



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

Presenter: Ronald Matthews<sup>1</sup>  
R&D S&E Electrical Engineer

Contributors: Madelyn Veurink<sup>1</sup>, Wayne Weaver<sup>2</sup>, David Wilson<sup>1</sup>,  
and Rush Robinett<sup>2</sup>

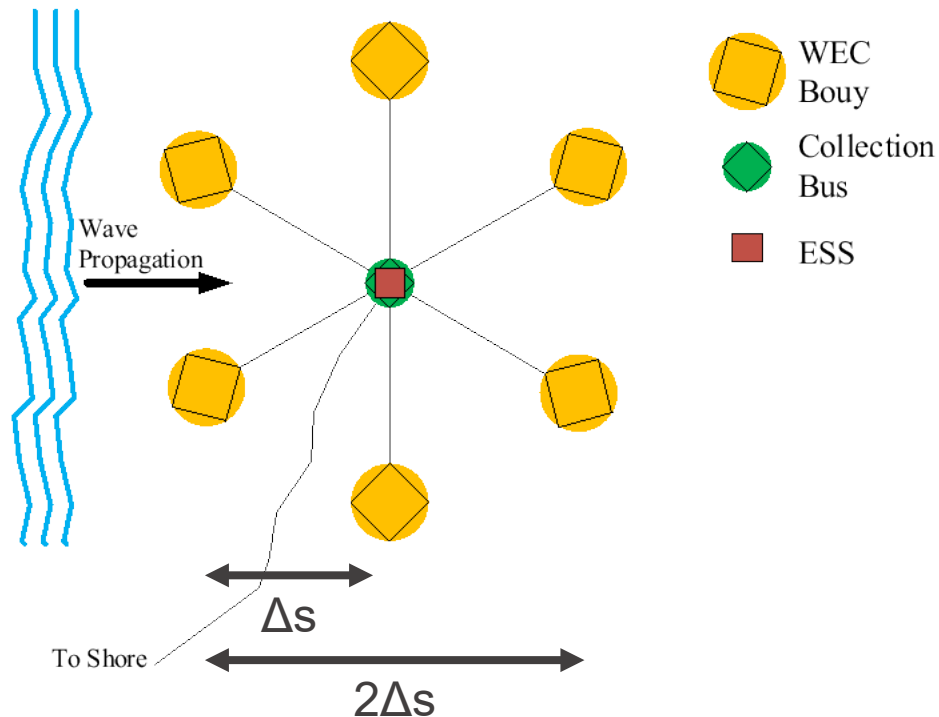
1: Sandia National Laboratories

2: Michigan Technological University

# TECHNICAL GOAL

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

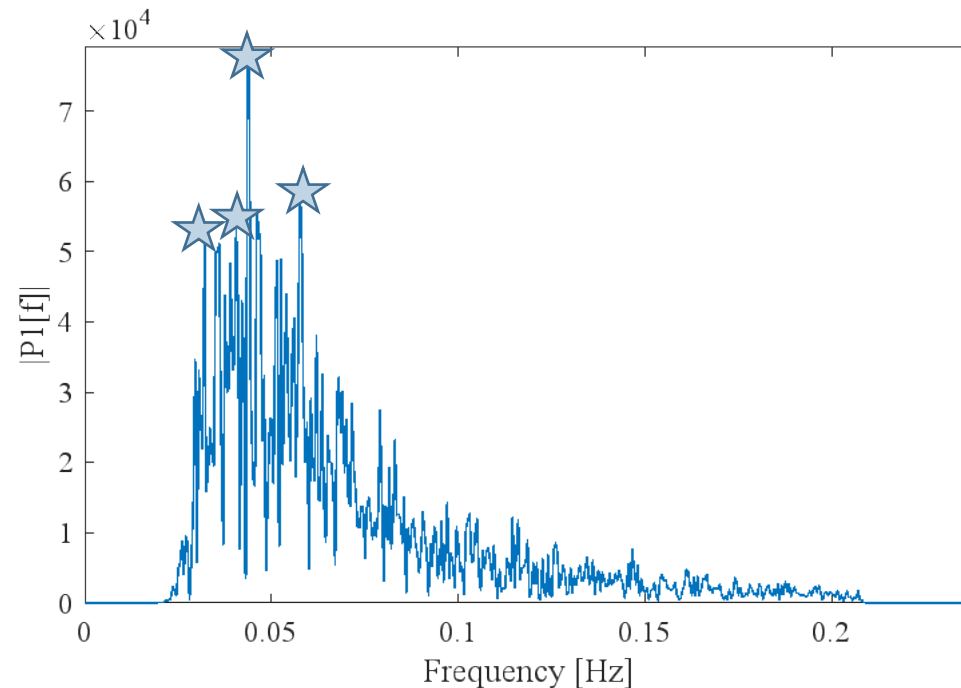
- Minimize: Energy storage, Power Electronics, LCOE
- Maximize: Power and Power Quality to the Grid.



- 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.

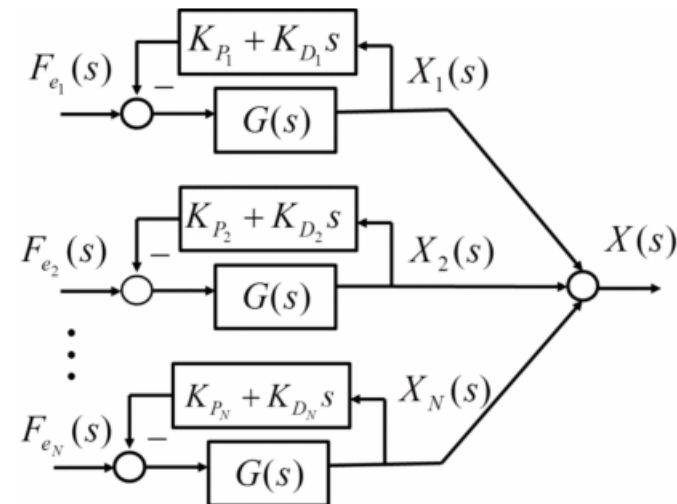
### Frequency [Hz] for each of control channels (4)

0.0465

0.039

0.0675

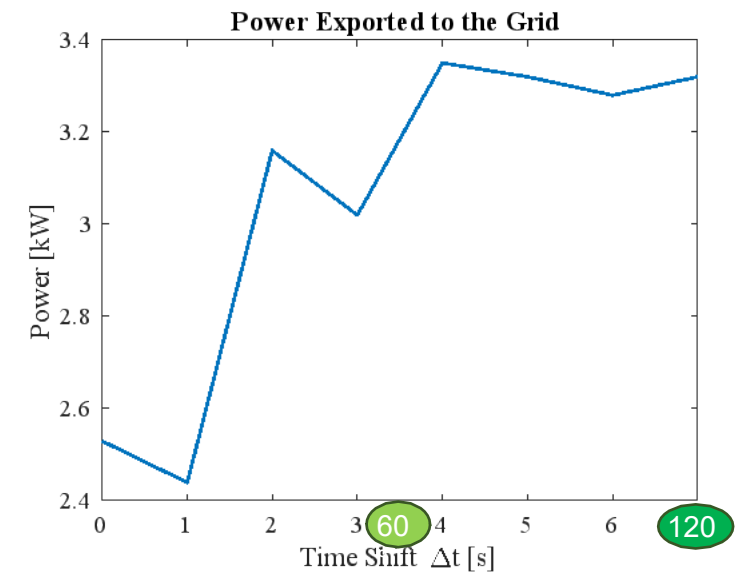
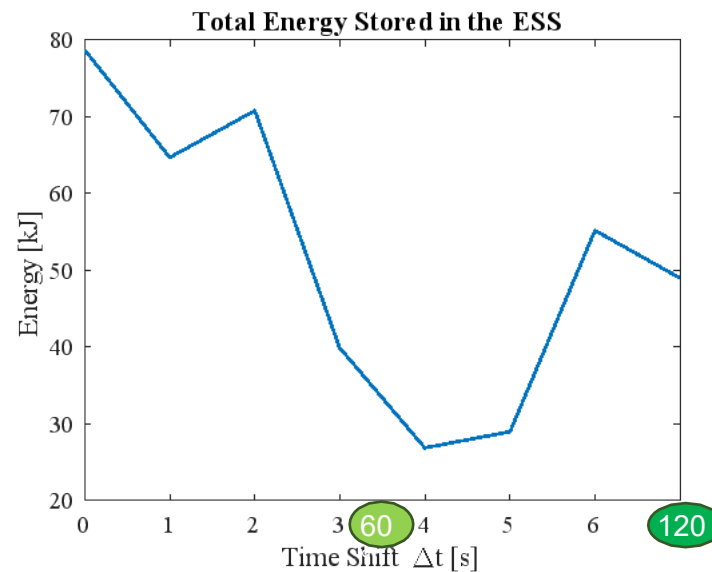
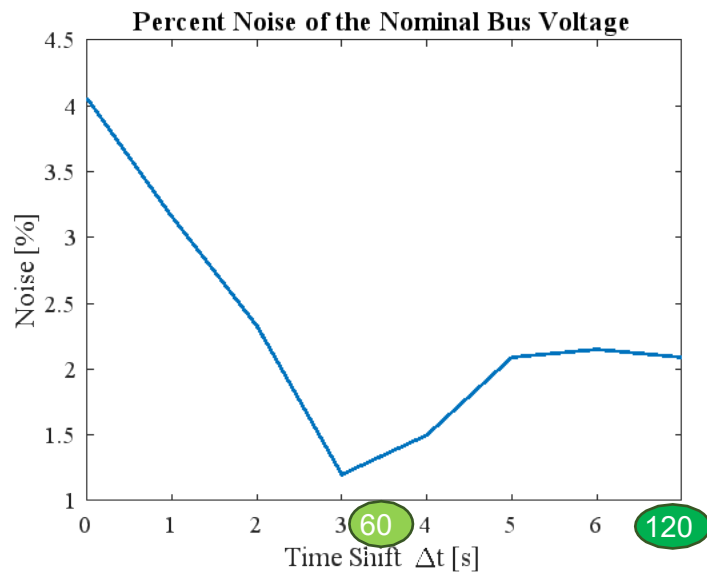
0.0485



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

5

We will see the best outcomes around  $60^\circ$  and  $120^\circ$  phase shifts relative to the peak frequency.



# OVERVIEW FOR THE WAVE SPECTRUM

$\Delta s$	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

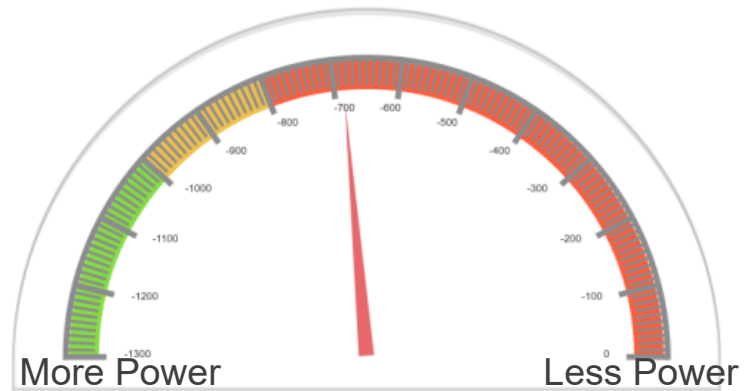
 Worst Case

  
 Best Cases

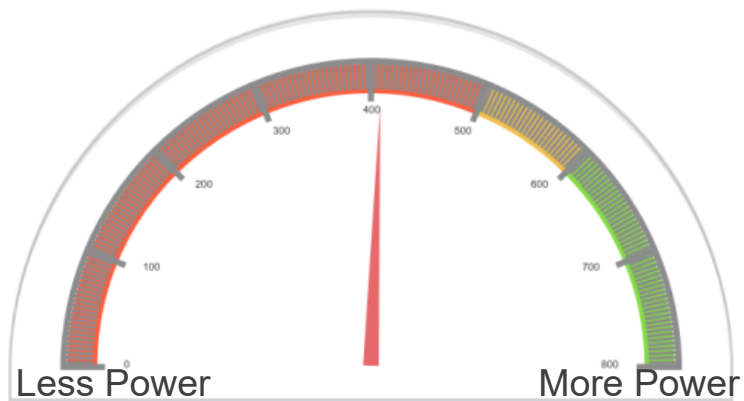
# 1 CHANNEL CONTROL

7

PTO Power



Grid Power



Block Parameters: BUOYS

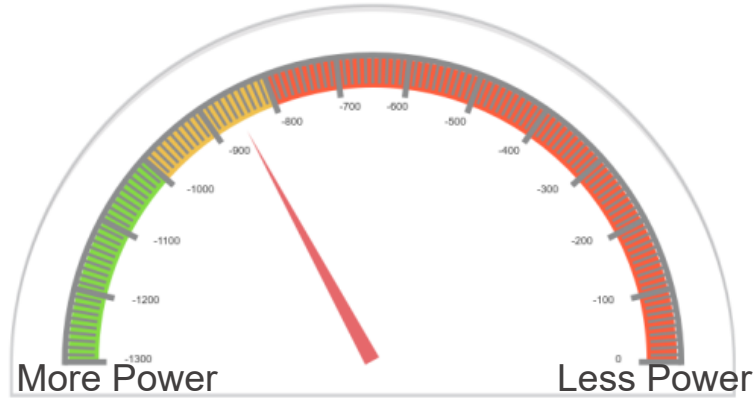
Subsystem (mask)

Parameters

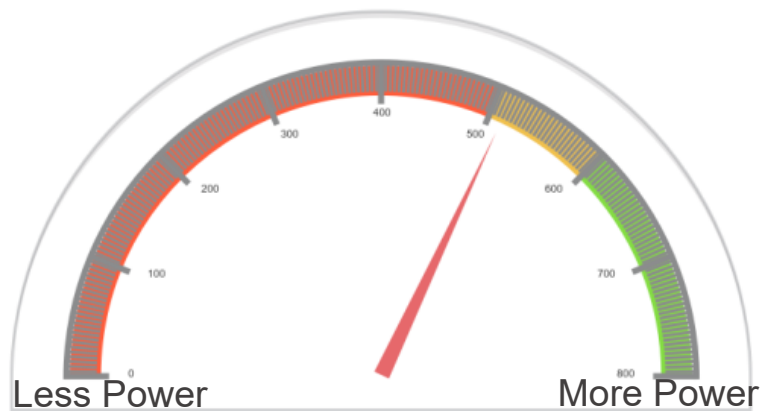
- ✖ Channel 1 Enabled 0
- ✖ Channel 2 Enabled 0
- ✖ Channel 3 Enabled 0
- Channel 4 Enabled 1

## 2 CHANNEL CONTROL

PTO Power



Grid Power



Block Parameters: BUOYS ✕

Subsystem (mask)

Parameters

✕ Channel 1 Enabled

0

⋮

✕ Channel 2 Enabled

0

⋮

Channel 3 Enabled

1

⋮

Channel 4 Enabled

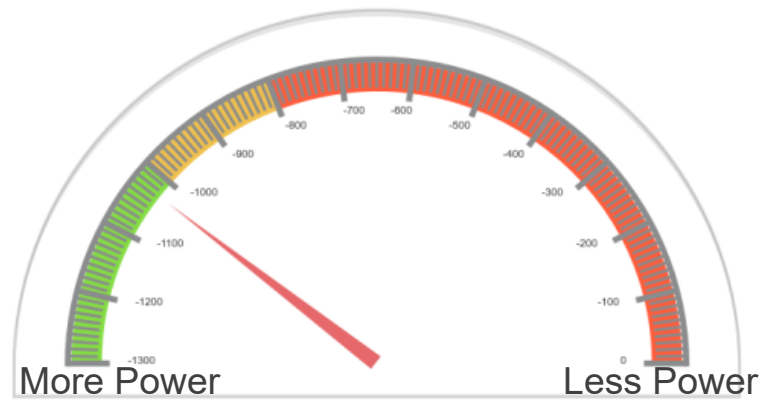
1

⋮

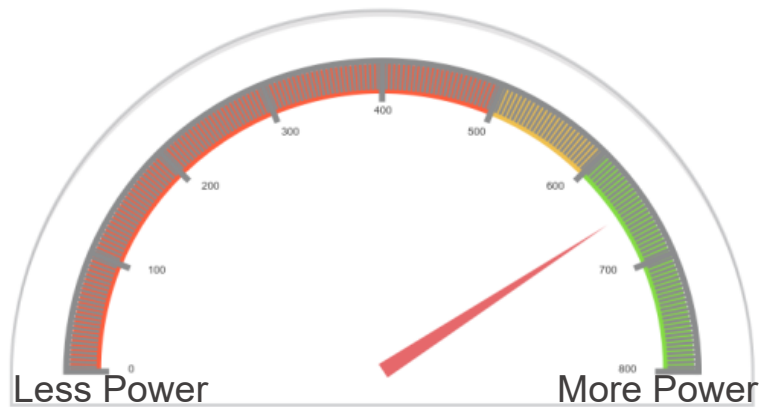


# 3 CHANNEL CONTROL

PTO Power



Grid Power



Block Parameters: BUOYS

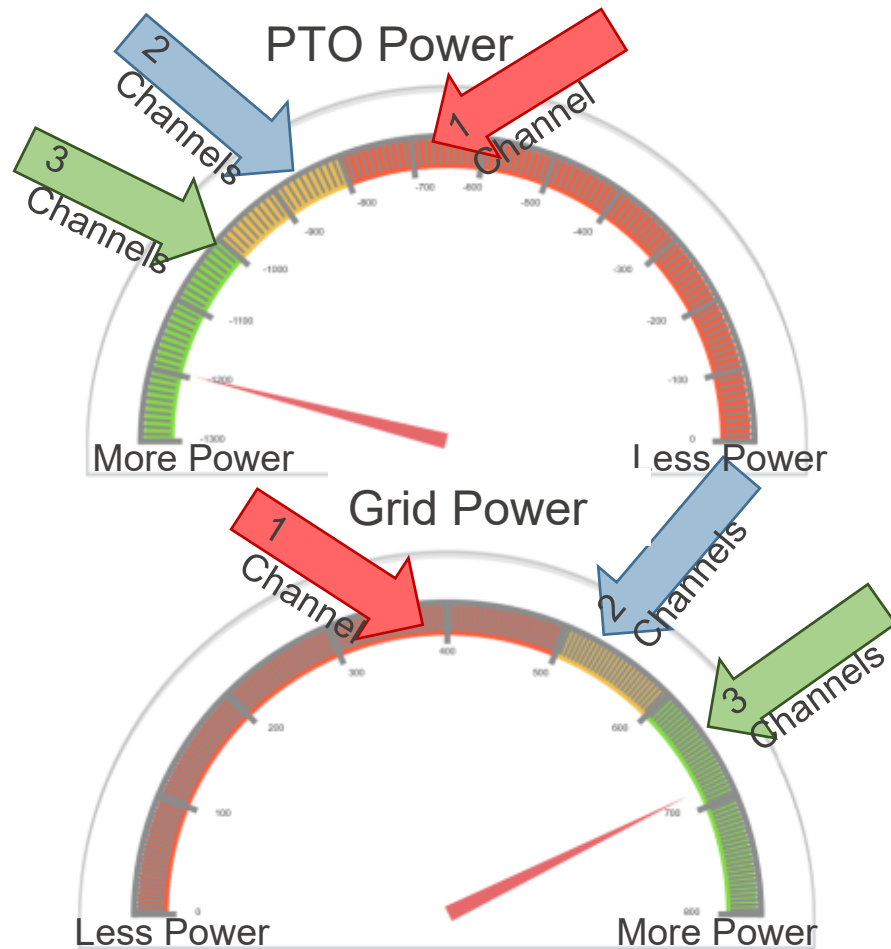
Subsystem (mask)

Parameters

Channel 1 Enabled	0	...
Channel 2 Enabled	1	...
Channel 3 Enabled	1	...
Channel 4 Enabled	1	...

## 4 CHANNEL CONTROL

10



Block Parameters: BUOYS

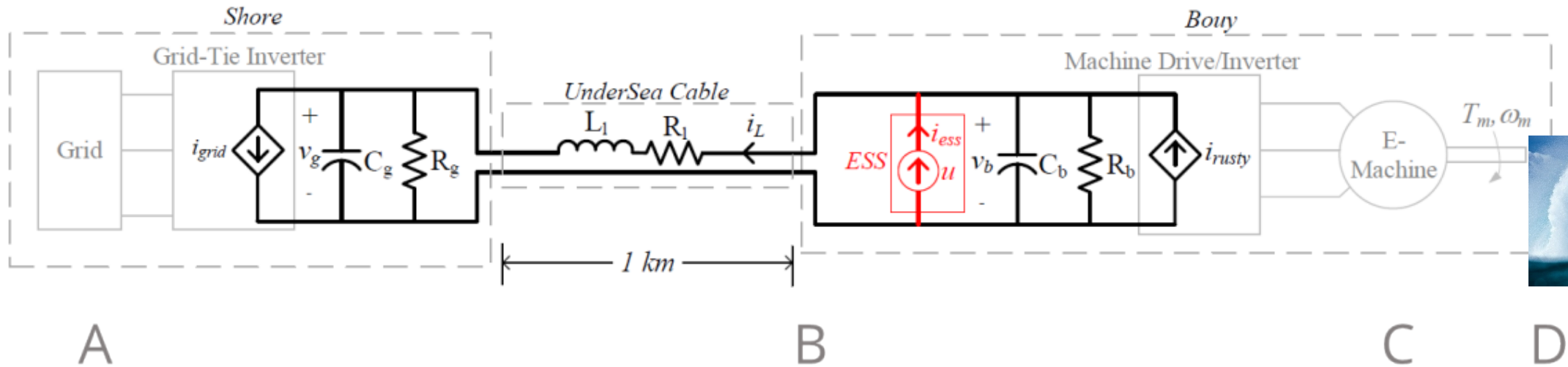
Subsystem (mask)

Parameters

Channel 1 Enabled	1
Channel 2 Enabled	1
Channel 3 Enabled	1
Channel 4 Enabled	1

# REAL-TIME MODEL

11



$\eta_{DA} = \text{overall efficiency}$

$\eta_{BA} = \text{PTO to grid efficiency}$

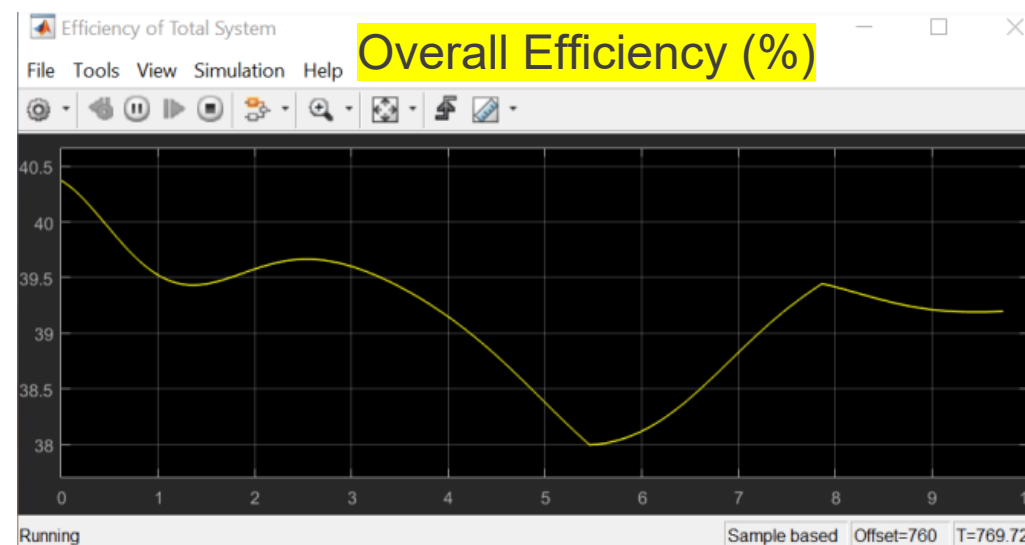
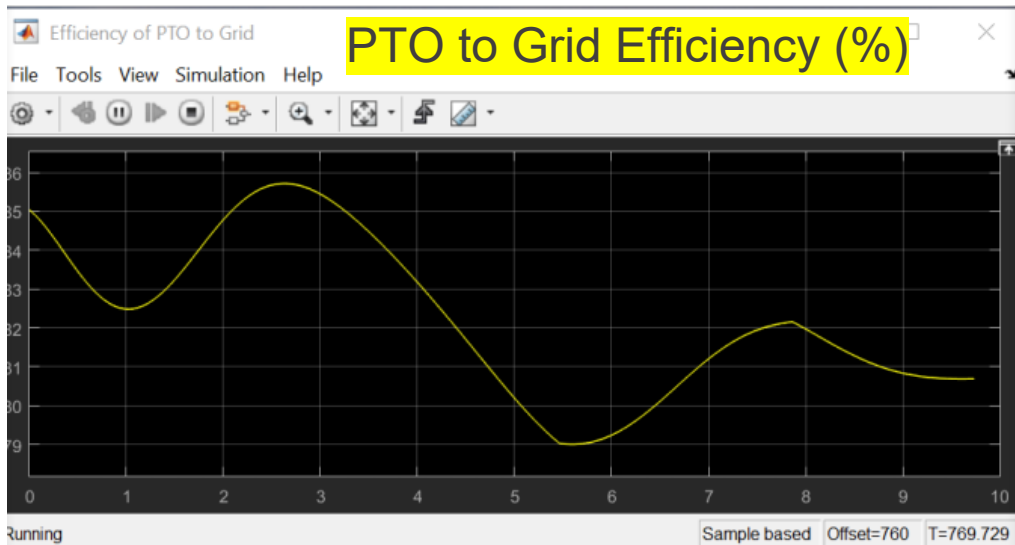
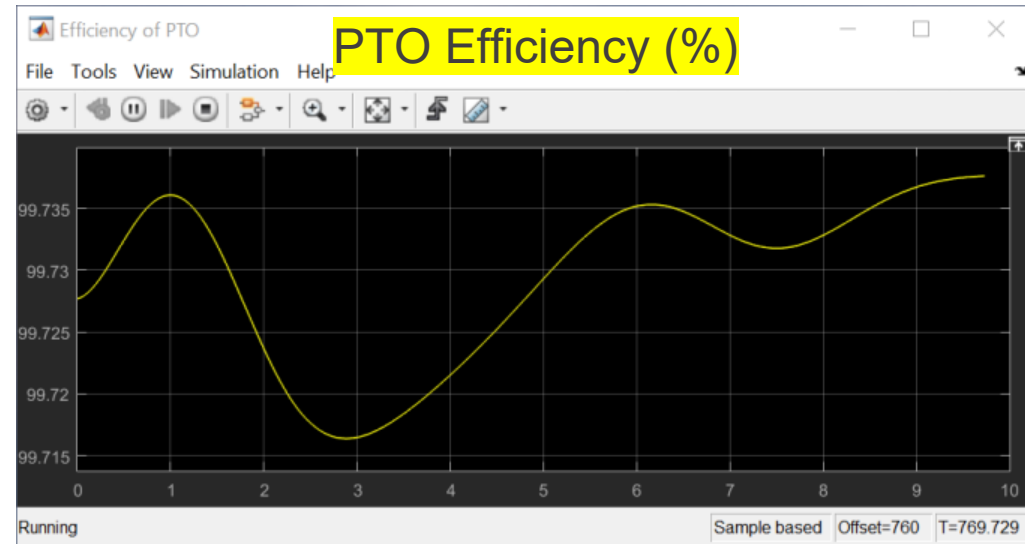
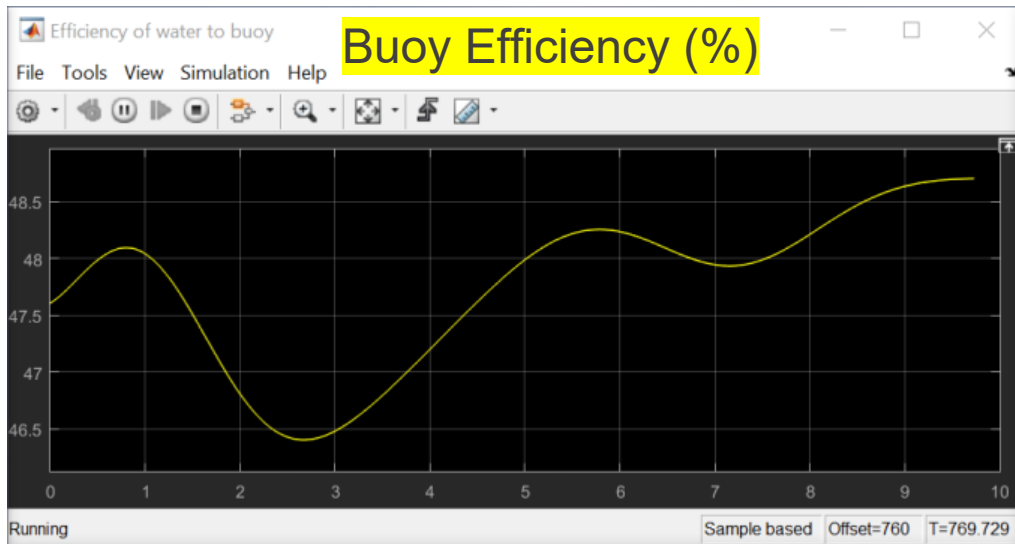
$\eta_{CB} = \text{PTO efficiency}$

$\eta_{DC} = \text{buoy efficiency}$

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

# REAL-TIME MODEL

12



# SUMMARY/CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

- 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  $60^\circ$  and  $120^\circ$
- 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