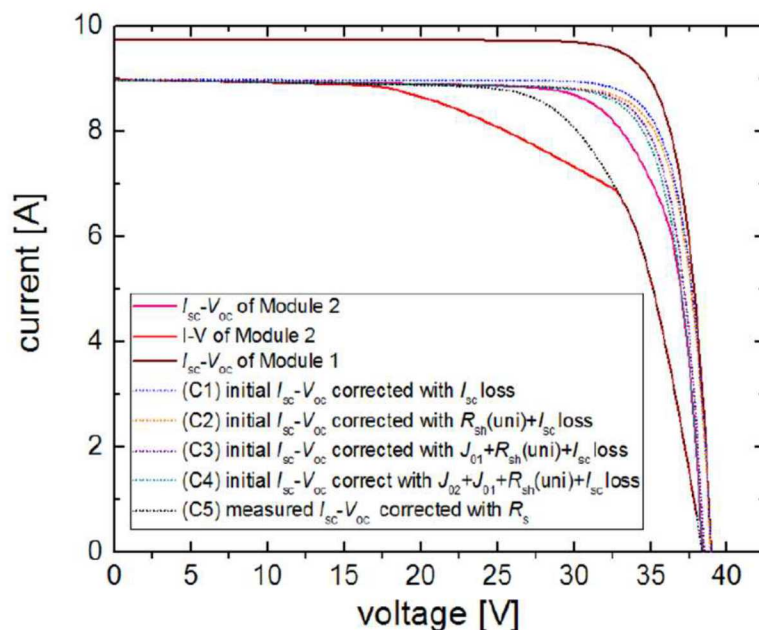
Siyu Guo<sup>a,b</sup>, Eric Schneller<sup>a,b</sup>, Joe Walters<sup>a,b</sup>, Kristopher O. Davis<sup>a,b</sup>,  
Winston V. Schoenfeld<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Florida Solar Energy Center, University of Central Florida, 1679 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL 32922,

<sup>b</sup>c-Si Division, U.S. Photovoltaic Manufacturing Consortium, 12354 Research Parkway, Orlando, FL 32826

Reliability of Photovoltaic Cells, Modules, Components, and Systems IX, edited by Neelkanth G. Dhere,  
John H. Wohlgemuth, Keiichiro Sakurai, Proc. of SPIE Vol. 9938, 99380N · © 2016 SPIE  
CCC code: 0277-786X/16/\$18 · doi: 10.1117/12.2236939

Proc. of SPIE Vol. 9938 99380N-1



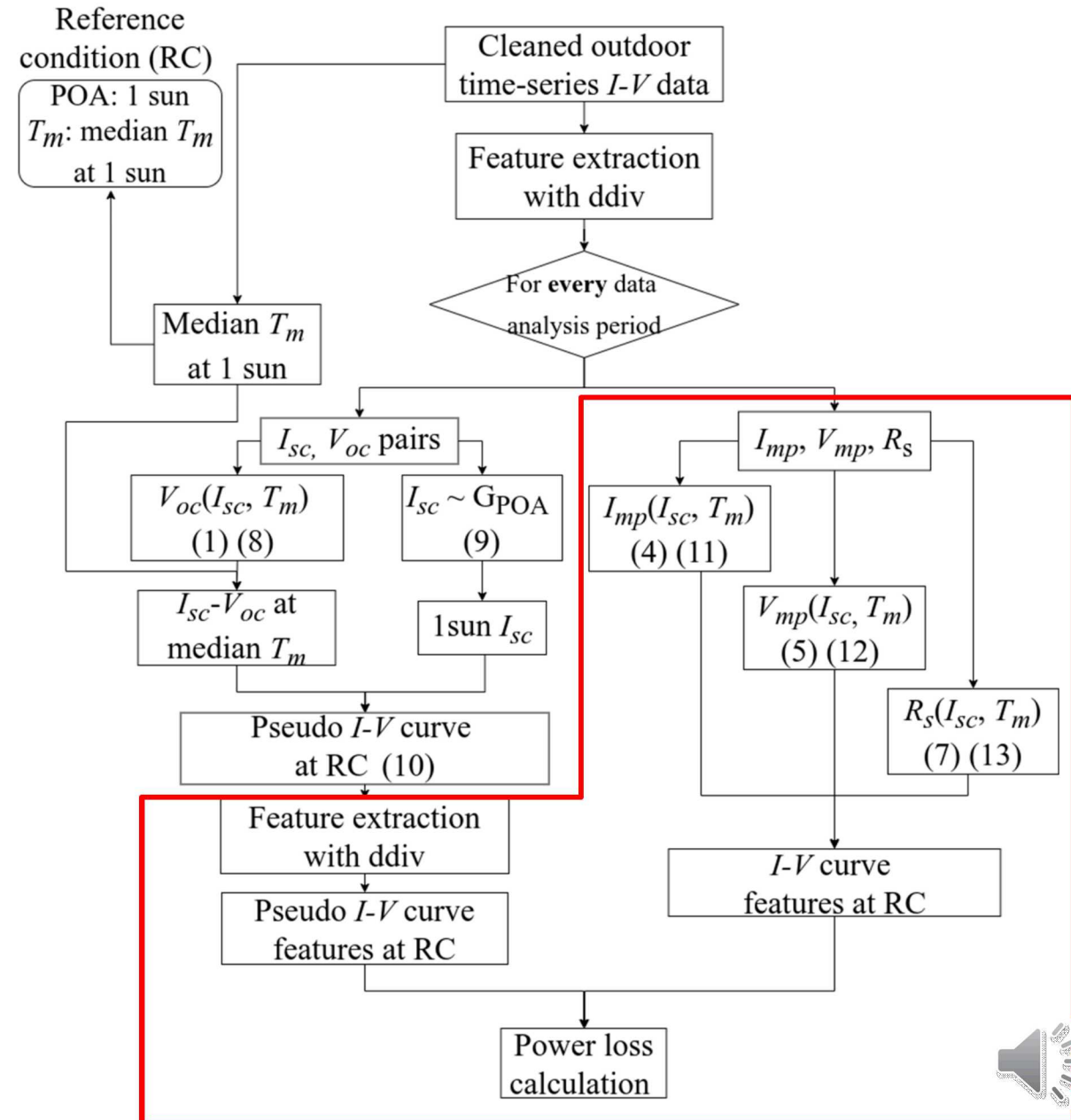
# $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Mechanistic Power Loss Calculation



In each analysis period:

- $I$ - $V$  features are modeled
- $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$  is constructed
- and parameterized

to create the sub- $I$ - $V$  curves for mechanistic power loss calculation

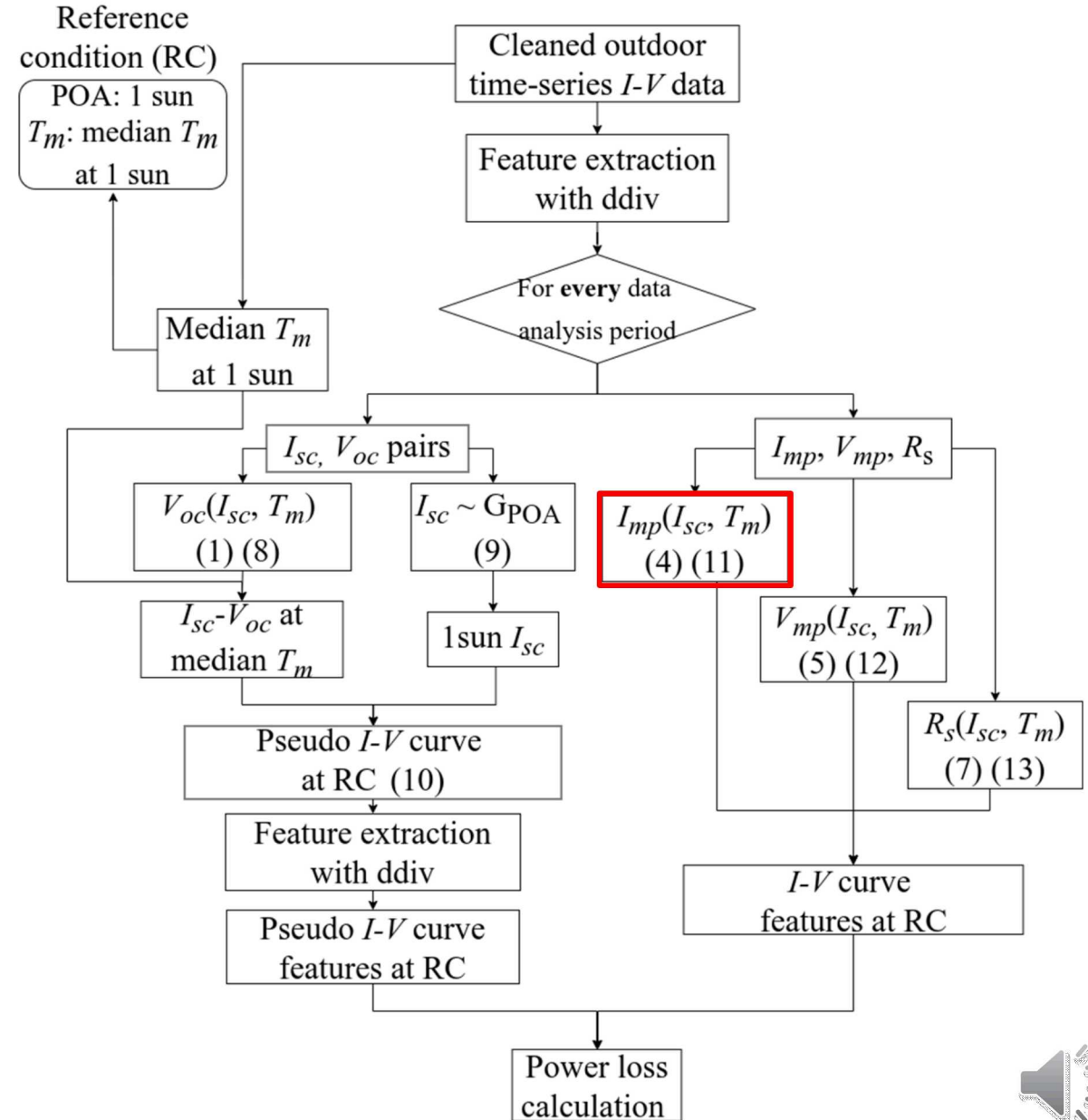


# $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Mechanistic Power Loss Calculation



$$I_{mp} = I_{mp0} \cdot \{C_0 \cdot E_e + C_1 \cdot E_e^2\} \cdot \{1 + \alpha_{I_{mp}}(T_c - T_0)\} \quad (4)$$

$$I_{mp}(I_{sc}, T_m) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot (T_m + 273.15) \cdot I_{sc} + \beta_2 \cdot (T_m + 273.15) \cdot I_{sc}^2 + \epsilon \quad (11)$$



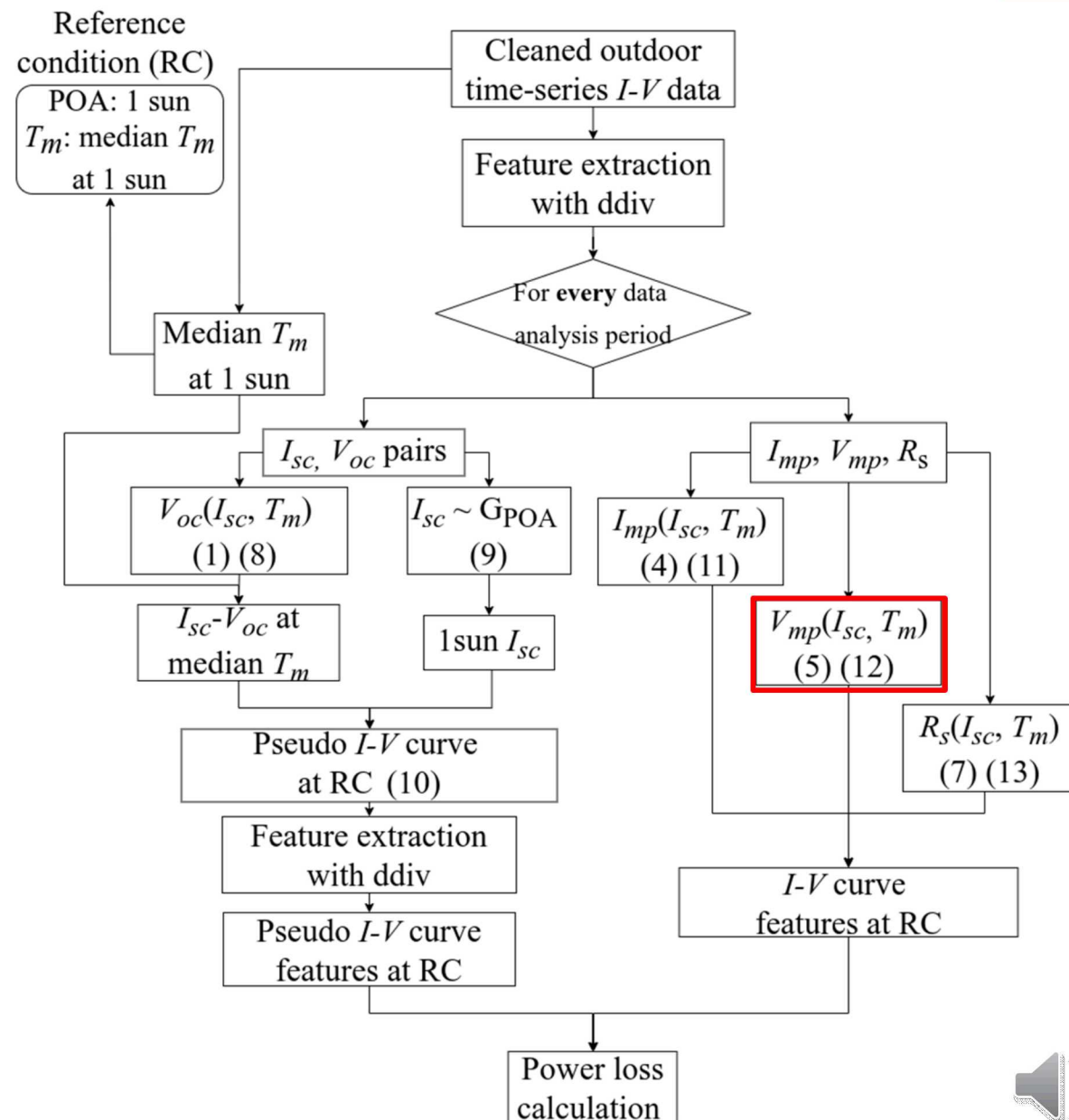


# $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Mechanistic Power Loss Calculation

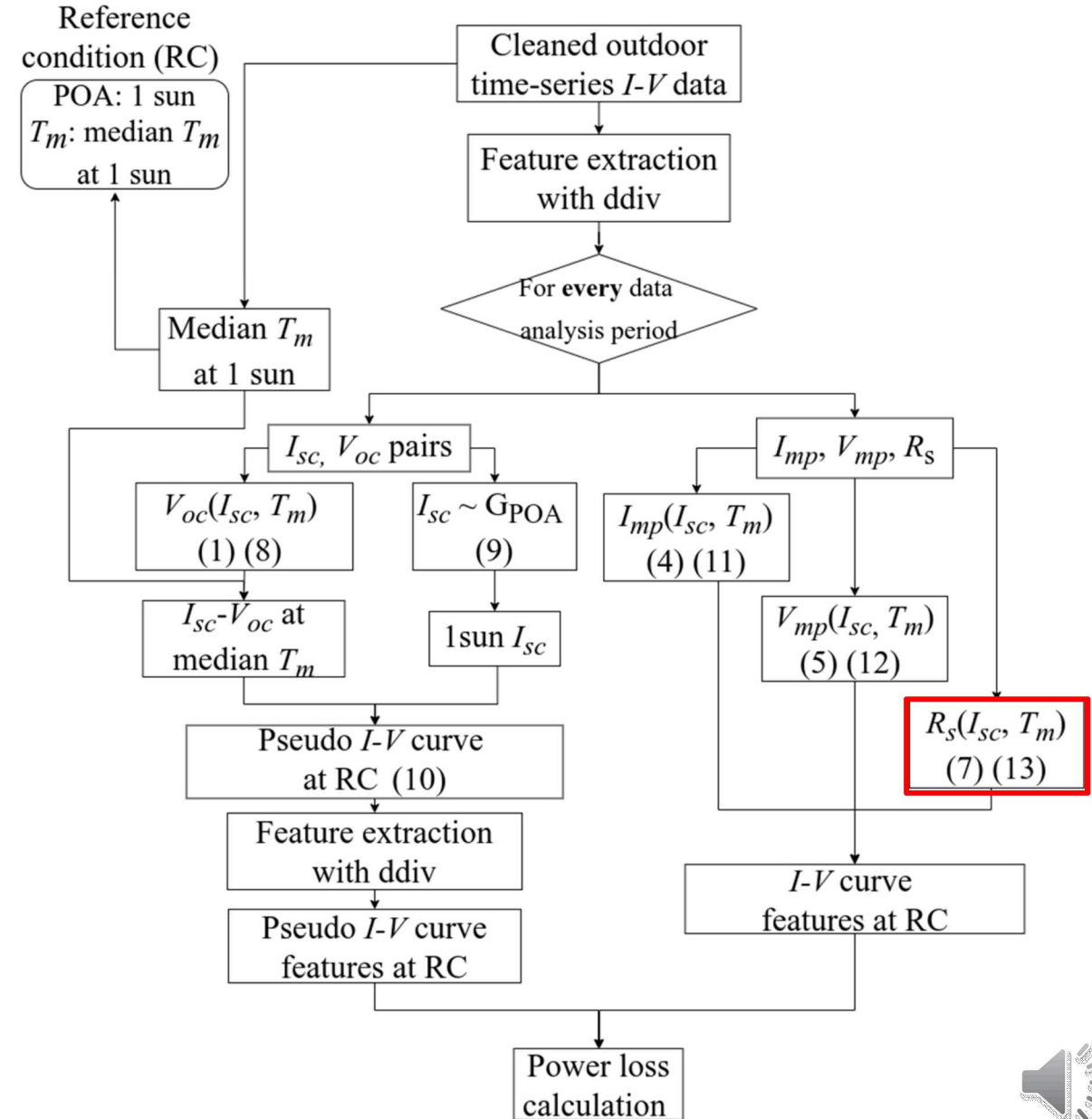


$$V_{mp} = V_{mp0} + C_2 N_C \cdot \delta(T_c) \ln(E_e) + C_3 N_c \{\delta(T_c) \ln(E_e)\}^2 + \beta_{V_{mp}}(E_e)(T_c - T_0) \quad (5)$$

$$V_{mp}(I_{sc}, T_m) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \cdot (T_m + 273.15) \cdot \ln(I_{sc}) + \gamma_2 \cdot \{(T_m + 273.15) \ln(I_{sc})\}^2 + \gamma_3 \cdot (T_m + 273.15) + \epsilon \quad (12)$$



# $I_{sc}$ - $V_{oc}$ Mechanistic Power Loss Calculation

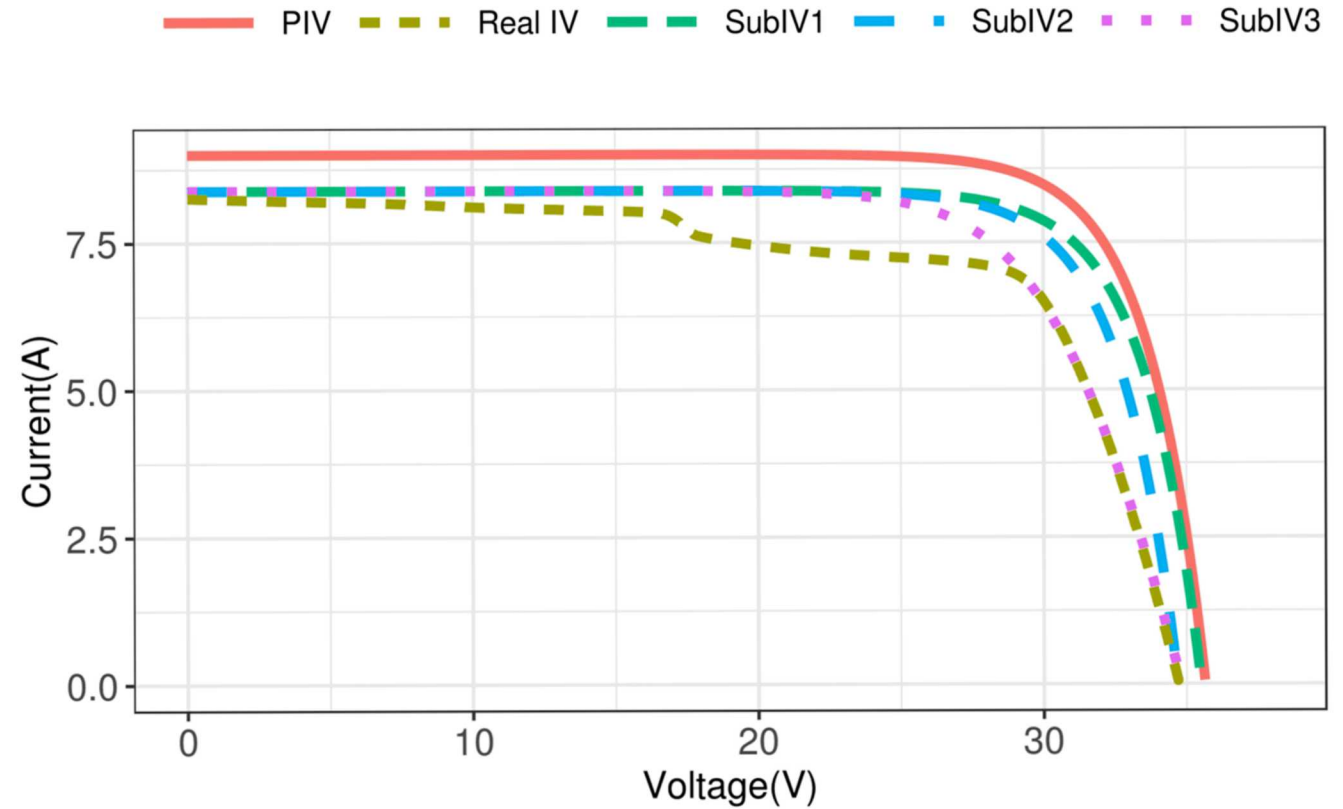
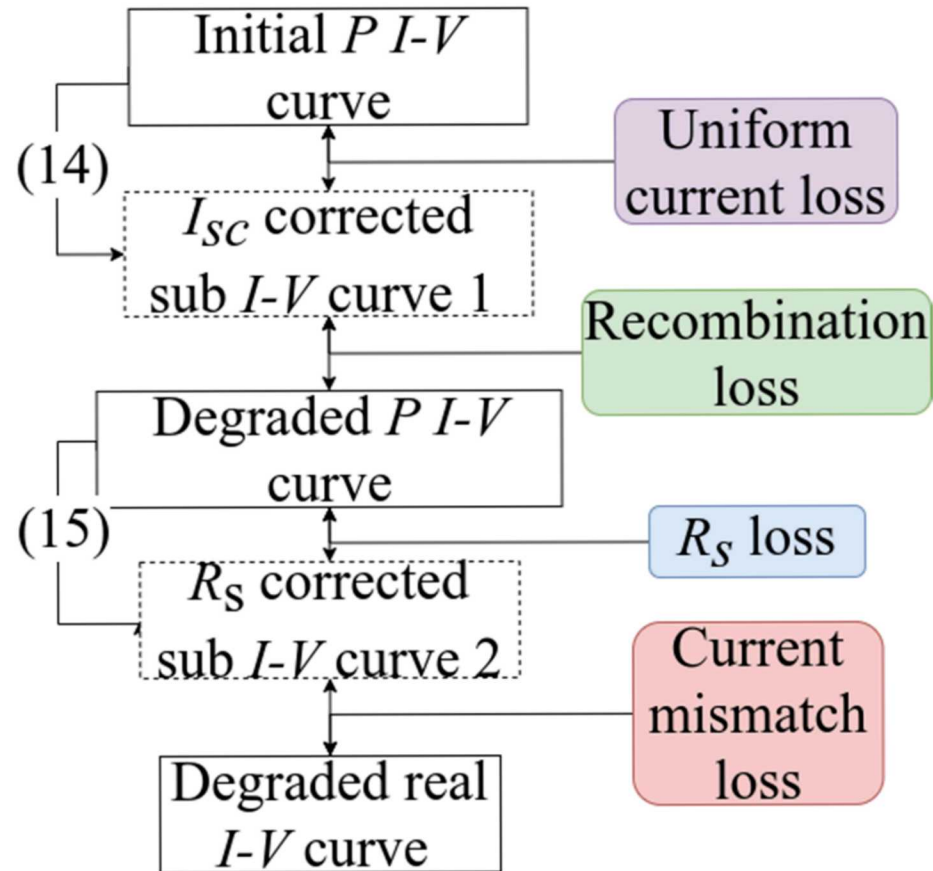


$$R_s = R_{s0} - \frac{N_c}{I_{sc}} \frac{n k_B (T_c + 273.15)}{q} \quad (7)$$

$$R_s(I_{sc}, T_m) = \zeta_0 + \zeta_1 \frac{T_m + 273.15}{I_{sc}} + \epsilon \quad (13)$$



# $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Power Loss Calculation



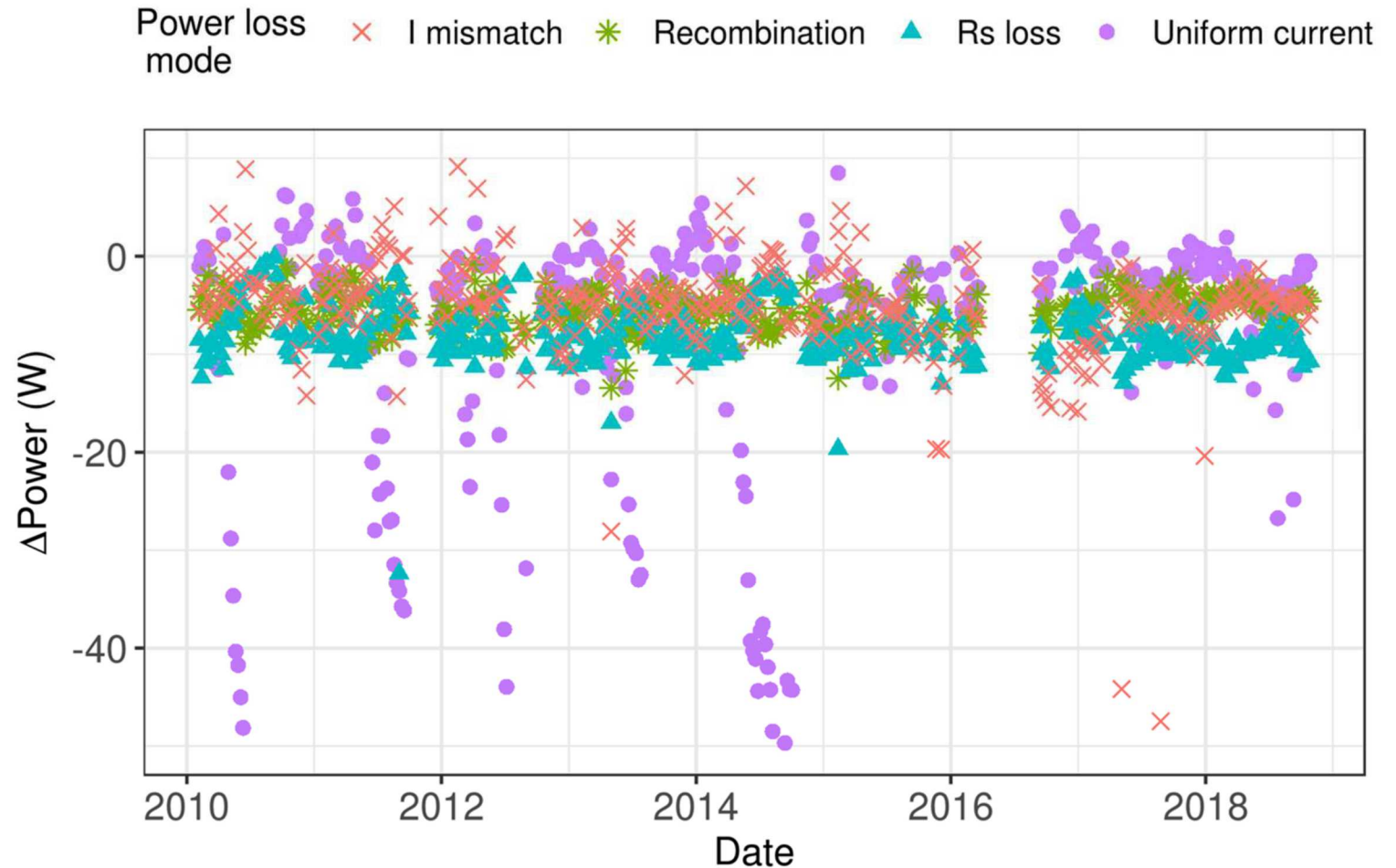
$$I_{C1} = I_{init} - \Delta I_{sc} \quad (14)$$

$$V_{C2} = V_{degrPIV} + I \cdot R_{s-degrPIV} - I \cdot R_{s-IV} \quad (15)$$



For outdoor I-V data:

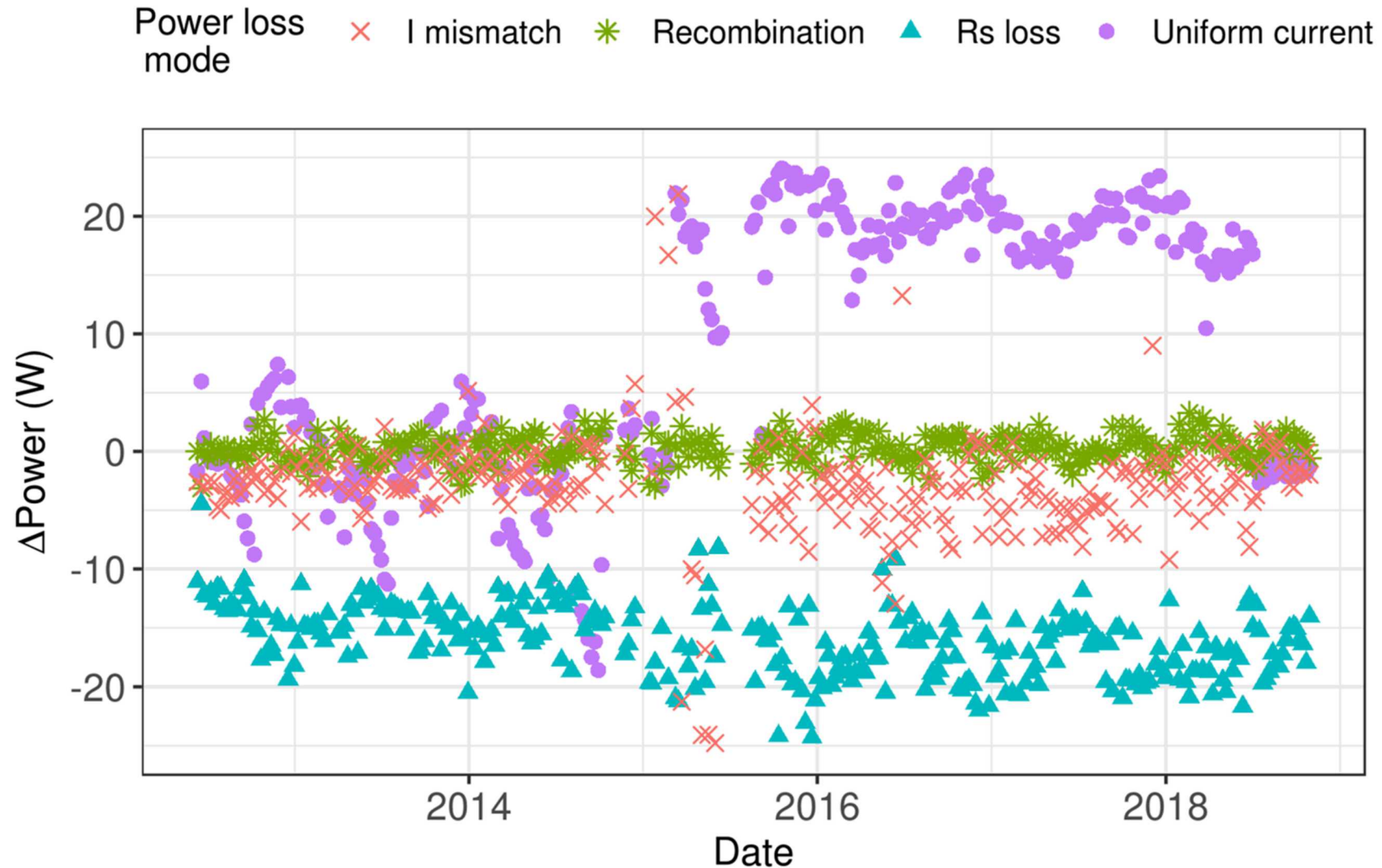
- loss mechanisms as time-series variables



Results for c-Si module in Gran Canaria



# Analytic $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Obtained Loss Mechanism Time-series

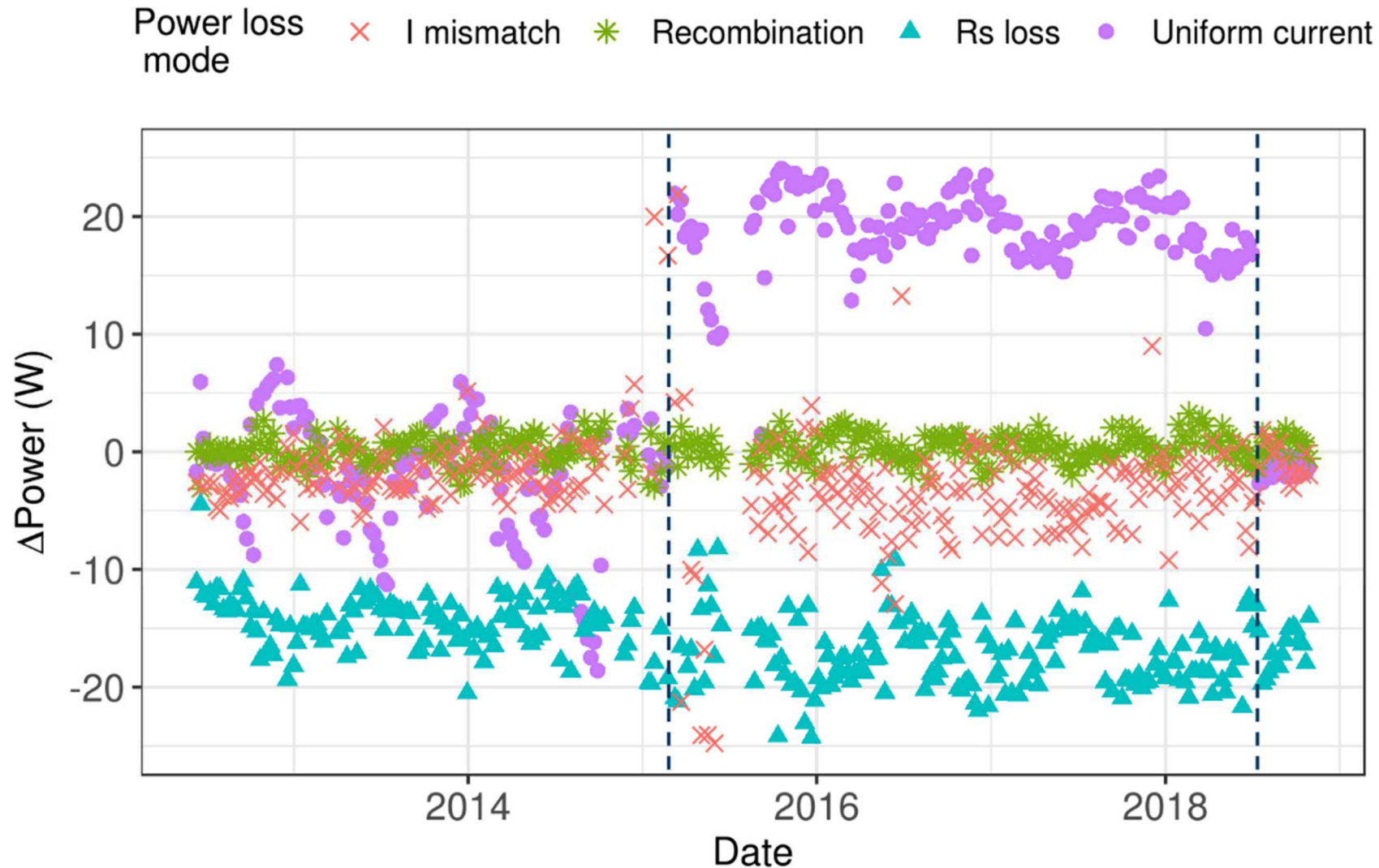


Results for c-Si module in the Negev





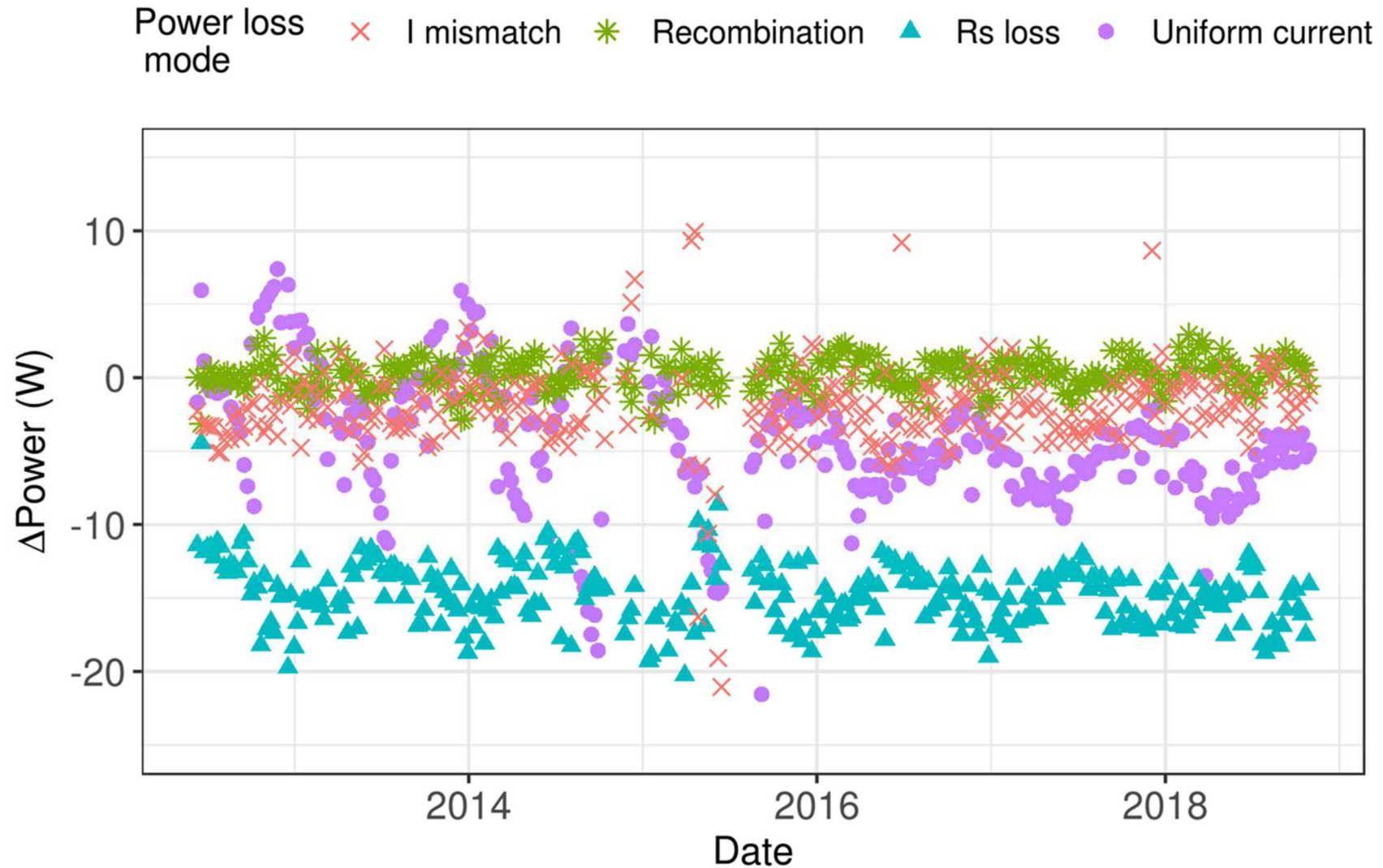
# Analytic $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Obtained Loss Mechanism Time-series



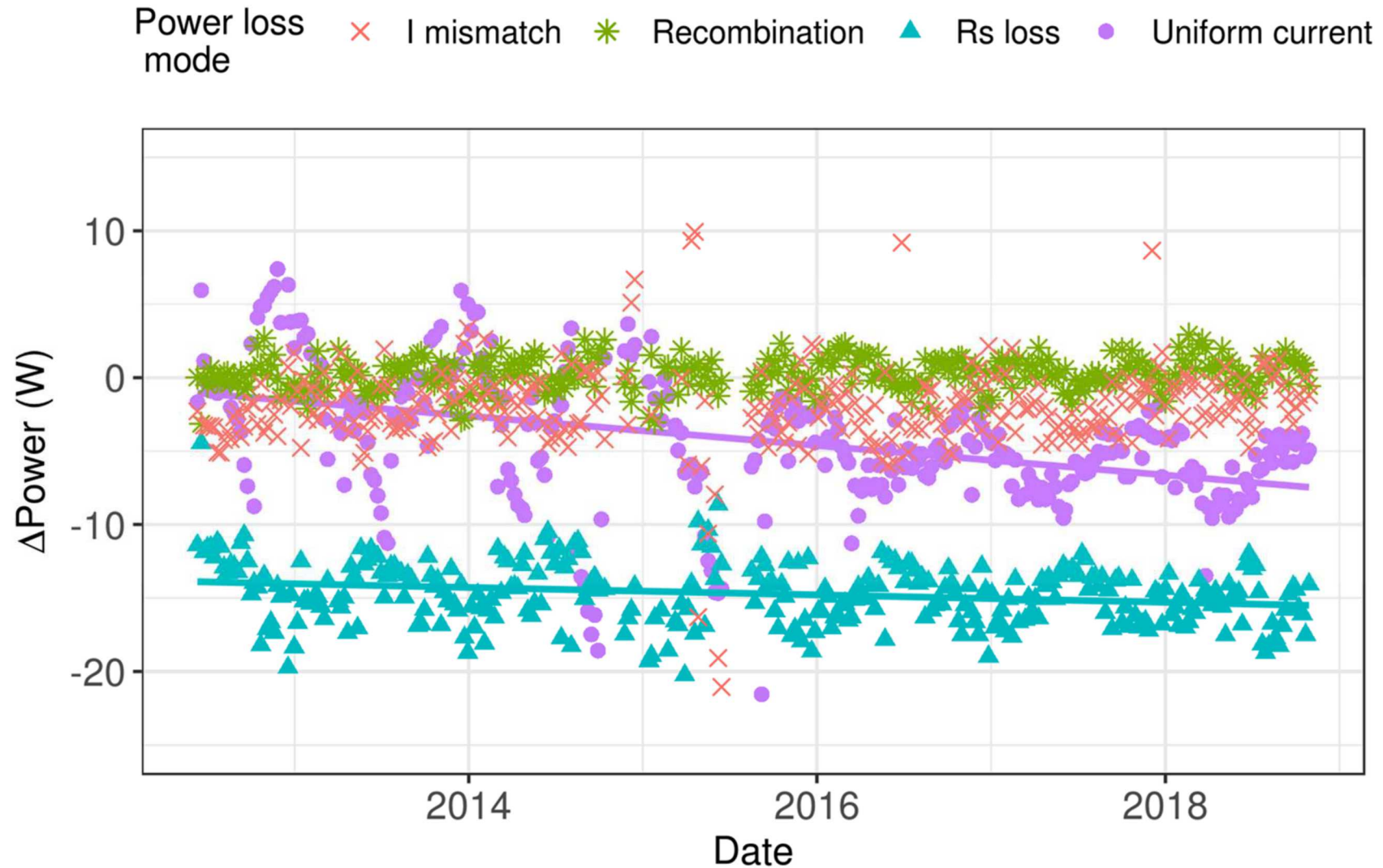
Results for c-Si module in the Negev



# Analytic $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Obtained Loss Mechanism Time-series



# Analytic $I_{SC}$ - $V_{OC}$ Obtained Loss Mechanism Time-series



Results for c-Si module in the Negev







# Analytic $I_{sc}$ – $V_{oc}$ Method and Power Loss Modes From Outdoor Time-Series $I$ – $V$ Curves

Menghong Wang , Jiqi Liu , Tyler J. Burleyson , Eric J. Schneller , Kristopher O. Davis , Roger H. French , *Member, IEEE*, and Jennifer L. Braid , *Member, IEEE*

CRAN - Package SunsVoc
+

https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/SunsVoc/index.html

### SunsVoc: Constructing Suns-Voc from Outdoor Time-Series I-V Curves

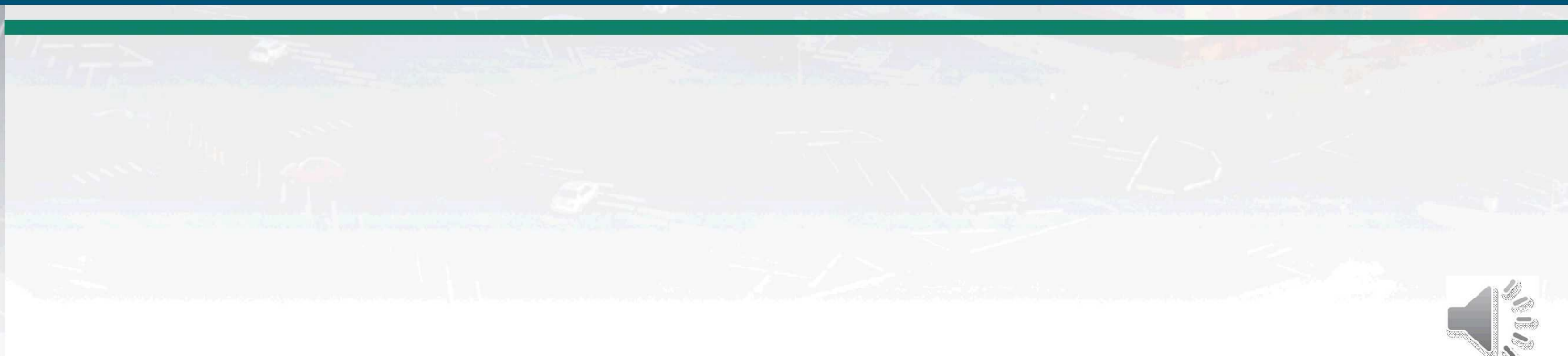
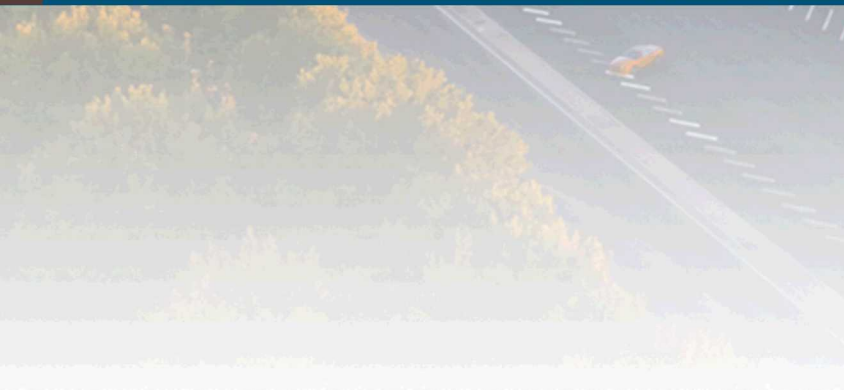
Suns-Voc (or  $I_{sc}$ -Voc) curves can provide the current-voltage (I-V) characteristics of the diode of photovoltaic cells without the effect of series resistance. Here, Suns-Voc curves can be constructed with outdoor time-series I-V curves [1,2,3] of full-size photovoltaic (PV) modules instead of having to be measured in the lab. Time series of four different power loss modes can be calculated based on obtained Suns-Voc curves. This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) Agreement Number DE-EE0008172. Jennifer L. Braid is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) for the DOE. ORISE is managed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) under DOE contract number DE-SC0014664. [1] Wang, M. et al, 2018. <[doi:10.1109/PVSC.2018.8547772](https://doi.org/10.1109/PVSC.2018.8547772)>. [2] Walters et al, 2018 <[doi:10.1109/PVSC.2018.8548187](https://doi.org/10.1109/PVSC.2018.8548187)>. [3] Guo, S. et al, 2016. <[doi:10.1117/12.2236939](https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2236939)>.

Version:	0.1.0
Depends:	R ( $\geq$ 3.5.0)
Imports:	<a href="#">ddiv</a> , <a href="#">magrittr</a> , <a href="#">stringr</a> , <a href="#">dplyr</a> , <a href="#">purrr</a> , <a href="#">data.table</a> , <a href="#">rlang</a>
Suggests:	<a href="#">testthat</a> ( $\geq$ 2.1.0), <a href="#">knitr</a> , <a href="#">rmarkdown</a> , <a href="#">ggplot2</a>
Published:	2020-06-29
Author:	Menghong Wang  [aut], Tyler J. Burleyson  [aut, cre], Jiqi Liu  [aut], Alan J. Curran  [aut], Eric J. Schneller  [aut], Kristopher O. Davis  [aut], Jennifer L. Braid  [aut], Roger H. French  [aut, cph]
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# Analytic External Quantum Efficiency



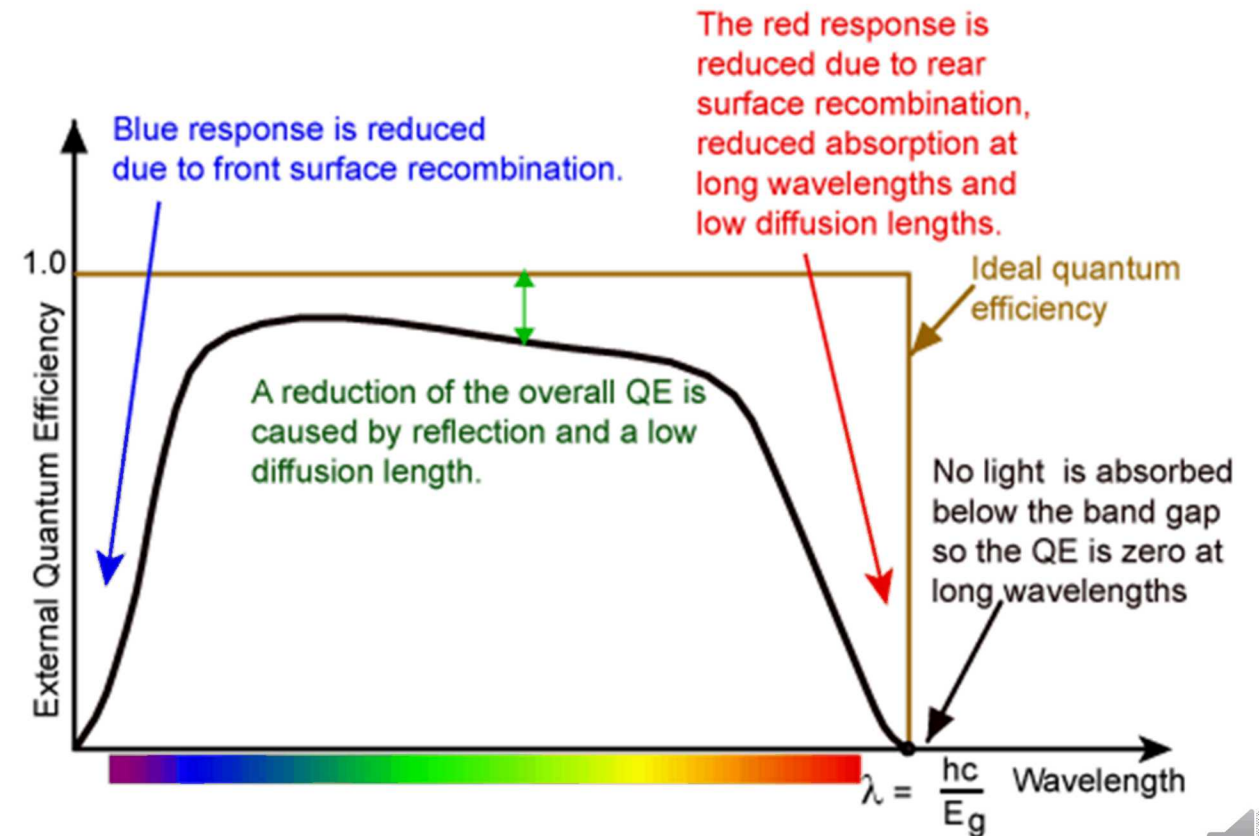




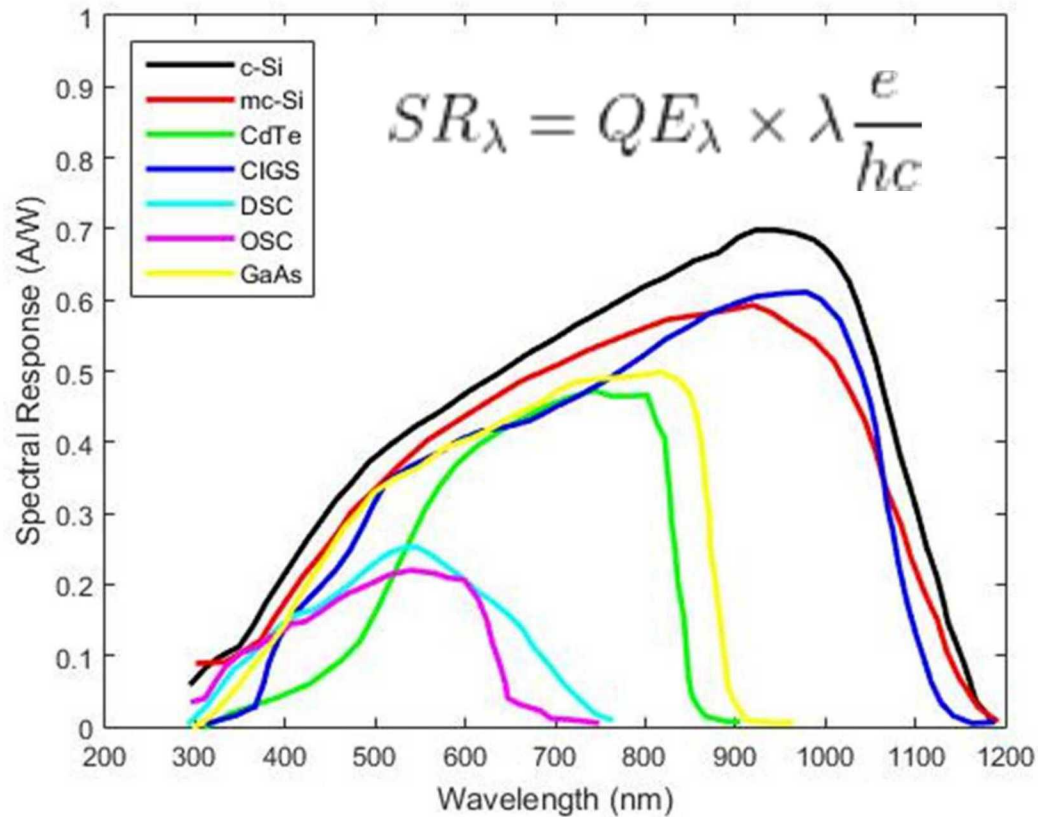
$$EQE = \frac{J_{sc} / q}{\phi_{in}}$$

## External Quantum Efficiency (EQE)

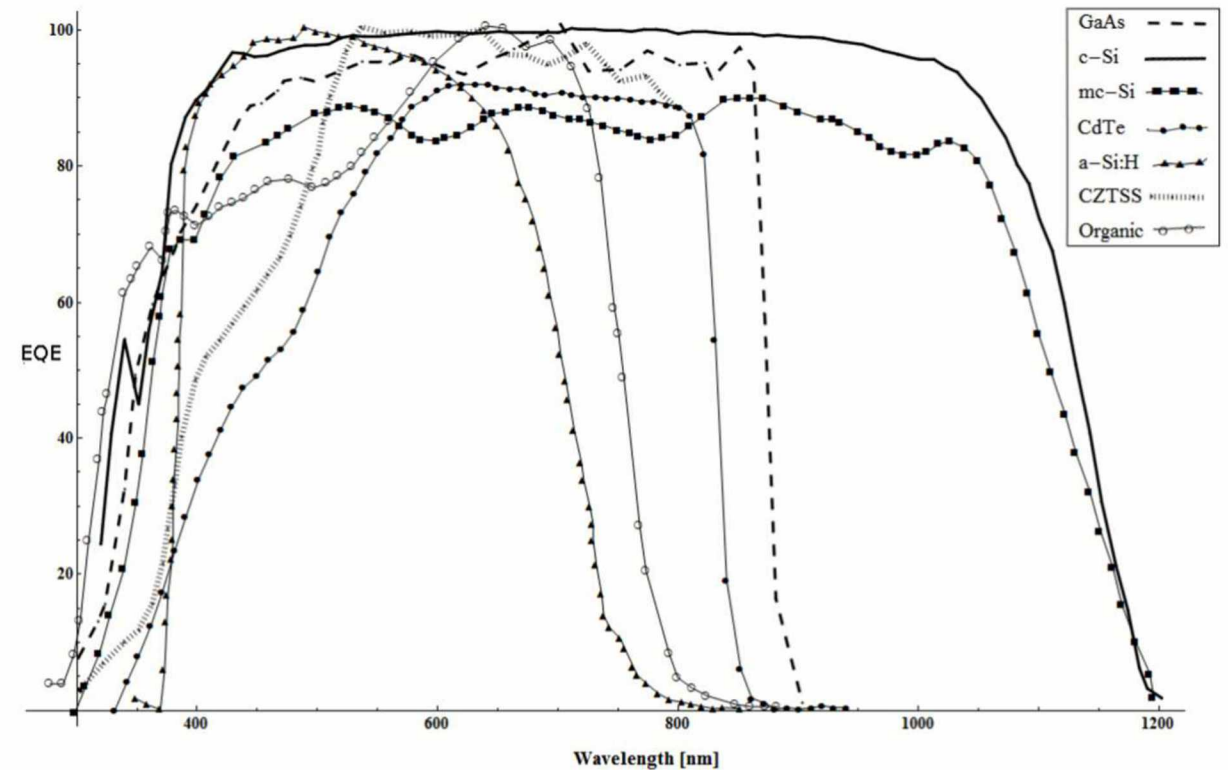
- Ratio of collected electrons to incident photons on device
- Depends on absorption of light and collection of charge carriers
- Usually measured on cells using monochromator



# Spectral Response vs EQE



<https://pvpmc.sandia.gov/modeling-steps/2-dc-module-iv/effective-irradiance/spectral-response/>



Brennan, M.P.; Abrahamse, A.; Andrews, R.; Pearce, J. (2014). Effects of Spectral Albedo on Solar Photovoltaic Devices. Solar Energy Materials and Solar Cells. 124. 111–116. 10.1016/j.solmat.2014.01.046.

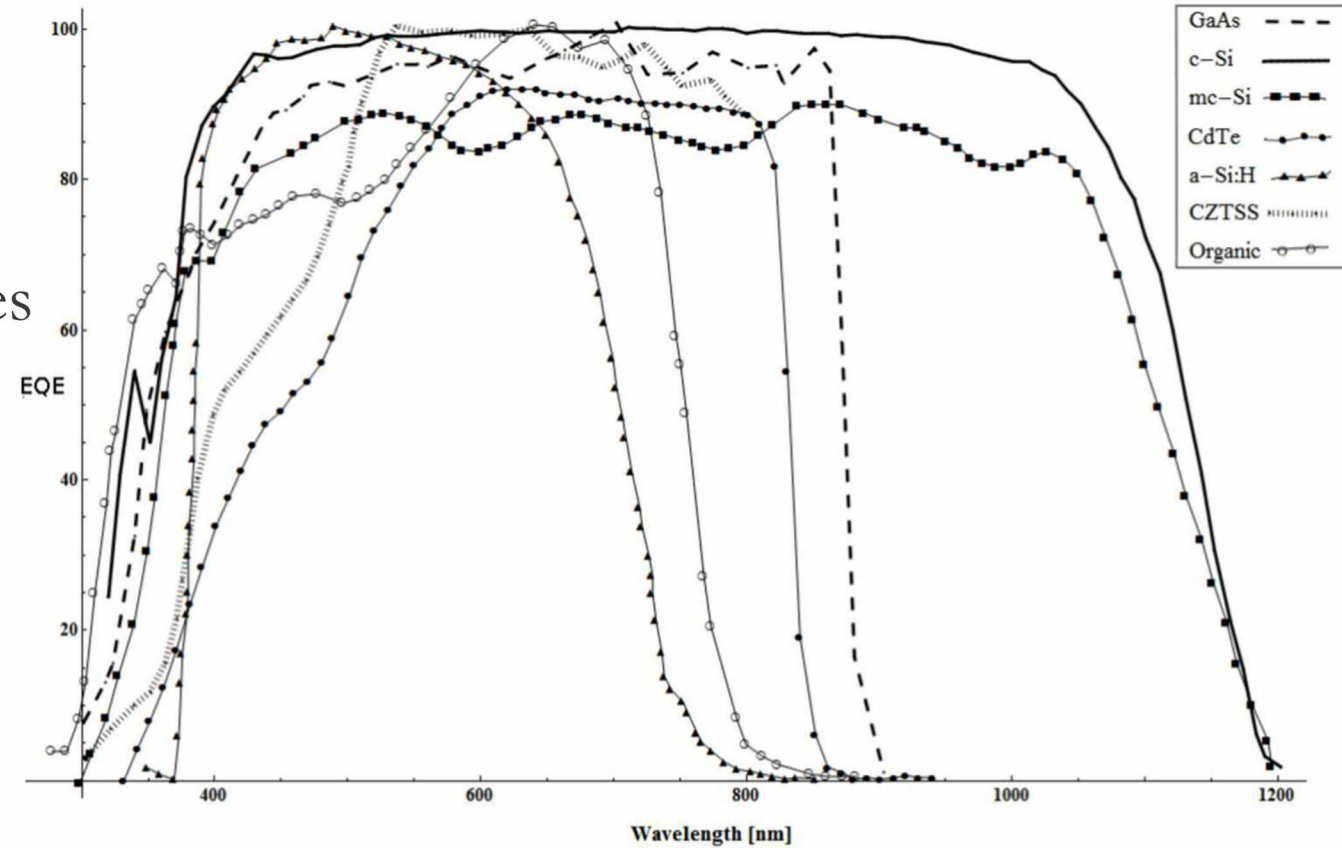
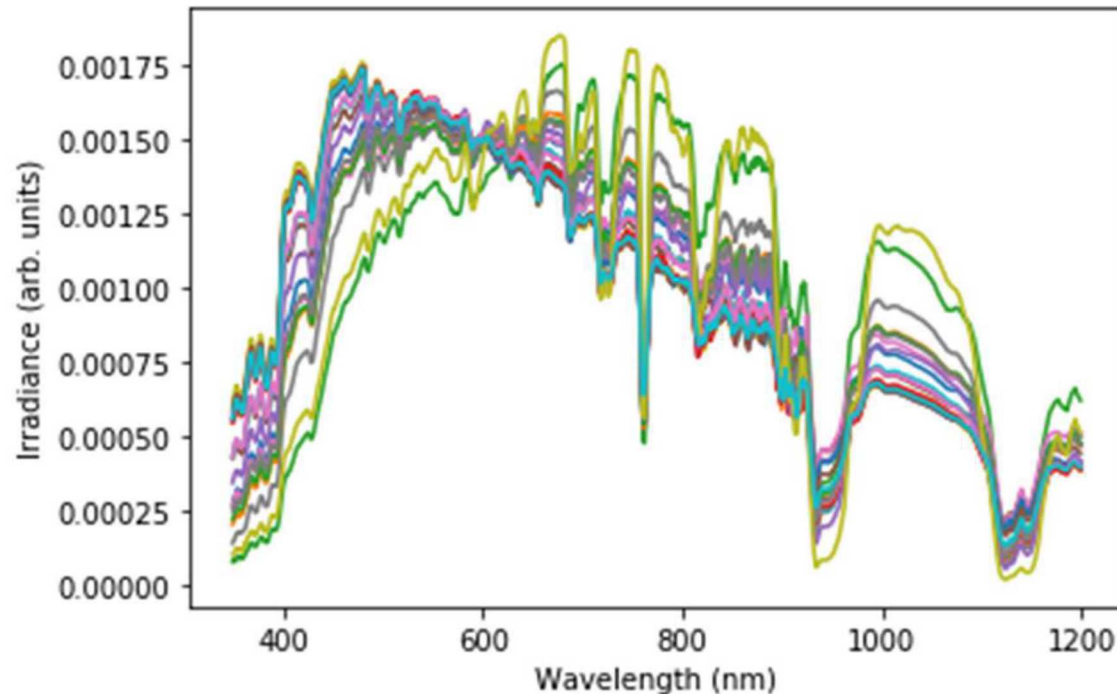


# Mining EQE from Field Data

Relies on natural variations in the incident solar spectrum

Similar to Analytic Suns- $V_{OC}$ , need sufficiently long and varying time series

Unique challenges for modules



Brennan, M.P.; Abrahamse, A.; Andrews, R.; Pearce, J. (2014). Effects of Spectral Albedo on Solar Photovoltaic Devices. Solar Energy Materials and Solar Cells. 124. 111–116. 10.1016/j.solmat.2014.01.046.





$$J_{SC} = q \int EQE(\lambda) \phi(\lambda) d\lambda$$

$$J_{SC} = q \sum_{\lambda} EQE(\lambda) \phi(\lambda) \Delta\lambda$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} J_{SC1} \\ J_{SC2} \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ J_{SCt} \end{bmatrix} = q \begin{bmatrix} \phi_1(\lambda_1) & \phi_1(\lambda_2) & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \phi_1(\lambda_n) \\ \phi_2(\lambda_1) & \phi_2(\lambda_2) & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \phi_2(\lambda_n) \\ & & \dots & & & & \\ & & \dots & & & & \\ & & \dots & & & & \\ & & \dots & & & & \\ & & \dots & & & & \\ & & \dots & & & & \\ \phi_t(\lambda_1) & \phi_t(\lambda_2) & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \phi_t(\lambda_n) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} EQE(\lambda_1) \\ EQE(\lambda_2) \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ EQE(\lambda_n) \end{bmatrix} \Delta\lambda$$



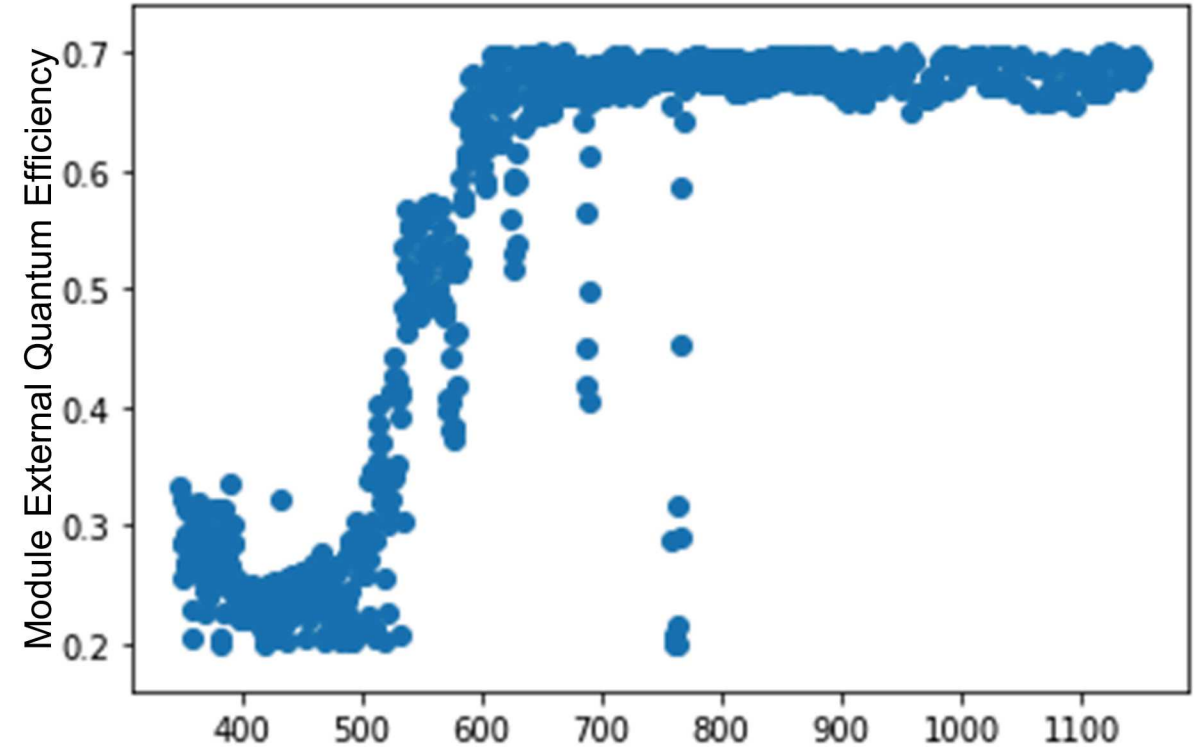


## Initial Analytic EQE result

Reasonable shape of QE curve in UV region based on bound least-squares matrix inversion

EQE is overestimated in IR region due to temperature effect on the band gap

Also shows decreases in EQE corresponding to  $O_2$  and  $H_2O$  absorbance in AM1.5G spectrum



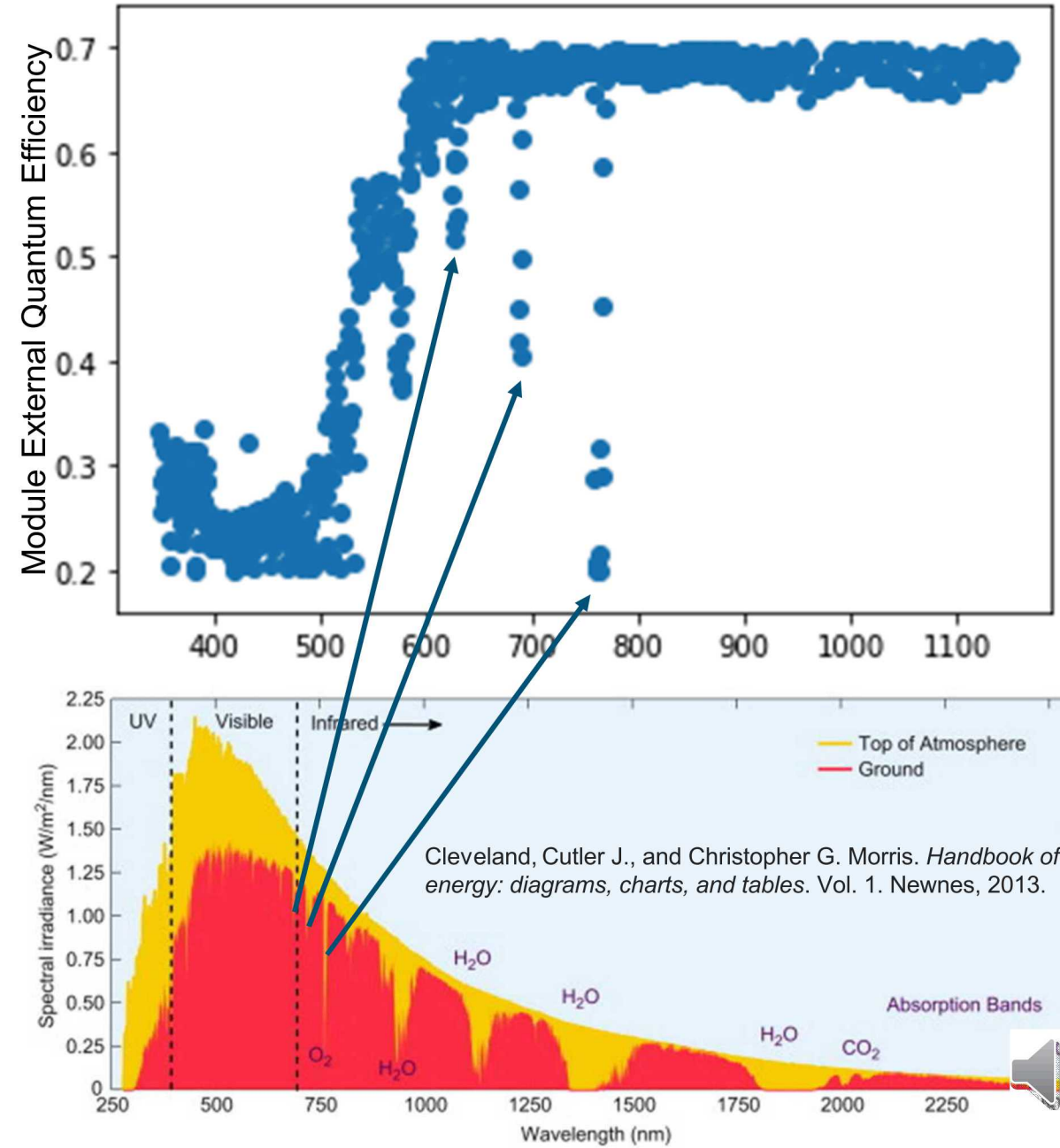


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Varshni, Y. P.  
1967

Physica 34  
149-154

## TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE OF THE ENERGY GAP IN SEMICONDUCTORS

by Y. P. VARSHNI

Department of Physics, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada

### Synopsis

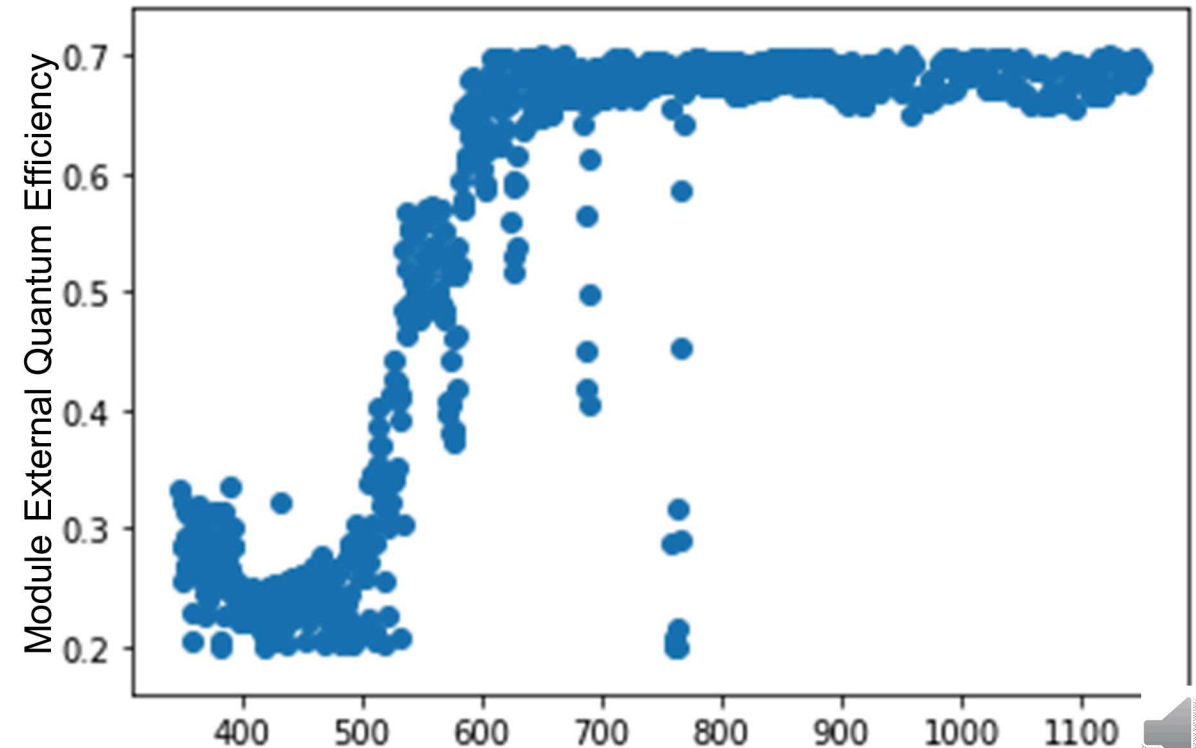
A relation for the variation of the energy gap ( $E_g$ ) with temperature ( $T$ ) in semiconductors is proposed:

$$E_g = E_0 - \alpha T^2 / (T + \beta)$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are constants. The equation satisfactorily represents the experimental data for diamond, Si, Ge, 6H-SiC, GaAs, InP and InAs.

$$E_g(T) = E_g(0) - \frac{\alpha T^2}{T + \beta}$$

$$\lambda'_i = \lambda_i \times \frac{E_g(T)}{E_g(300)}$$



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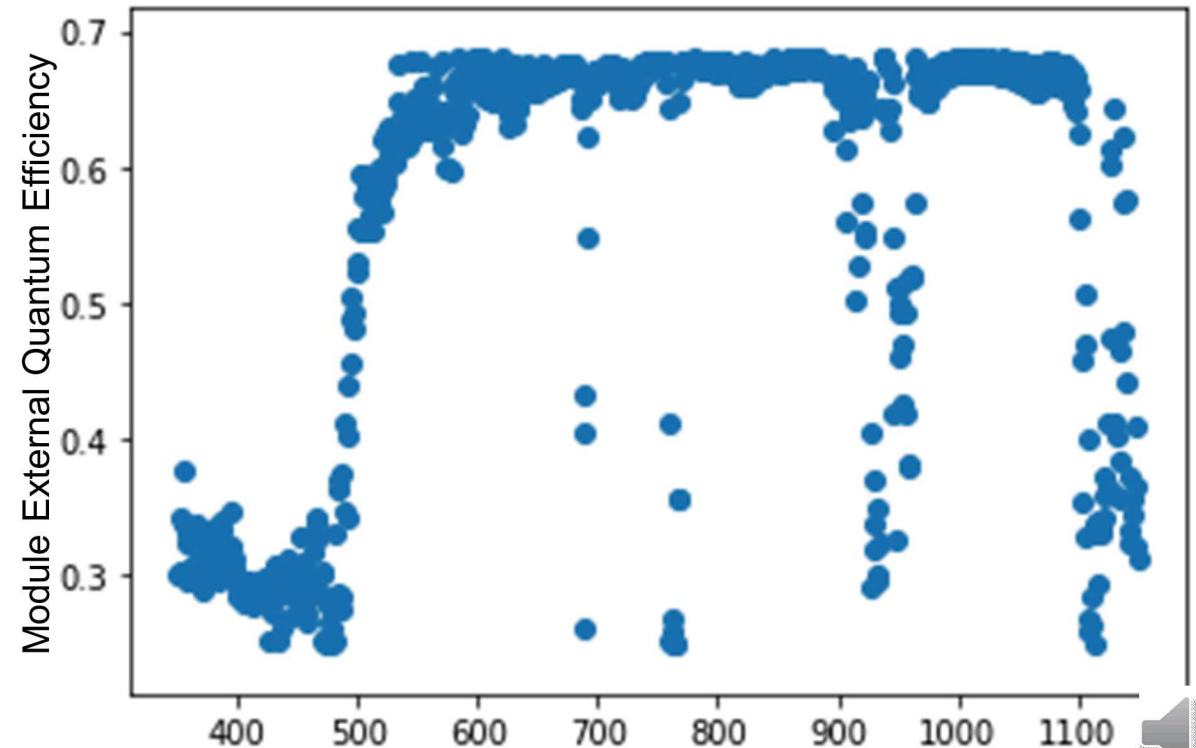
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Mechanistic performance data mined from time-series can be used to:

- Evaluate long-term trends in performance
- Identify dominant or changing degradation mechanisms

Or can be used as a monitoring tool to:

- Alert operators to “abnormal” conditions or data issues
- Indicate need for service e.g., cleaning

Future work:

- Adapt Field Analytic Isc-Voc and EQE measurements for inverter data
- Validation of mined datatypes and analysis with laboratory measurements



# Acknowledgments



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Jiqi Liu

Roger French

## Sandia National Labs

Joshua Stein

Cliff Hansen



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY EST. 1826



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

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