



# Using Artificial Intelligence for Grid Data



Matthew J. Reno and Joseph A. Azzolini  
Sandia National Laboratories

2022 Southeastern Energy Conference  
April 7, 2022



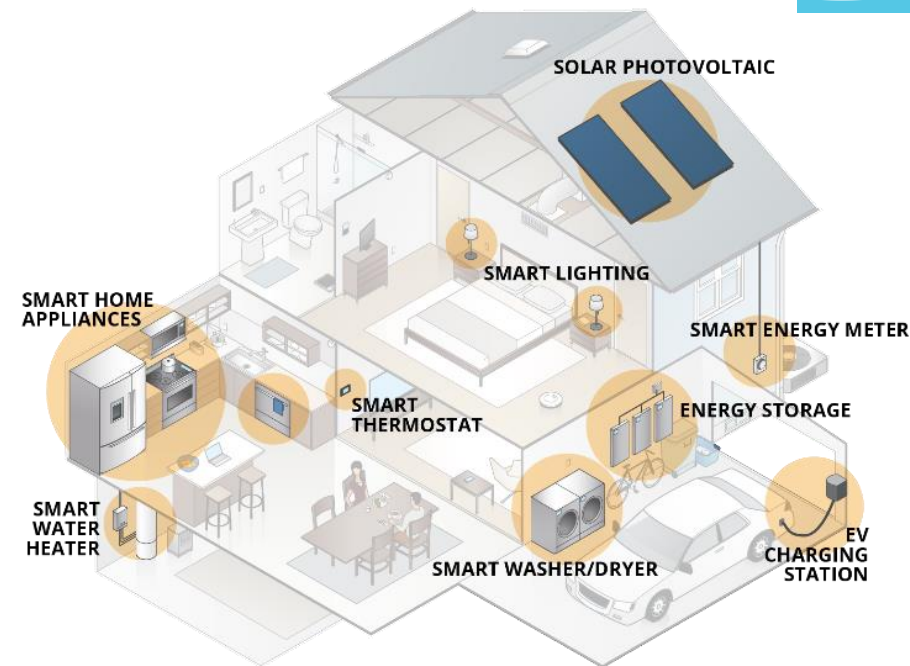
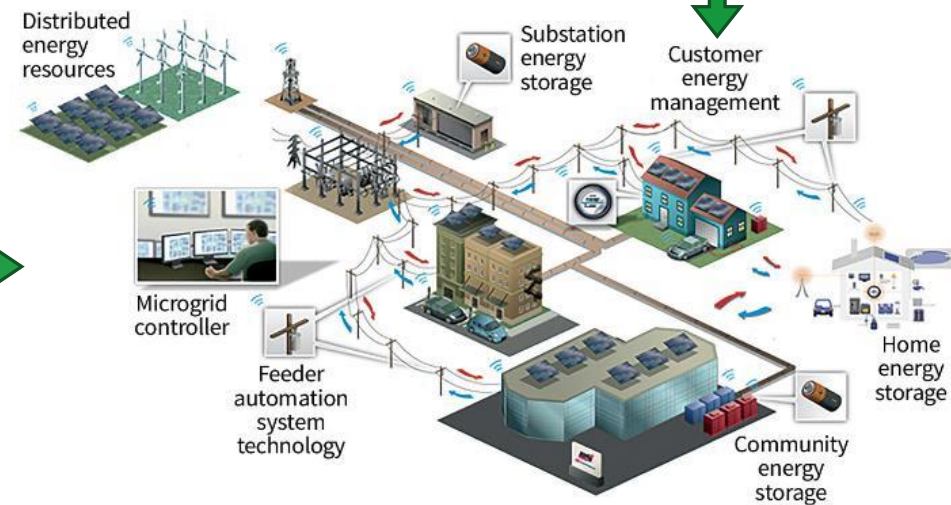
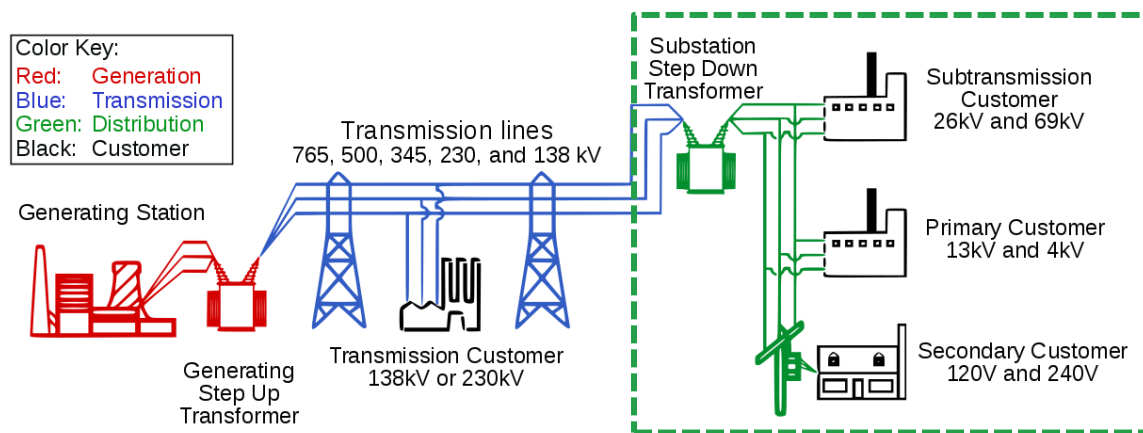
Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

# Electric Power Systems



Power Systems—and specifically distribution systems—are a perfect application for Machine Learning due to their complexity and large amounts of data

- About 300,000 miles of transmission lines vs. 6,000,000 miles of distribution lines
- About 20,000 substation transformers vs. 200,000,000 service transformers
- Additions of new sensing equipment such as smart meters and PMUs
- Advances in computing power for real-time learning/decision making
- New Artificial Intelligence algorithms to handle large datasets, transferable learning, and physics-based algorithms





# Machine Learning for Distribution System Model Calibration

---

# Distribution System Modeling



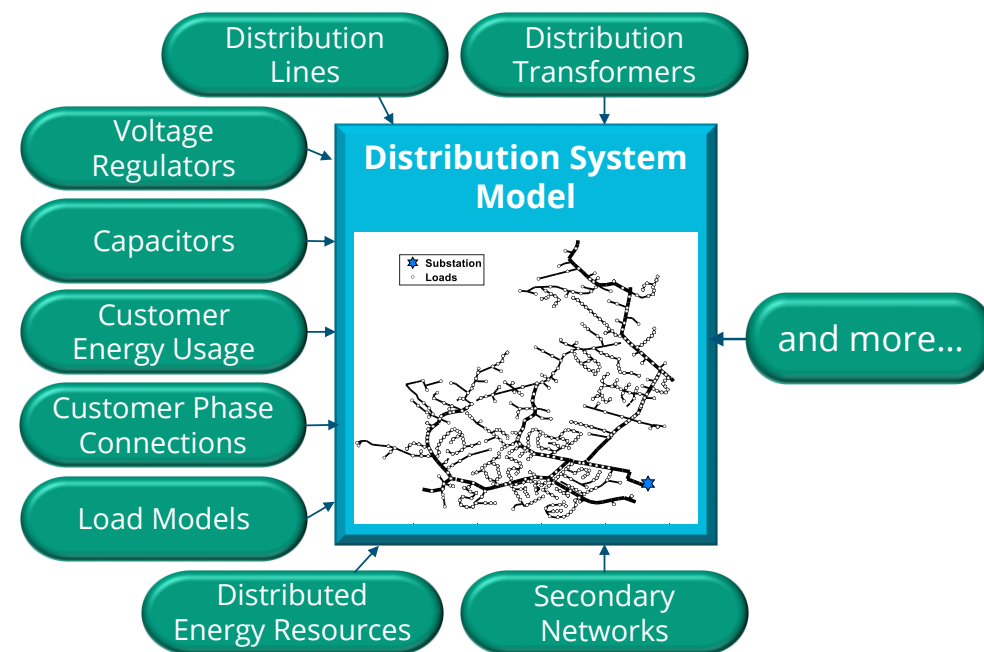
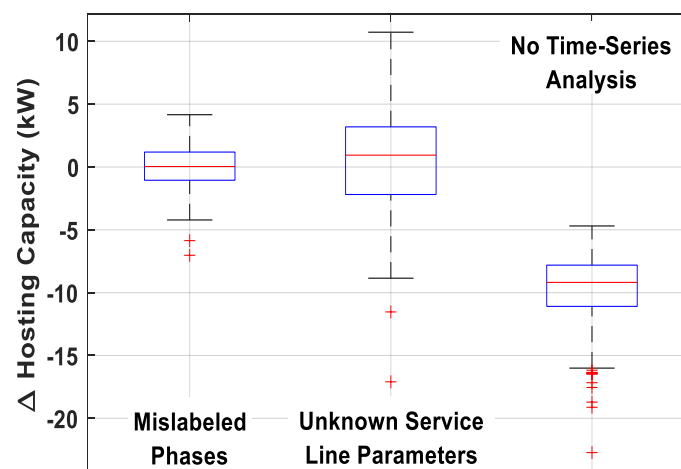
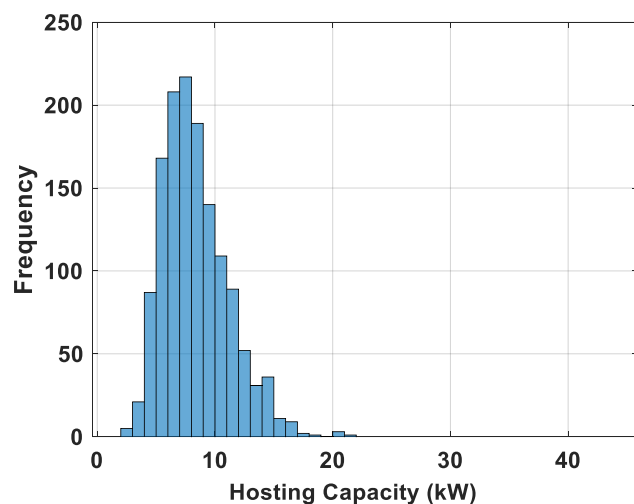
Power system models provide the foundation for nearly all analysis and planning tasks

- Based on detailed knowledge of network topology, the physical and control parameters of various components, energy consumption data, etc.

However for distribution systems...

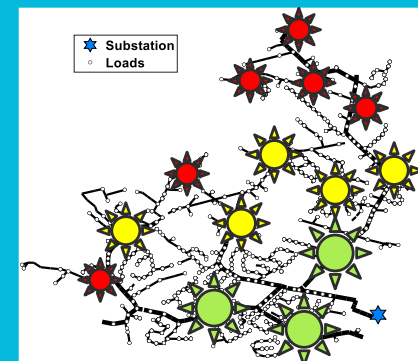
- Creating and maintain models is **labor intensive**, and the process is **prone to errors**
- A *few volts* difference can result in PV hosting capacity varying by more than *200%*

Translates to high levels of uncertainty and conservative, worst-case analyses or rough rules of thumb



## Hosting Capacity Example:

- Add PV, solve power flow
- Change PV, solve again

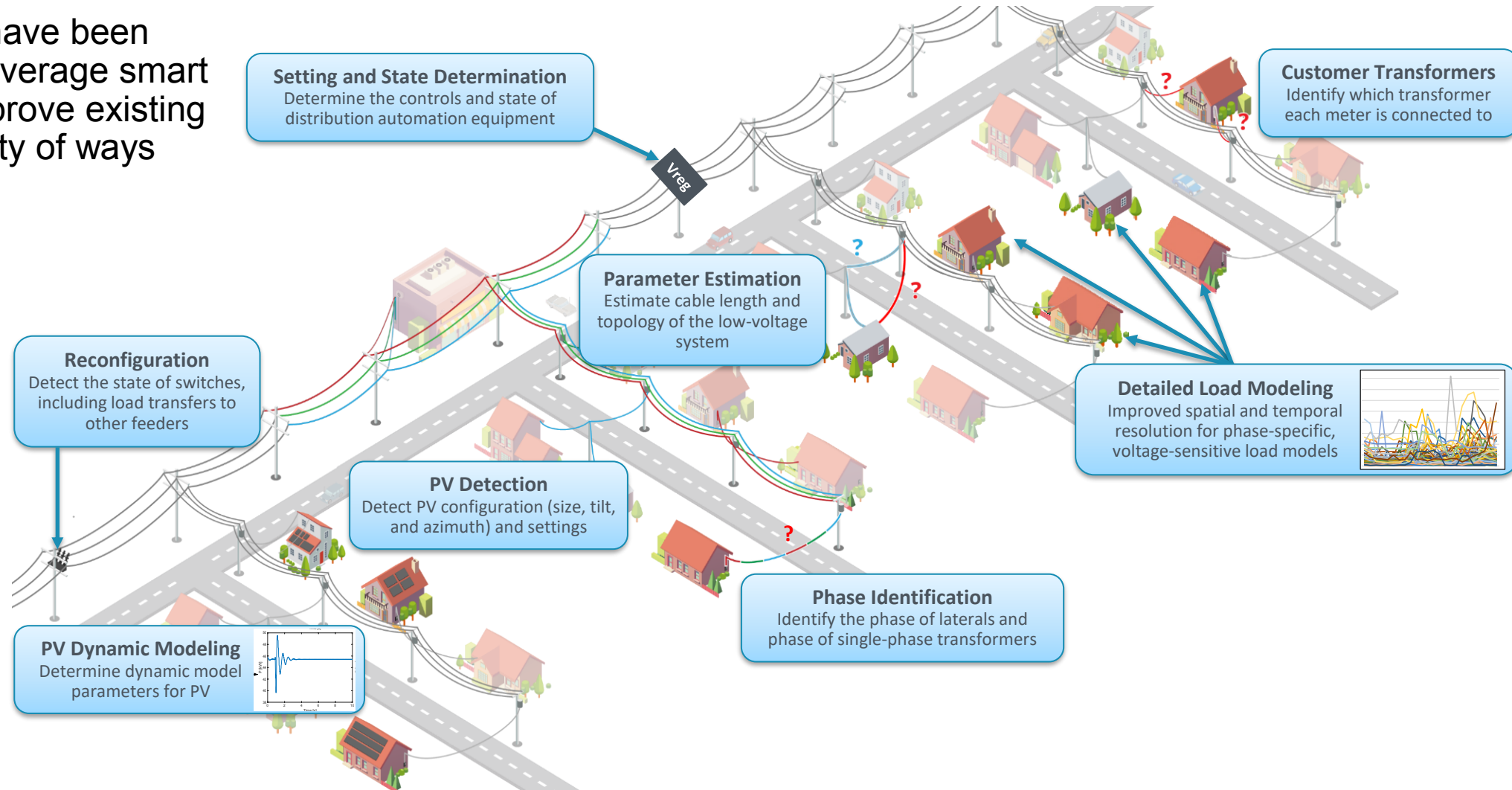


# Improving Distribution Models with ML



Recent additions of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), or smart meters, provide measurements of each customer's power consumption, and possibly other quantities, such as voltage and reactive power

- ML approaches have been developed that leverage smart meter data to improve existing models in a variety of ways



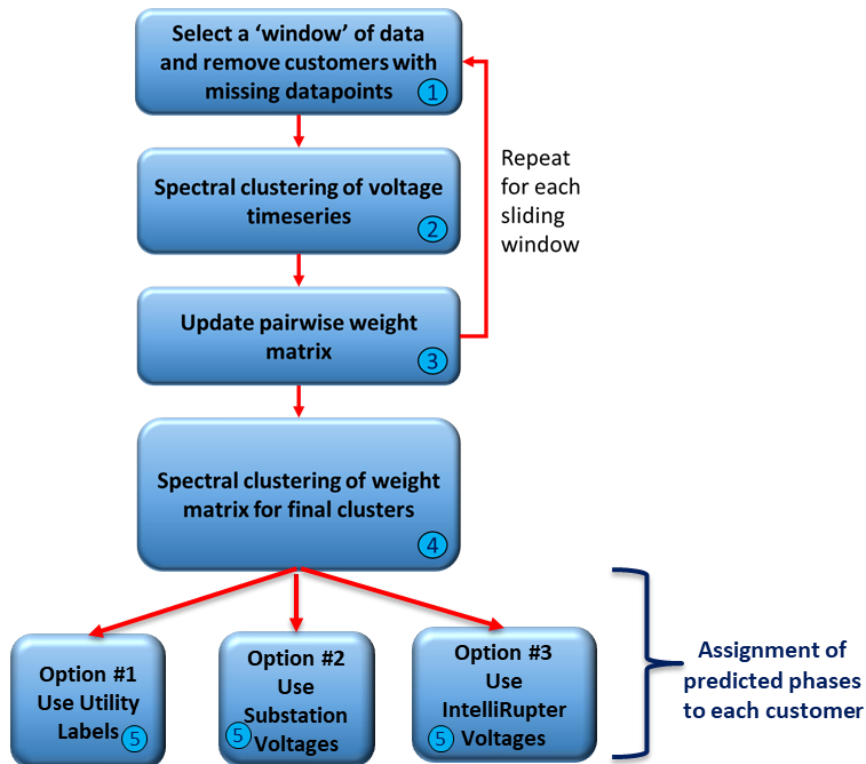
# 6 Phase Identification



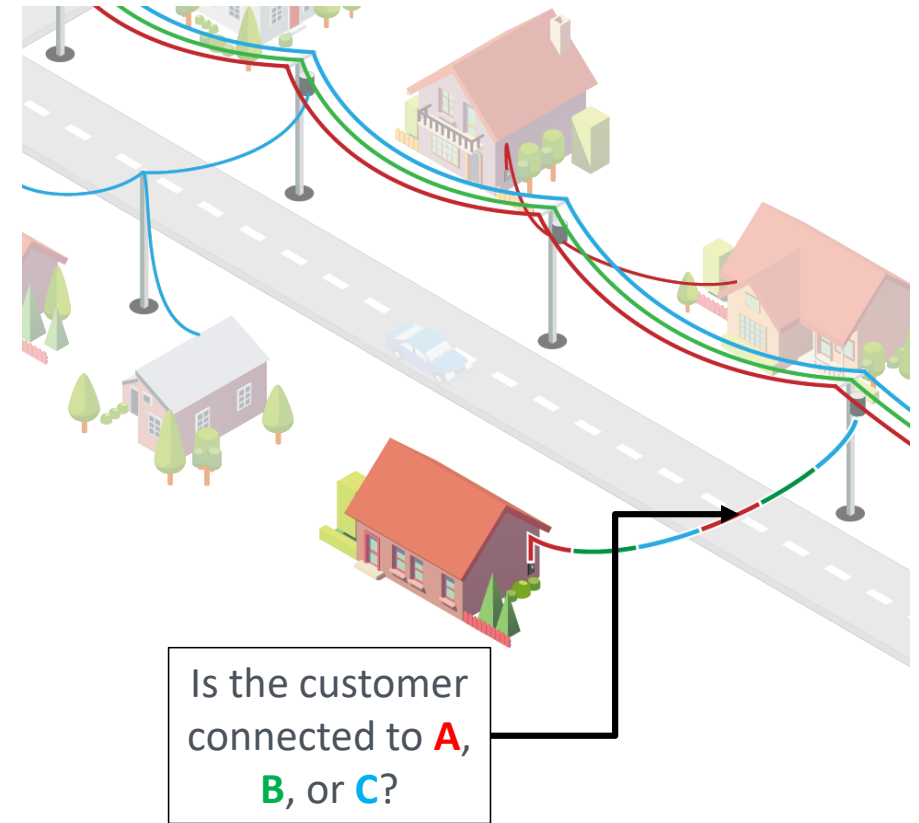
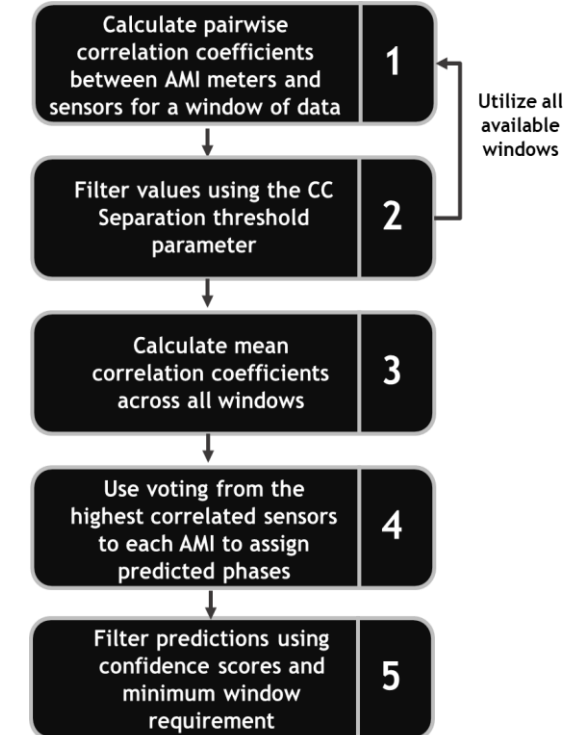
**Motivation:** Distribution engineers must maintain customer voltages within a certain range and maintain a certain degree of load balance across the phases

Algorithms developed based on voltage correlation between customers on the same phase. For example...

## Spectral Clustering Ensemble (only AMI voltage)



## Sensor-Based Method (AMI voltage and voltage from additional Sensors)



# 7 Phase Identification

## Results:

Algorithms were tested on both synthetic data and actual utility data

- Spectral clustering ensemble achieved 100% accuracy in correctly identifying customer phases in the presence of high levels of measurement noise and mislabeled customers on synthetic data
- Predictions on the actual utility datasets have also been 100% accurate thus far through field-verification of suspected mislabeled customers

## Other comments:

- The algorithms can be integrated into existing AMI infrastructure and applied continuously
- This approach is beneficial to detect phase change events before problems arise

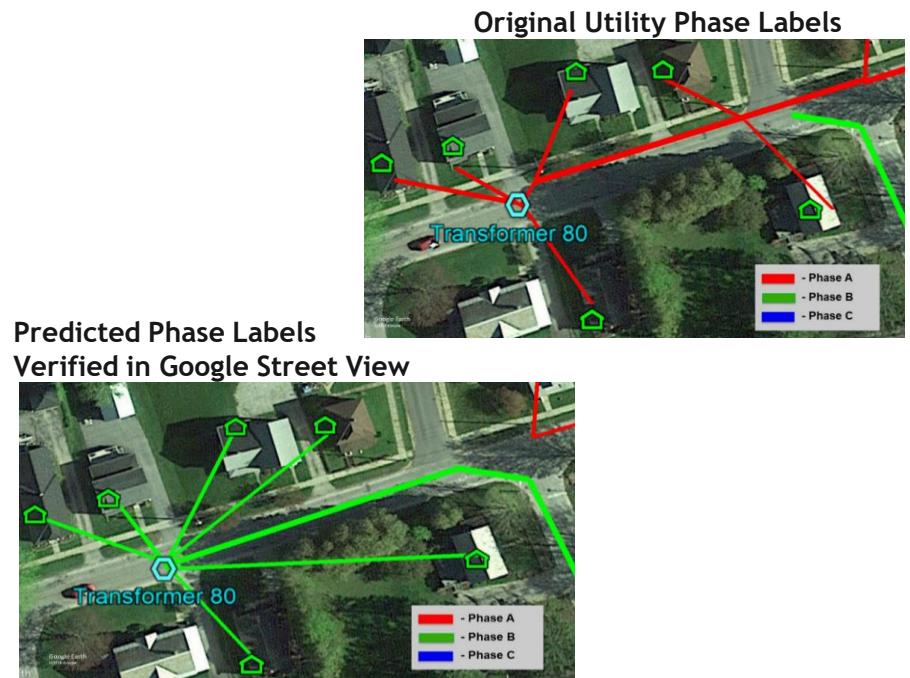
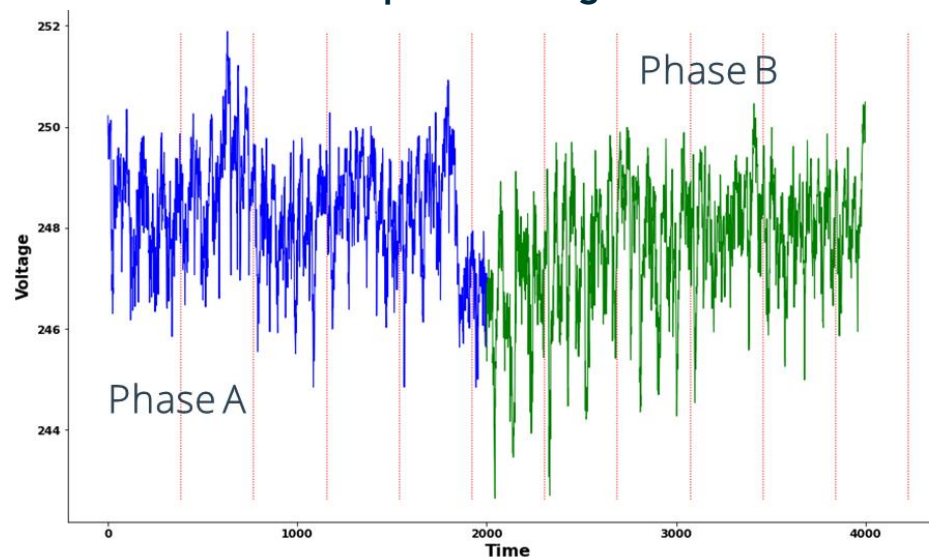


Illustration of a phase change event in AMI data



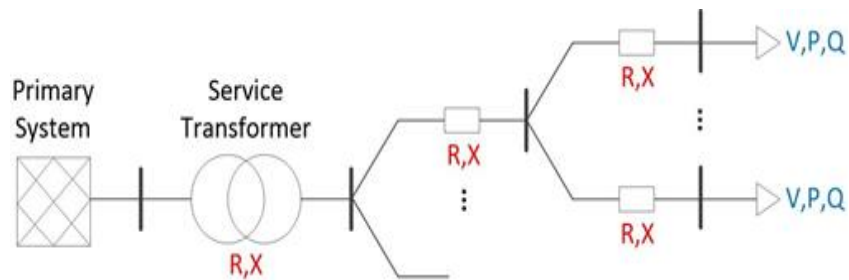
# Secondary System Parameter and Topology Estimation



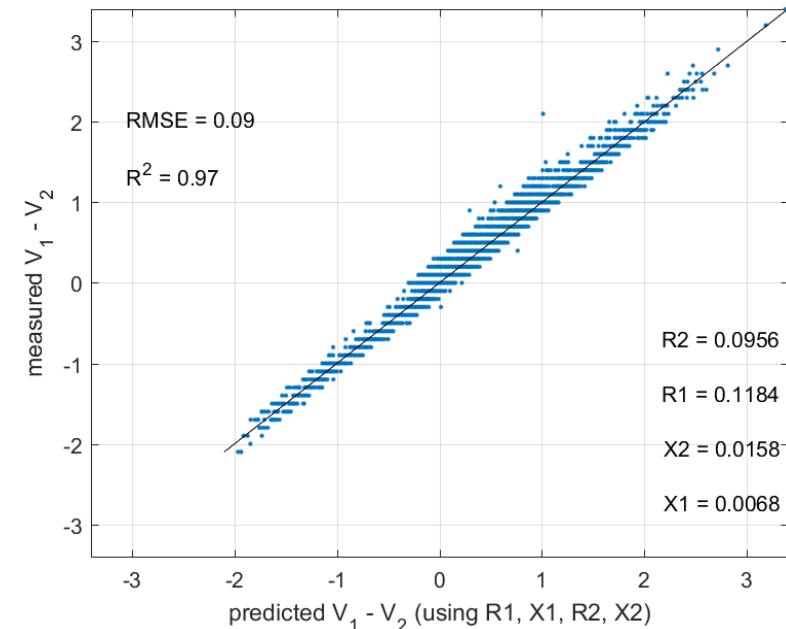
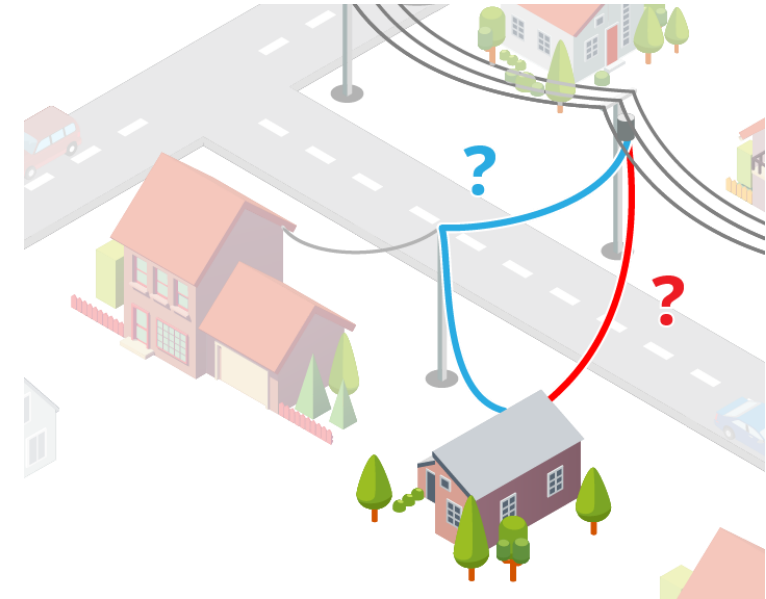
**Motivation:** Secondary circuits are typically not modeled or modeled with limited detail. Manual inspections require considerable man hours and may be hard to perform in urban areas with wiring underground

**Objective:** Use customer AMI voltage and power measurements to resolve secondary system parameters and topology

Parameter estimation is formulated as a pairwise regression problem



For all customers on a transformer find  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $X_1$ ,  $X_2$   
Which pair best fits the  $V_1$ - $V_2$  fluctuations?



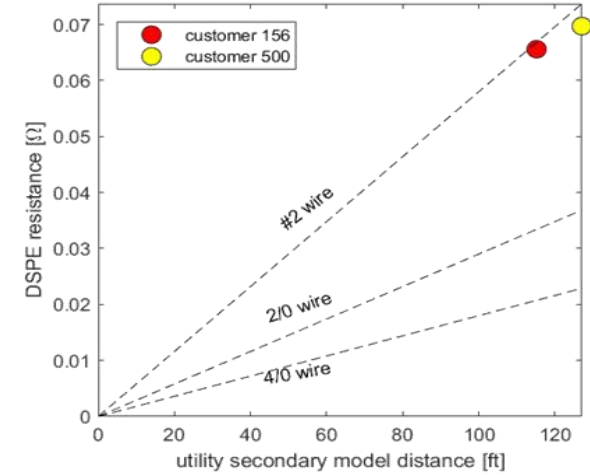
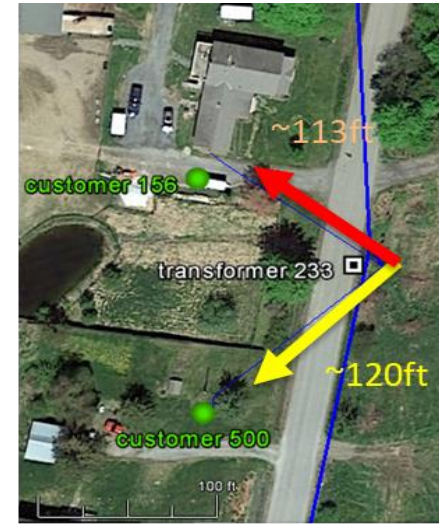
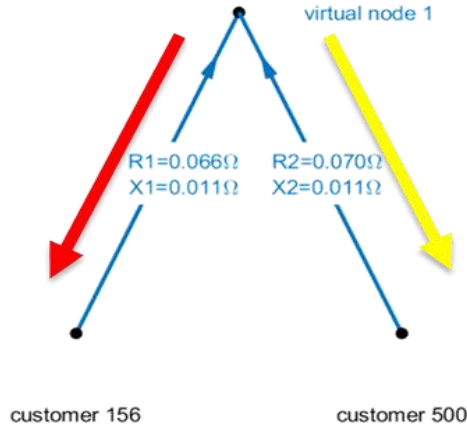
# 9 Secondary System Parameter and Topology Estimation



## Results:

Extensively tested on synthetic data with data quality issues injected

- Robust to meter bias, missing data, unknown power factor, and measurement interval
- Average vs Instantaneous measurement type does not affect this algorithm

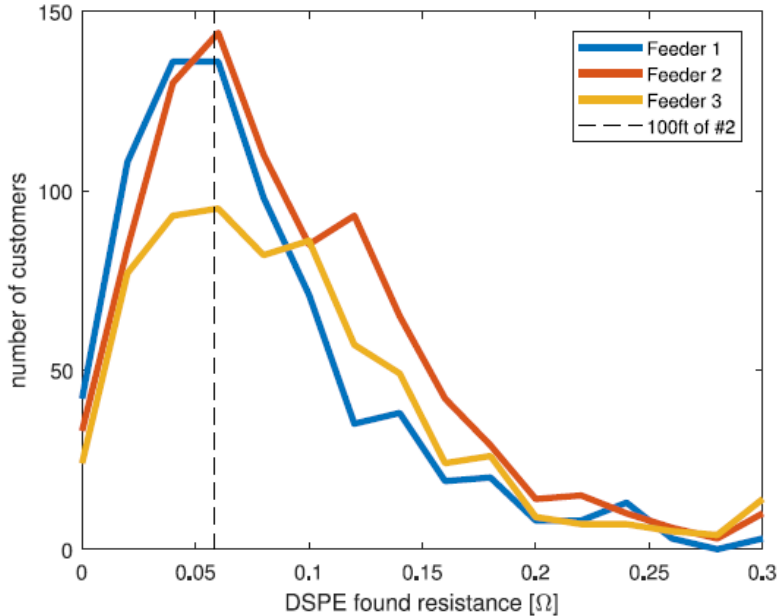


(a)

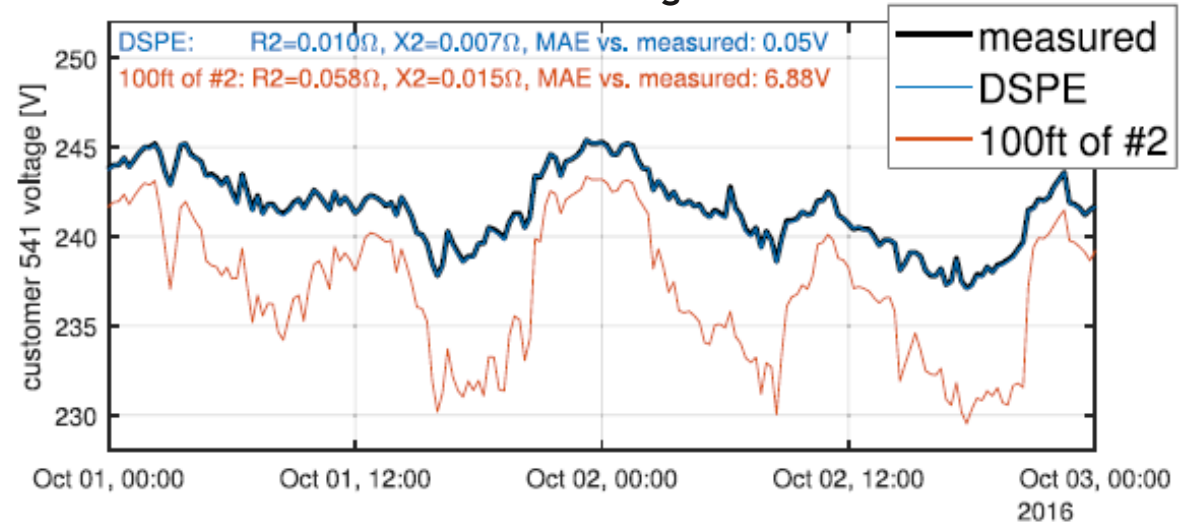
(b)

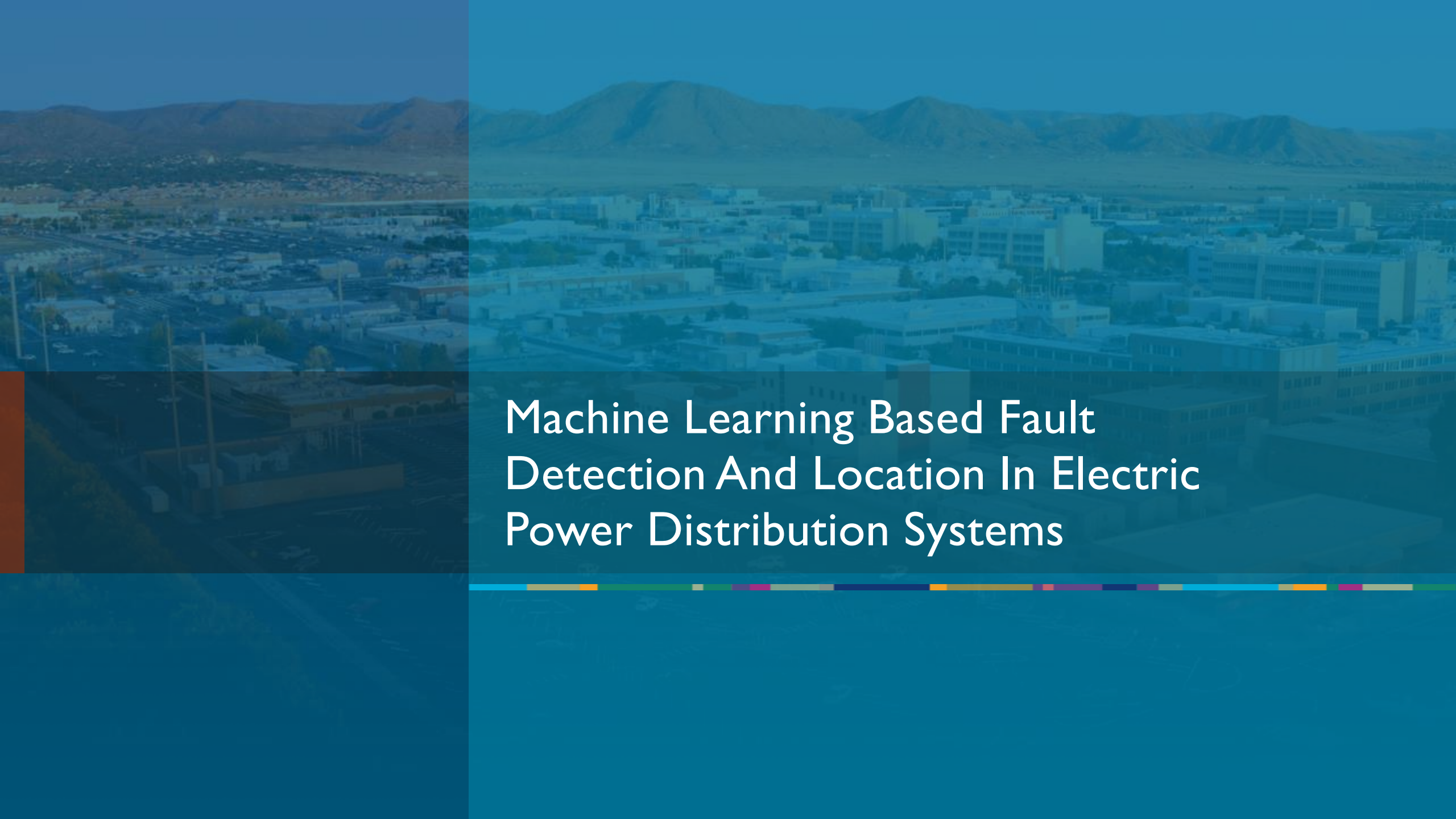
(c)

Distribution of Customers Resistances



Measured and Calculated Voltage VS 100ft of #2





# Machine Learning Based Fault Detection And Location In Electric Power Distribution Systems

---

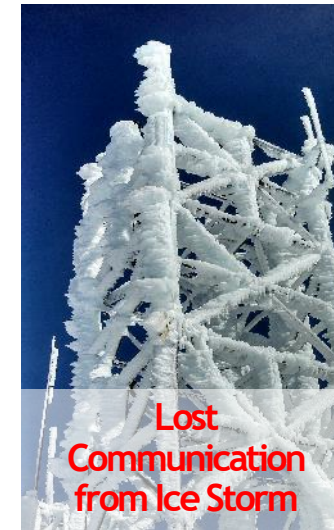
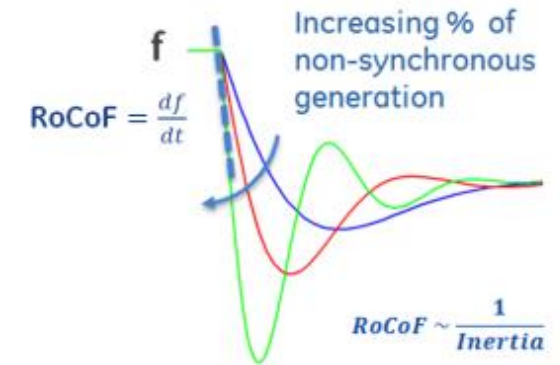
# Power System Protection

The protection system is designed to maintain safe operation and reliable service

- Rapidly remove the fault and minimize the disconnection of customers
- Relays measure voltage and current flowing through the line. Conventional protection uses logic pre-determined by a protection engineer to flag anomalous events (current is too high) for detecting faults and opening a breaker to isolate the part of the system with the fault
- Relays are coordinated and provide backup using time delays depending on the location of the fault.

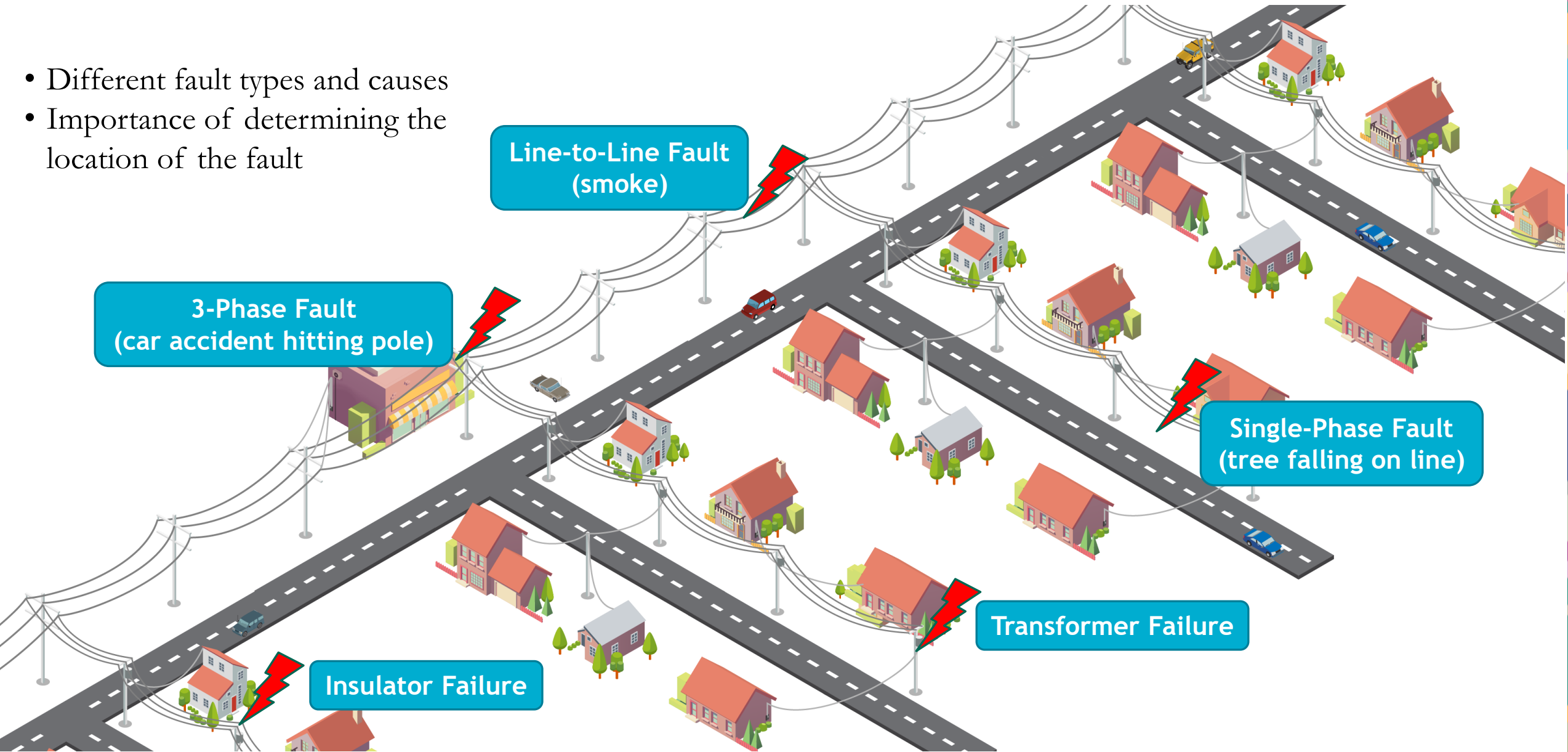
Power System Protection is getting more critical and more complicated:

- Inverter-based generation does not have the same fault characteristics
- Protection challenges in downtown networked systems
- Electric faults causing wildfires in California
- Fast-tripping protection schemes limited by communication networks
- Cyberattacks (e.g., 2016 Ukraine) on relays could cause damage or cascading outages





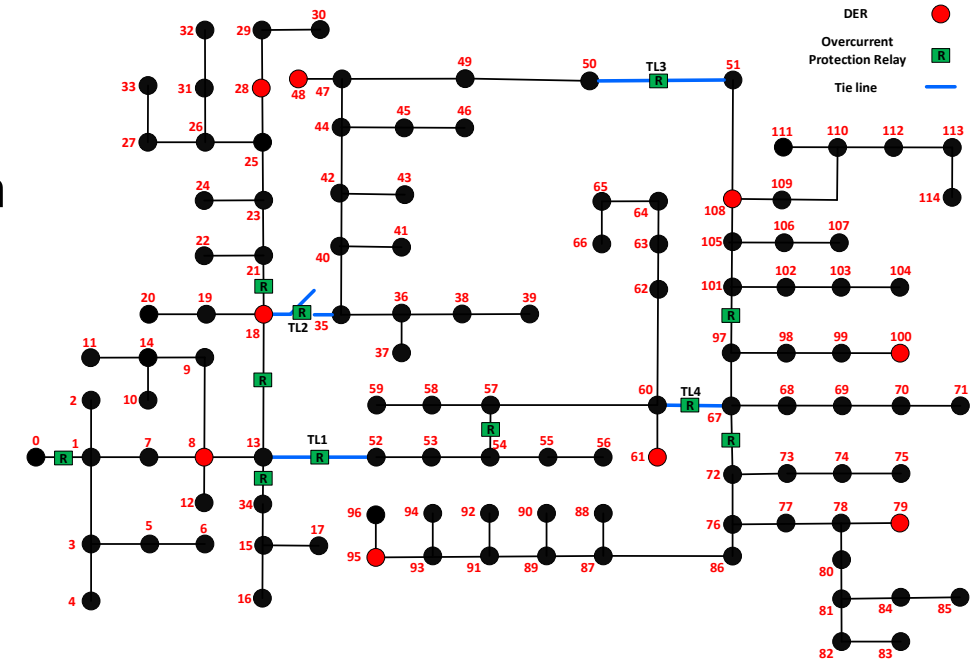
- Different fault types and causes
- Importance of determining the location of the fault



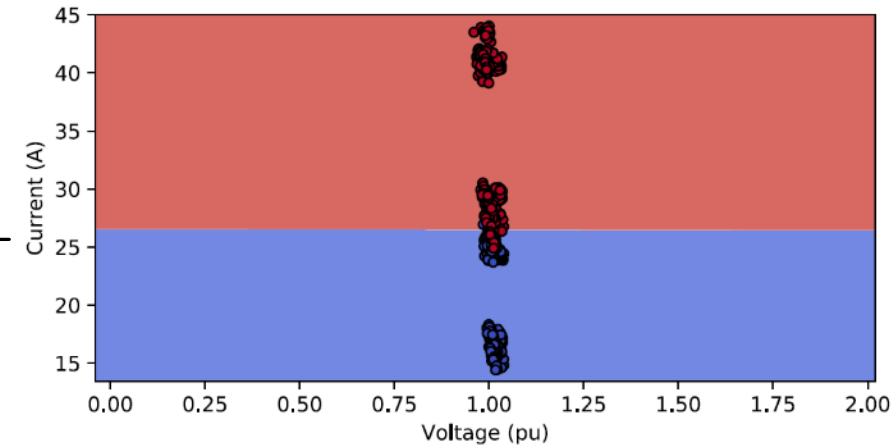
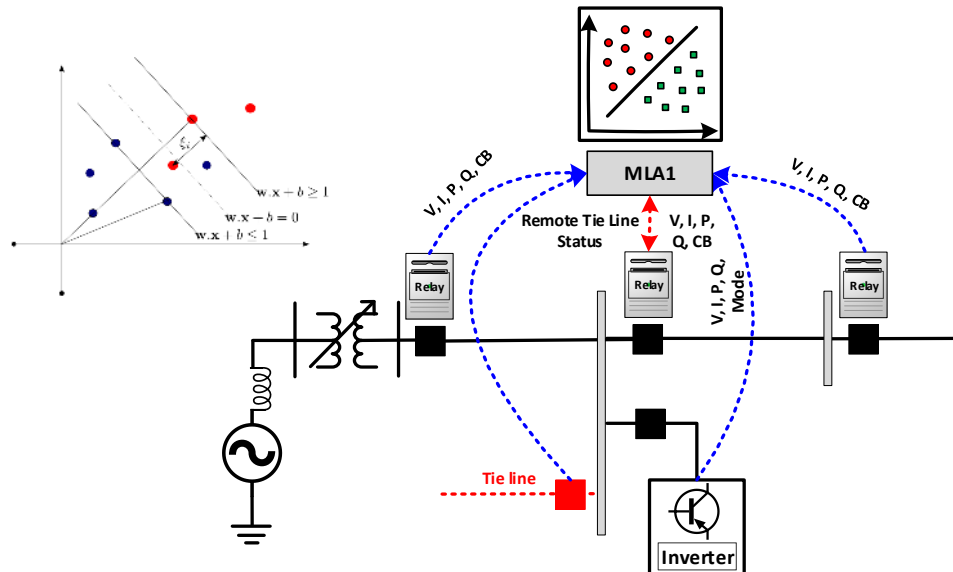
# Machine Learning for Power System Operations



- During resilience events, there can be uncertainty in the status of the grid (breaker open/closed, microgrid connected or islanded) with possible loss of communication and many events happening at the same time
- Machine learning algorithms can learn correlations between local measurements and the configuration of the grid. This ensures reliable communication-free operations during resilience events
- Using Support Vector Machine (SVM) to learn and classify each switch in the network as open or closed



Tie Line / Breaker	Accuracy
TL1	98.2%
TL2	98.0%
CB2	99.5%
CB3	96.9%



# Machine Learning for Fault Detection and Location

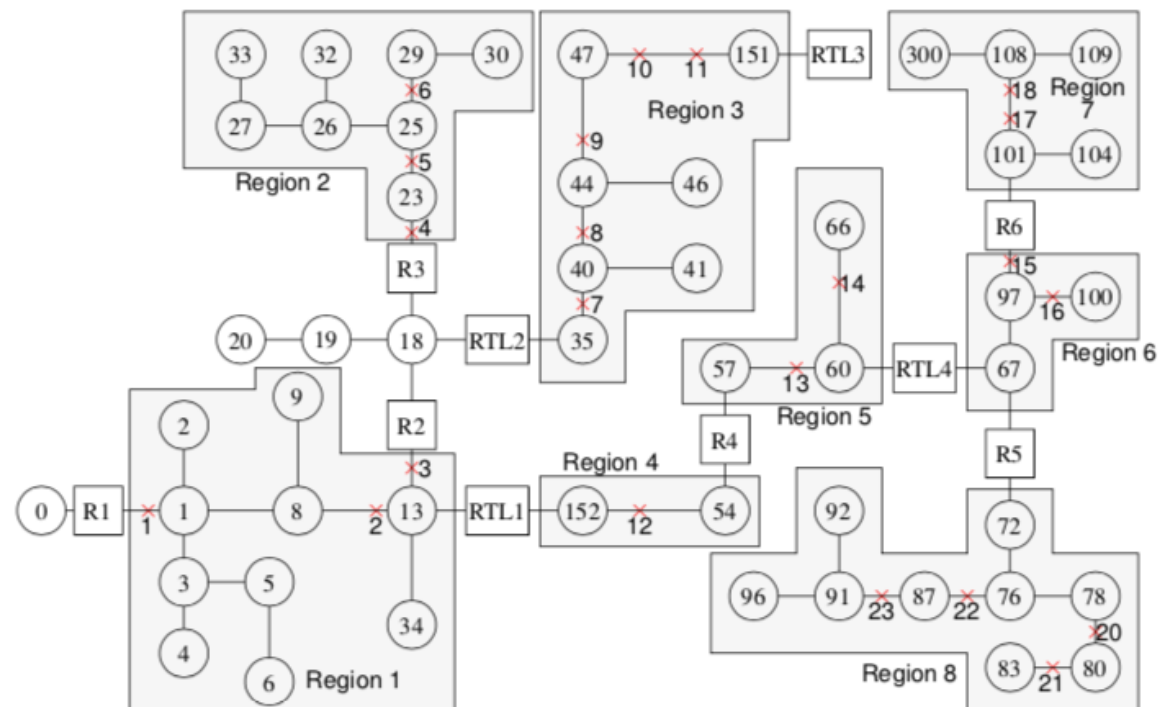
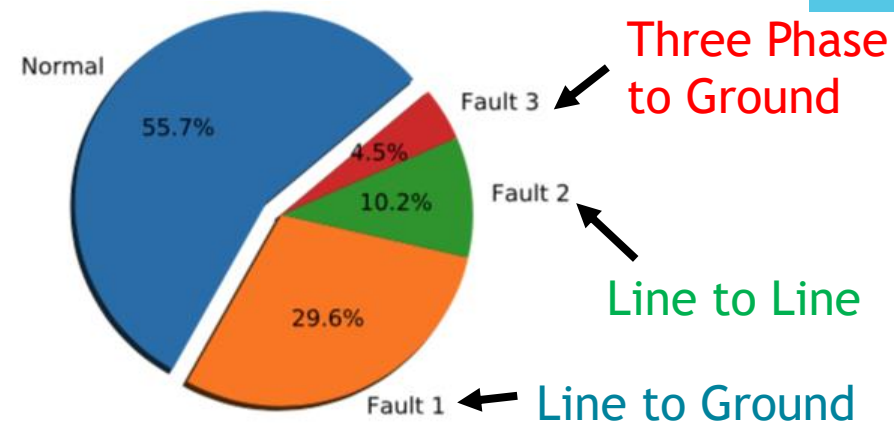


## Machine Learning (ML) Fault Analysis

- Using ML for power system protection instead of relays
- Test approach on IEEE 123 Model (Matlab Simulink)
- Simulate 3 fault types at 19 locations with varying resistances at different times of year

## Intelligent Decision Making with Support Vector Machines

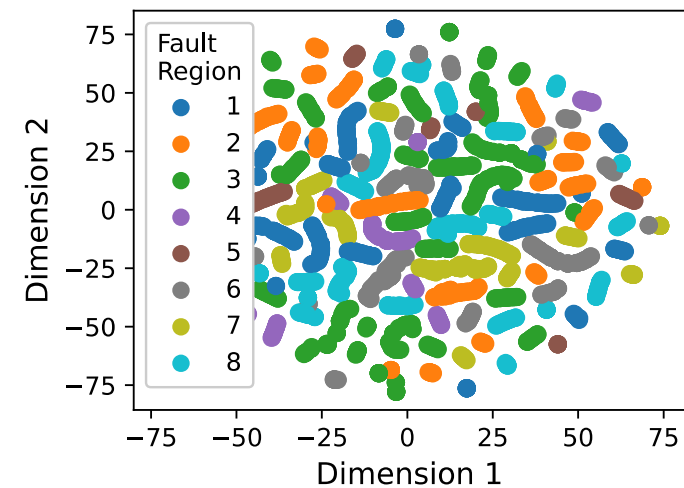
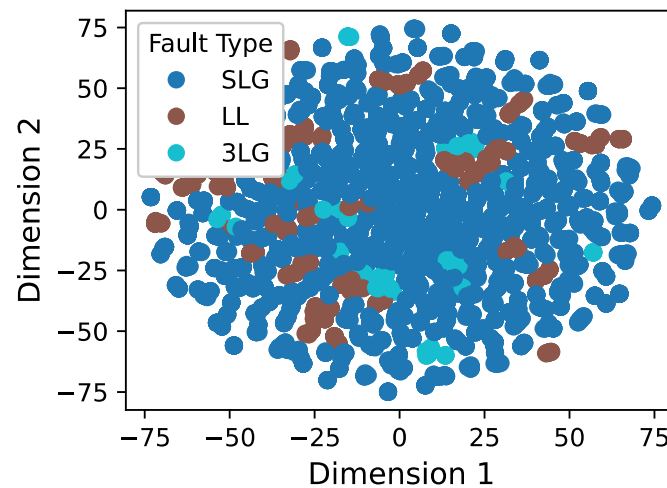
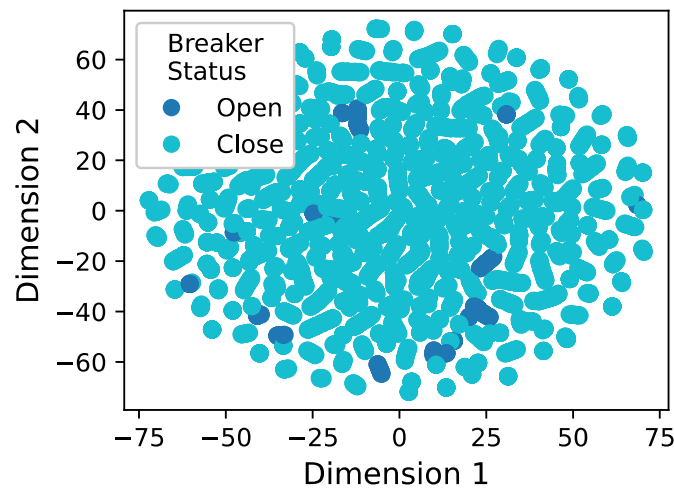
- Uses Sequence Current ( $I_0, I_1, I_2$ ) and Voltages ( $V_0, V_1, V_2$ ) as input features to SVM
- System specific learning that adapts
- ML at each breaker can distinguish faults inside its protective zone/region



# Machine Learning Embedded in Relays



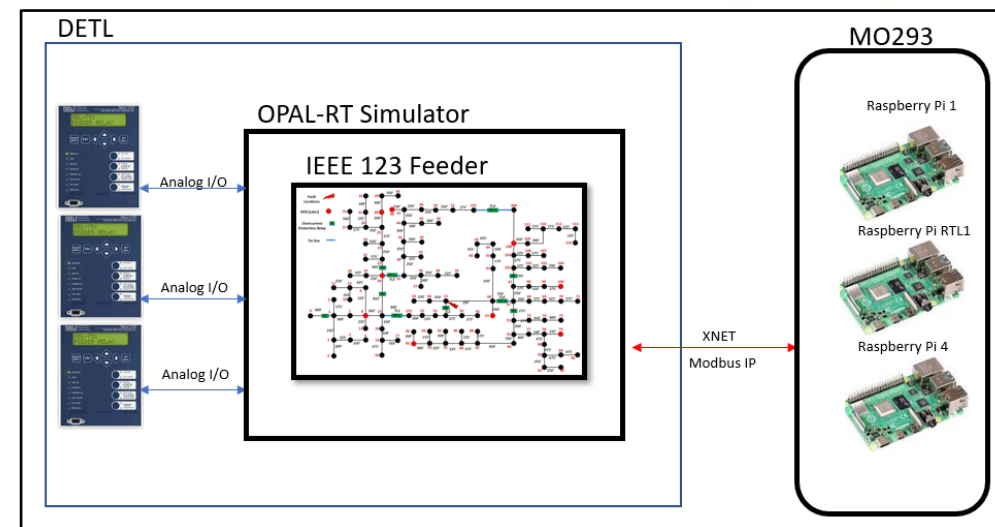
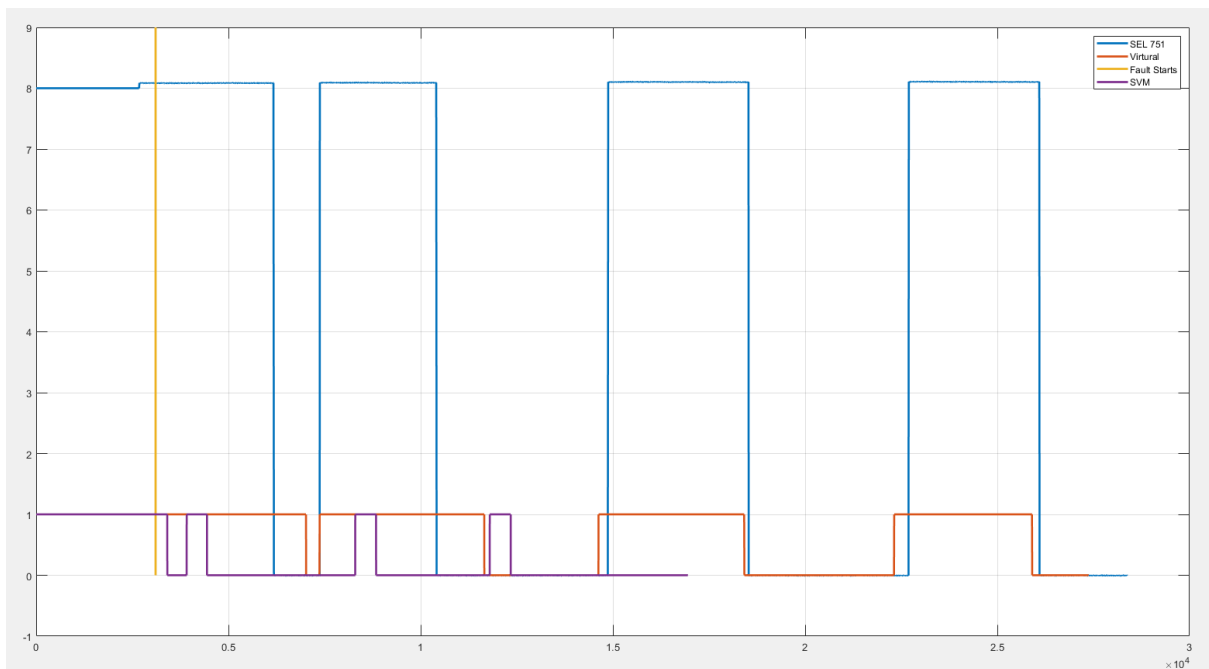
- SVM classified if there is a fault, fault type, and fault location. Tested on IEEE 123-node with 9 relays.
- No false trips in yearlong testing with varying and dynamic loads
- Correctly detects all fault events at different buses, resistances, etc.
- 100% accuracy for classifying the type of fault (SLG, LL, 3LG)
- Correct coordination (which relay trips first) for 99.6% of faults



# Hardware In the Loop Testing



- The trained machine learning algorithm is placed into a Raspberry Pi for testing
- Using an Opal-RT real-time hardware-in-the-loop simulator, the real-time voltage and current signals from the system are fed into the analog inputs of the Raspberry Pi
- SEL-751 hardware relays are also included with a standard time overcurrent curve for comparison
- The SVM detects the faults in 0.17 seconds in comparison to the time overcurrent of 1.94 seconds (11.4x faster)



# Field Testing of Machine Learning for Fault Detection



Training must be done using simulations because there are only a few faults per year on a section of a distribution feeder, but there can be discrepancies between how the electric power system may operate in the real world vs. simulation training data

- Incorrect parameters/topology in the model, changes in the system
- Measurement noise, missing data, and differences in the fault

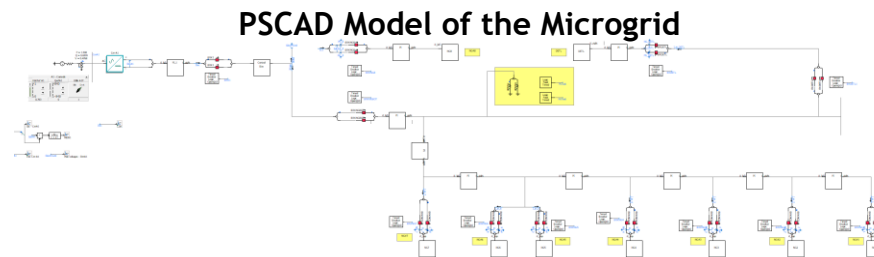
We trained an SVM classifier to identify faults and their type using data from a simulation of an actual system

- The training data set (PSCAD simulation data) has a total of 160,000 points i.e. 40,000 points for each fault event

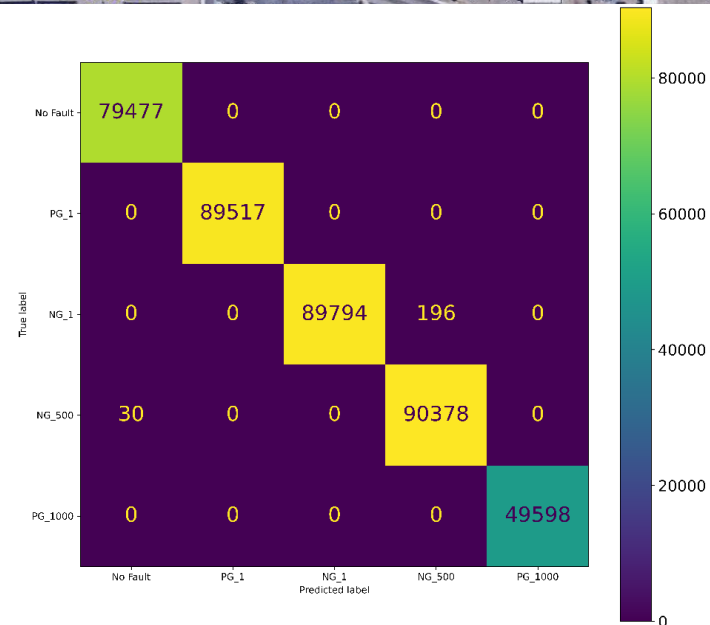
We then worked with Emera Technologies to install sensing and apply faults throughout their microgrid on Kirtland Air Force Base

- The test data (captured from the actual system) has 400,000 data points, i.e. 100,000 data points for each fault event

The SVM multi-class algorithm embedded in the relay classified the faults with an accuracy of 99.943%.



Actual Microgrid System





- New sensors and machine learning provide more granular understanding and visibility into distribution systems
- Historical data combined with physics-based machine learning can detect model errors and calibrate system parameters
- Electric distribution system protective relays equipped with machine learning (ML) algorithms can improve power system reliability and resilience by performing an automated and self-learning monitoring and decision making analysis.
- ML algorithms can be trained offline using fault simulations of the system and location they are going to be installed. The trained algorithm is then embedded inside each relay to provide decision making support based on the grid measurements. Advanced, data-driven relays provide new value to power system resilience.

# Questions?

Matthew Reno  
[mjreno@sandia.gov](mailto:mjreno@sandia.gov)

Joseph Azzolini  
[jazzoli@sandia.gov](mailto:jazzoli@sandia.gov)



**Sandia National Laboratories**