



Real-Time Modeling of WEC Array Control System on OPAL-RT Platform

Presenter: Ronald Matthews¹
R&D S&E Electrical Engineer

Contributors: Madelyn Veurink¹, Wayne Weaver², David Wilson¹,
and Rush Robinett²

1: Sandia National Laboratories

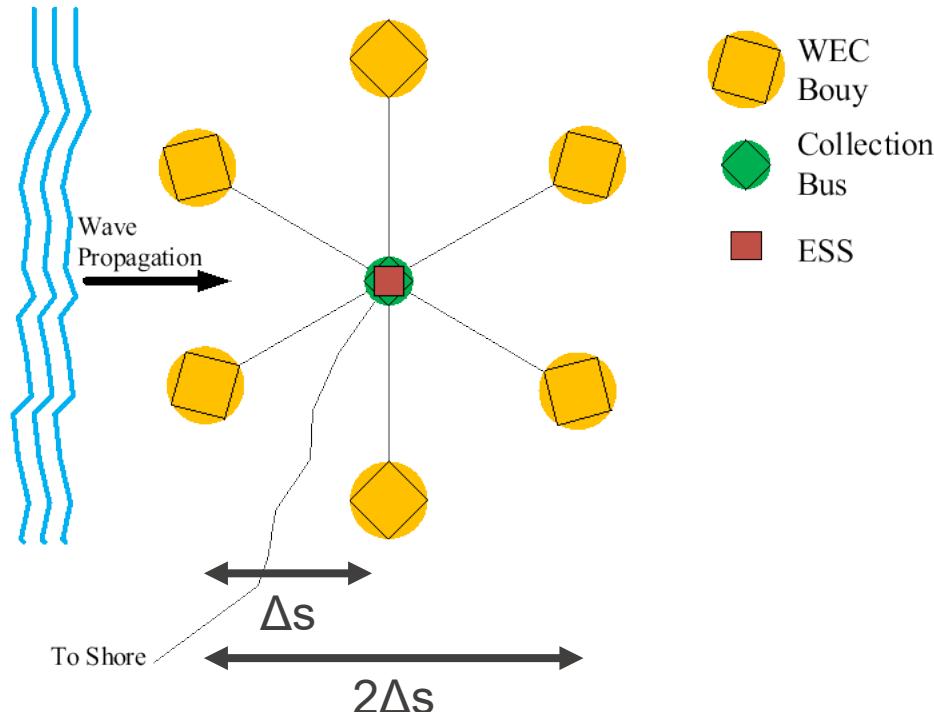
2: Michigan Technological University

TECHNICAL GOAL

2

Take advantage of “electrical phasing” with a buoy array to

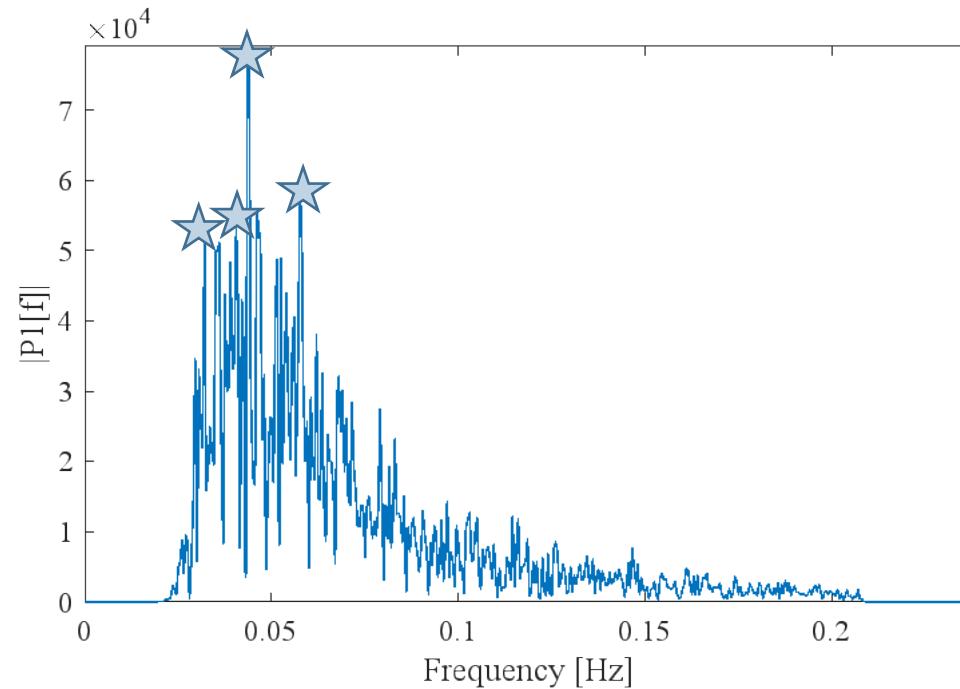
- Minimize: Energy storage, Power Electronics, LCOE
- Maximize: Power and Power Quality to the Grid.



- **WEC Buoy**
 - The buoy transforms the mechanical energy to electrical energy via a PTO and electric machine.
- **Collection Bus**
 - A DC bus with a nominal voltage of 325 V.
- **Energy Storage System (ESS)**
 - Injects a current into the DC bus to regulate the voltage to 325.

WAVE PROFILE

- The wave force is developed from a Bretschneider Spectrum.
 - Generated using the significant wave height and peak period of the wave.
- The wave force was transformed into the frequency domain.



CONTROLLER FREQUENCIES

- The top four frequency components in the excitation force were chosen to tune the proportional gain in the controller channels.
- The frequency channels are summed to create the full control force.
- Increasing the number of channels increases resonance with the wave.

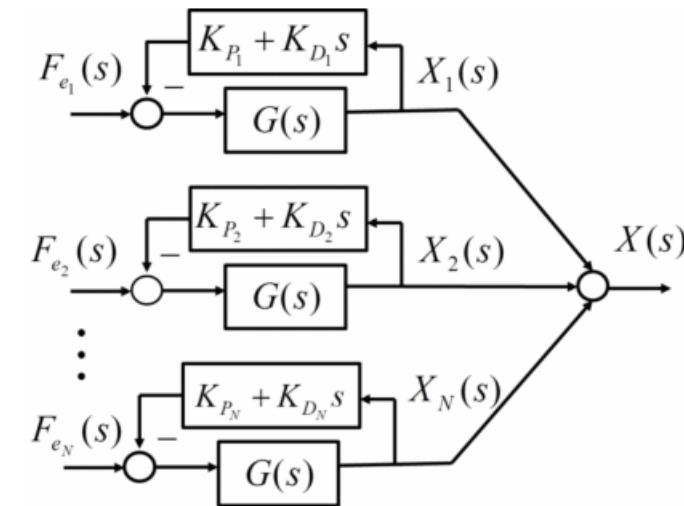
Frequency [Hz] for each of control channels (4)

0.0465

0.039

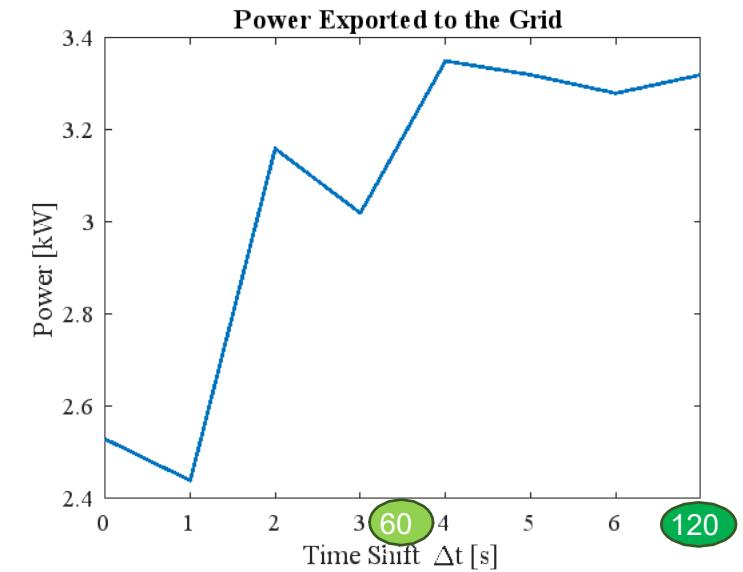
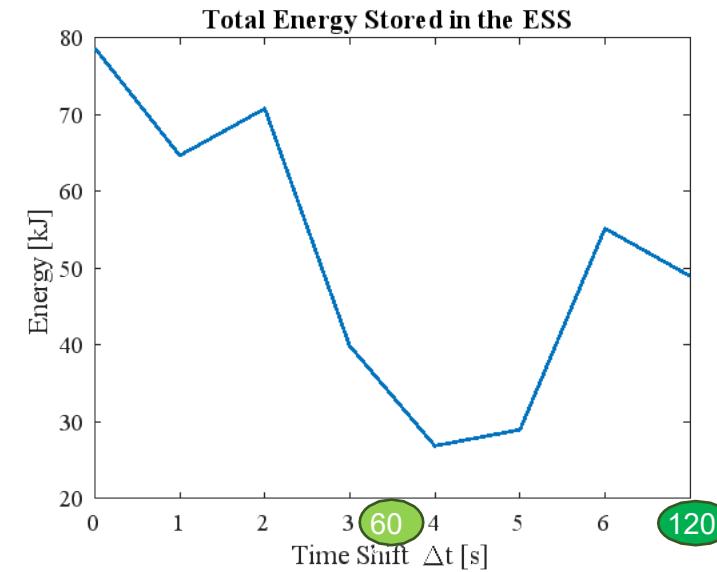
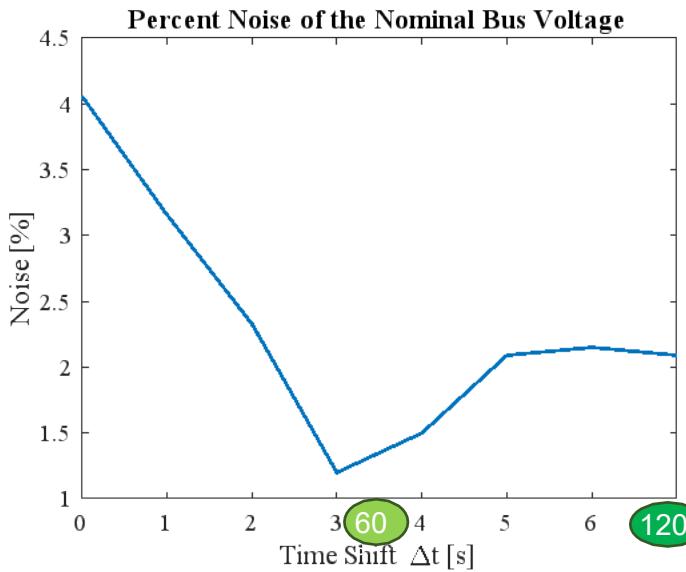
0.0675

0.0485



BUS VOLTAGE, MAX ESS POWER, AND GRID POWER FOR TIME SHIFTS

We will see the best outcomes around 60° and 120 ° phase shifts relative to the peak frequency.



OVERVIEW FOR THE WAVE SPECTRUM

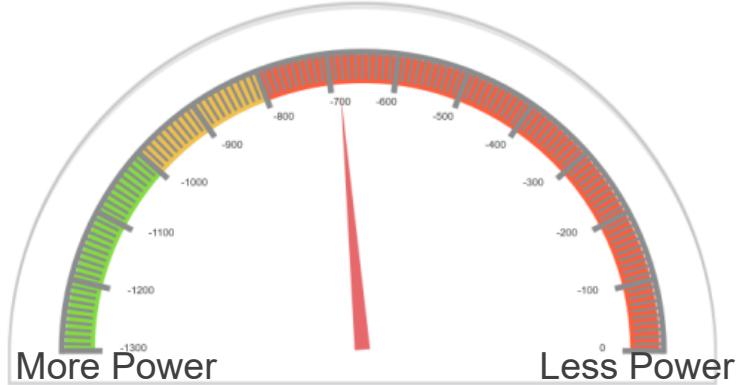
Δs	Degree Shift	Percent Noise [%]	Max Energy [kJ]	Avg. Power [kW]
0		4.06	78.7	2.53
1		3.16	64.7	2.44
2	~30	2.33	70.8	3.16
3	~60	1.2	39.9	3.02
4		1.5	26.9	3.35
5	~120	2.09	29.0	3.32
6		2.15	55.2	3.28
7		2.09	49.0	3.32

Worst Case

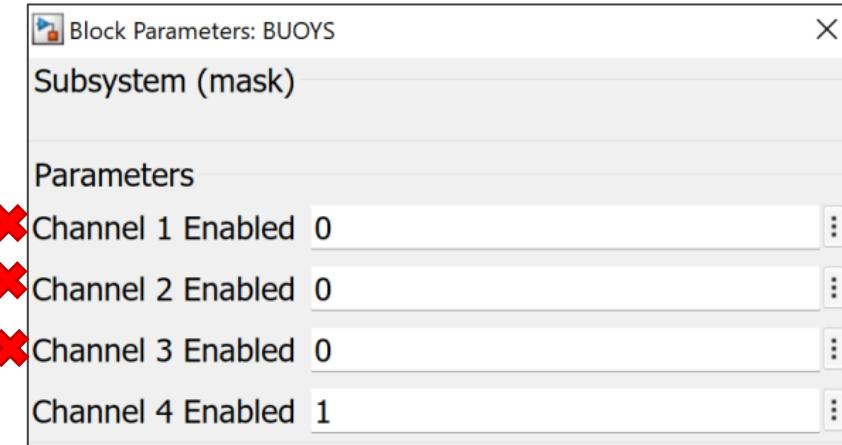
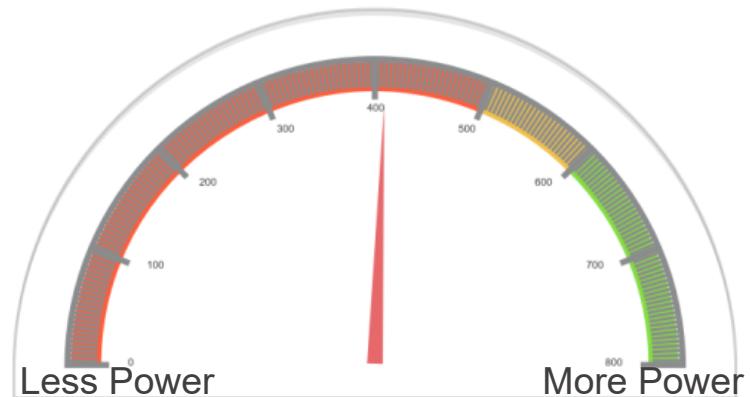
Best Cases

1 CHANNEL CONTROL

PTO Power

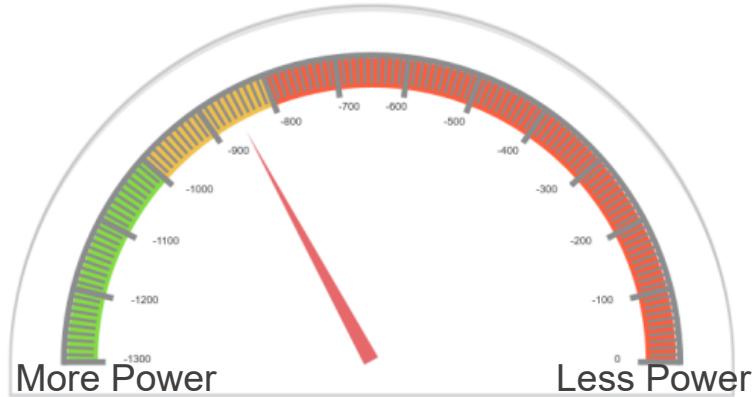


Grid Power

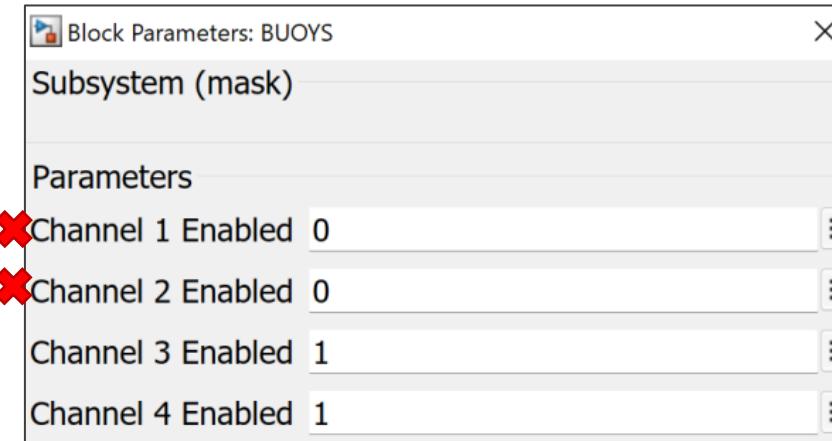
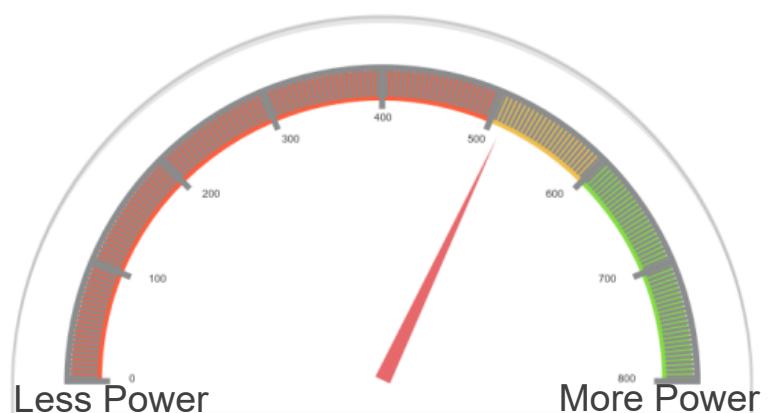


2 CHANNEL CONTROL

PTO Power

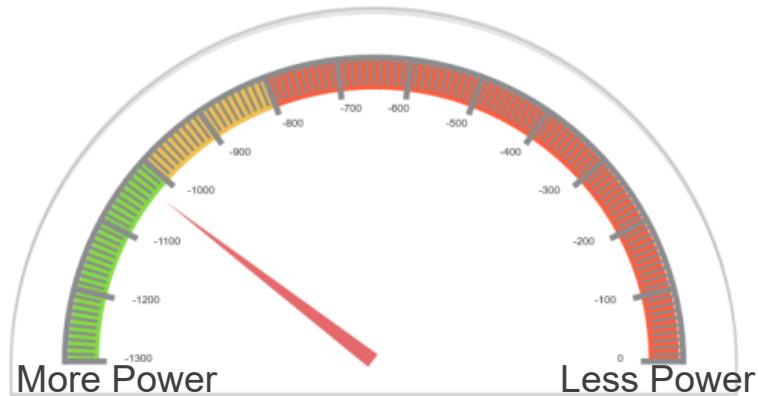


Grid Power

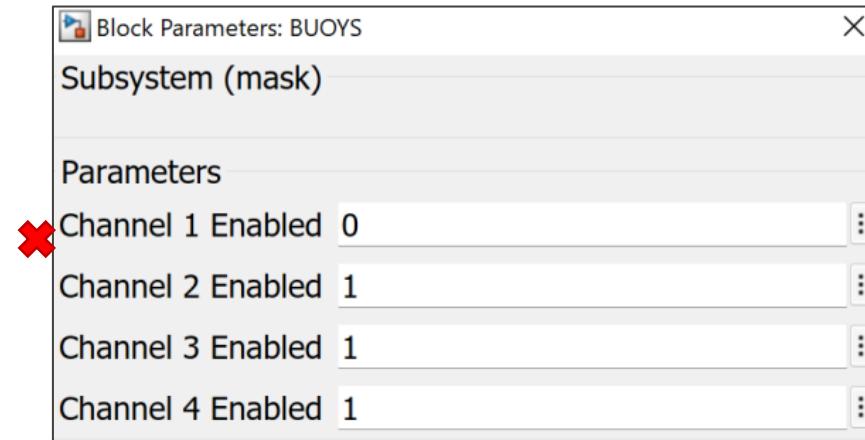
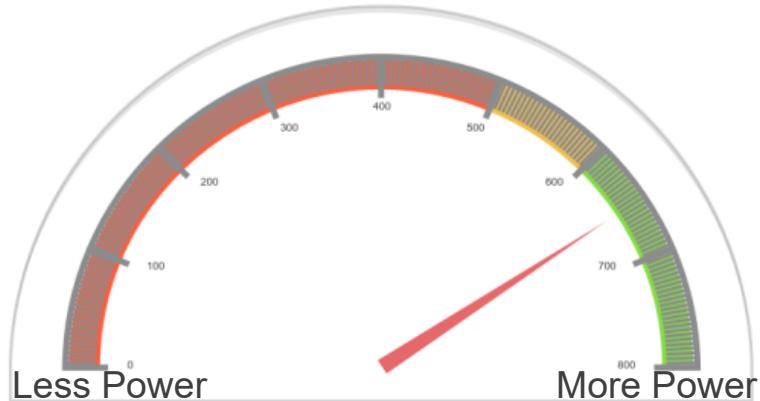


3 CHANNEL CONTROL

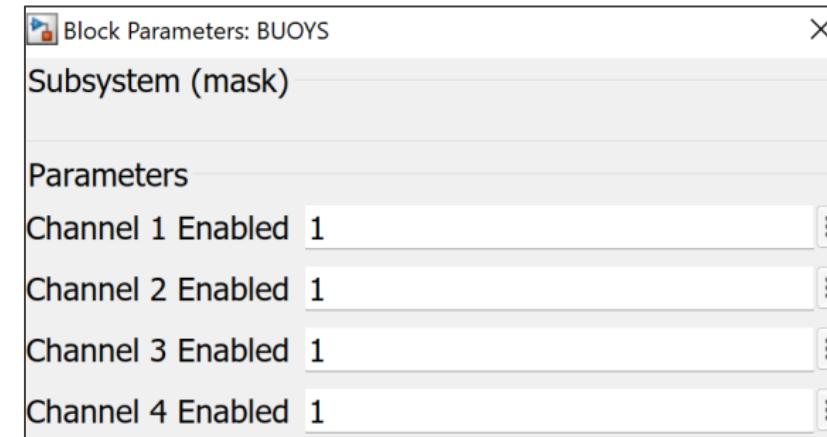
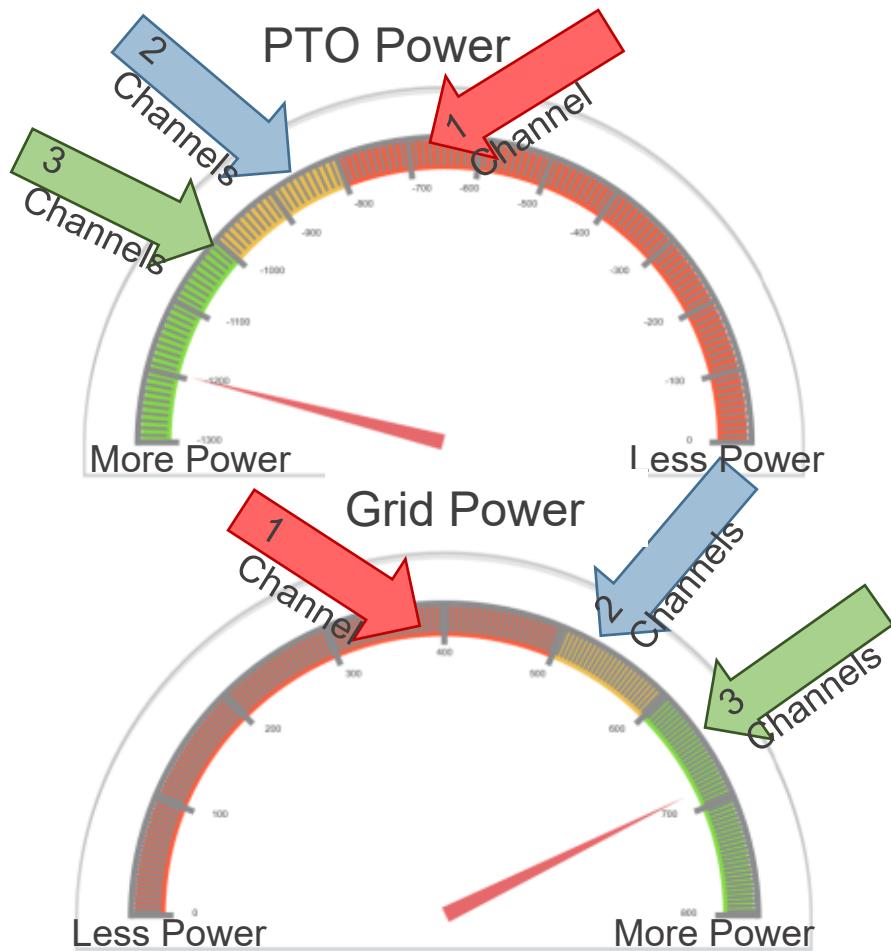
PTO Power



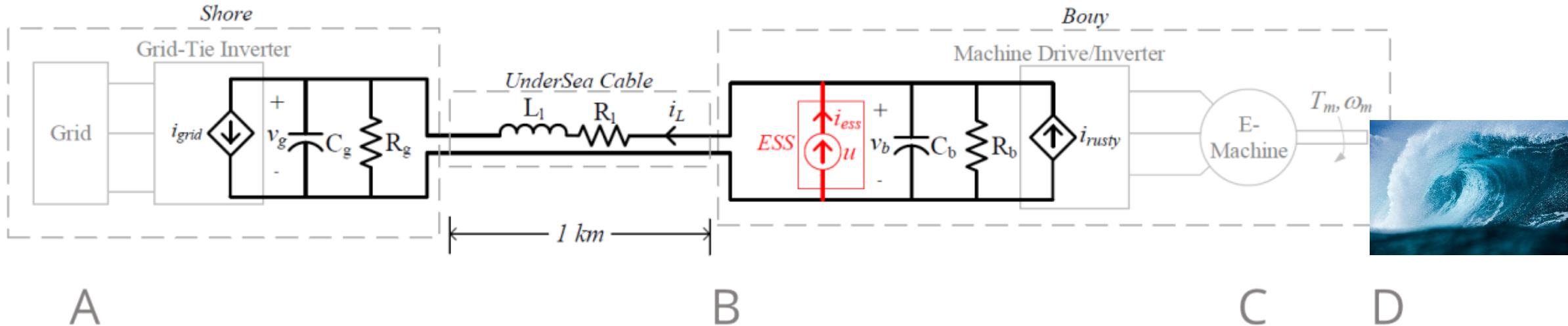
Grid Power



4 CHANNEL CONTROL



REAL-TIME MODEL



η_{DA} = overall efficiency

η_{BA} = PTO to grid efficiency

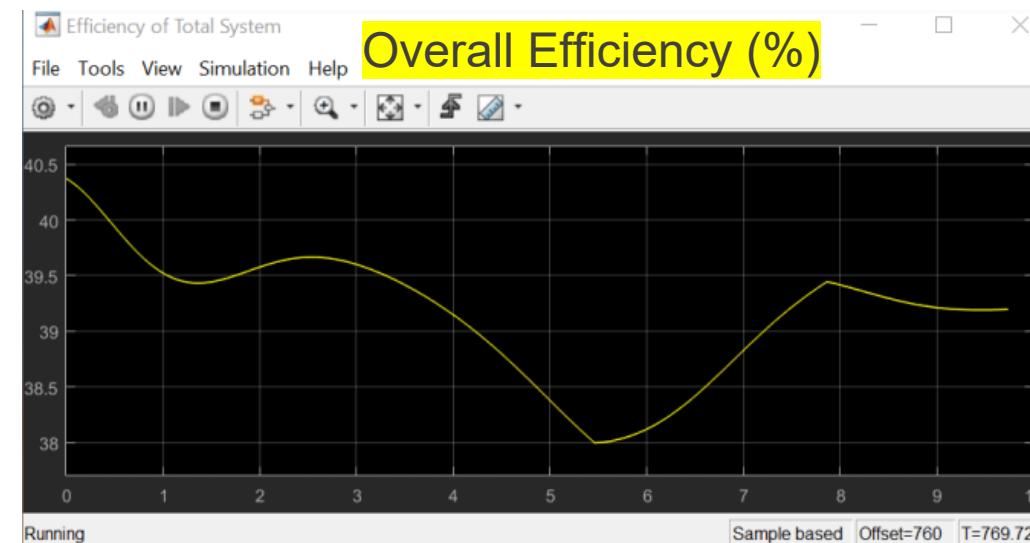
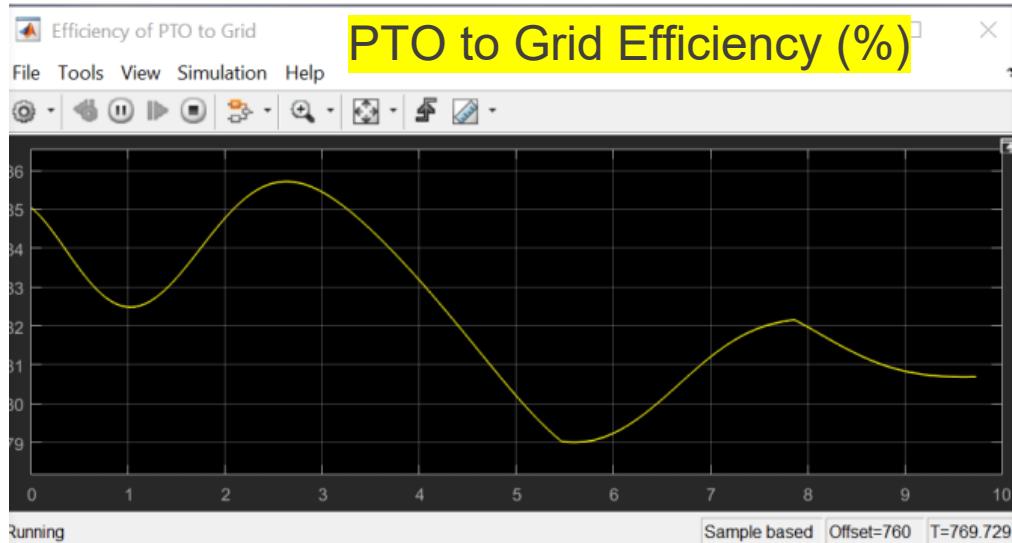
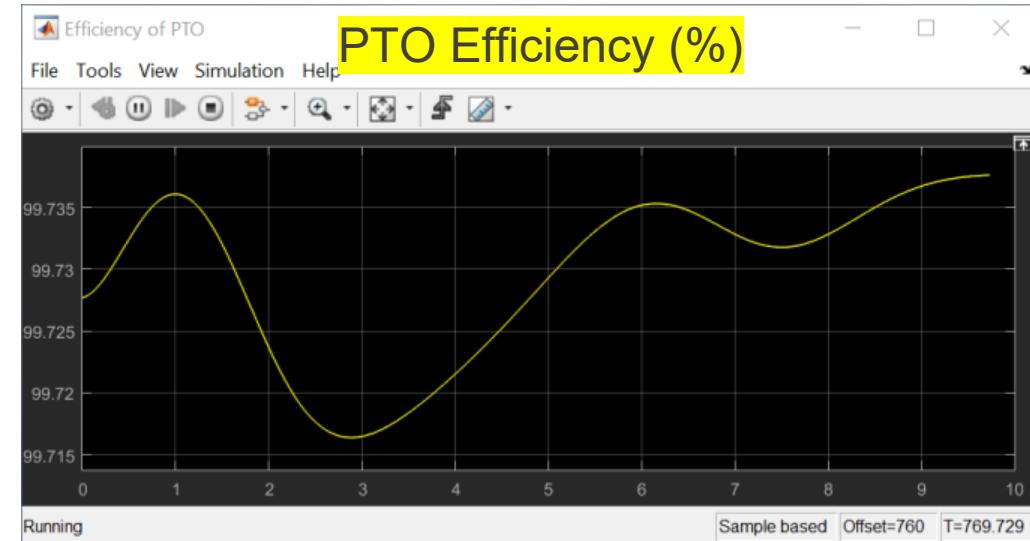
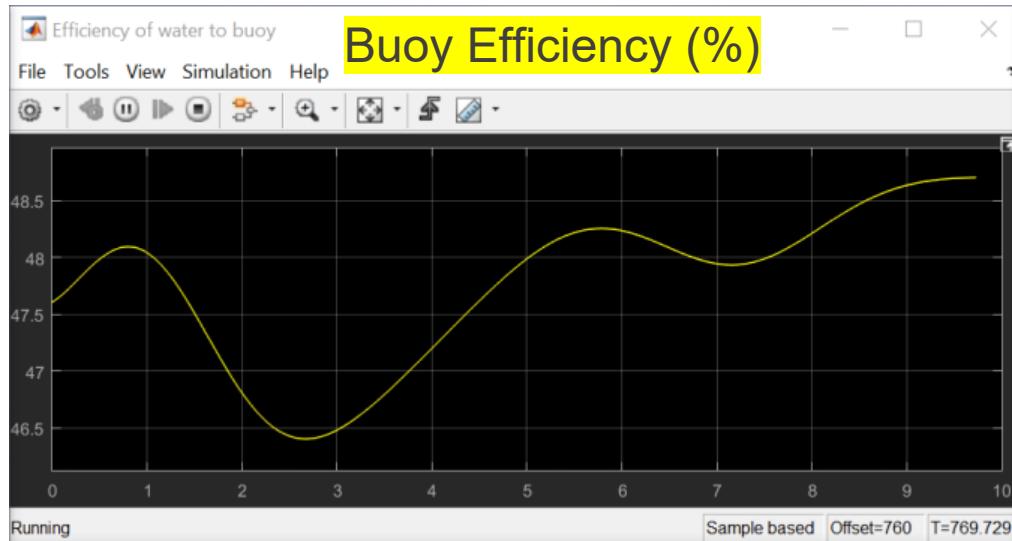
η_{CB} = PTO efficiency

η_{DC} = buoy efficiency

$$\eta_{DA} = \eta_{DC} \eta_{CB} \eta_{BA}$$

REAL-TIME MODEL

12



SUMMARY/CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

13

- Shifting the position of the buoys in the array creates advantageous electrical phasing
 - Minimizes power electronics and energy storage.
 - Maximizes power delivered to the grid.
- The additional frequencies in the spectrum impact the minimum values so they do not show up exactly at 60° and 120°
- Next Steps
 - Wave angle relative to the array.
 - Multi-array phasing.
 - Nonlinear WEC.
 - Additional tuning of PDC3 parameters needed to improve buoy energy conversion efficiency