

## PANEL DISCUSSION

# “Grid Forming Inverter Integration and Validation”

Jack Flicker

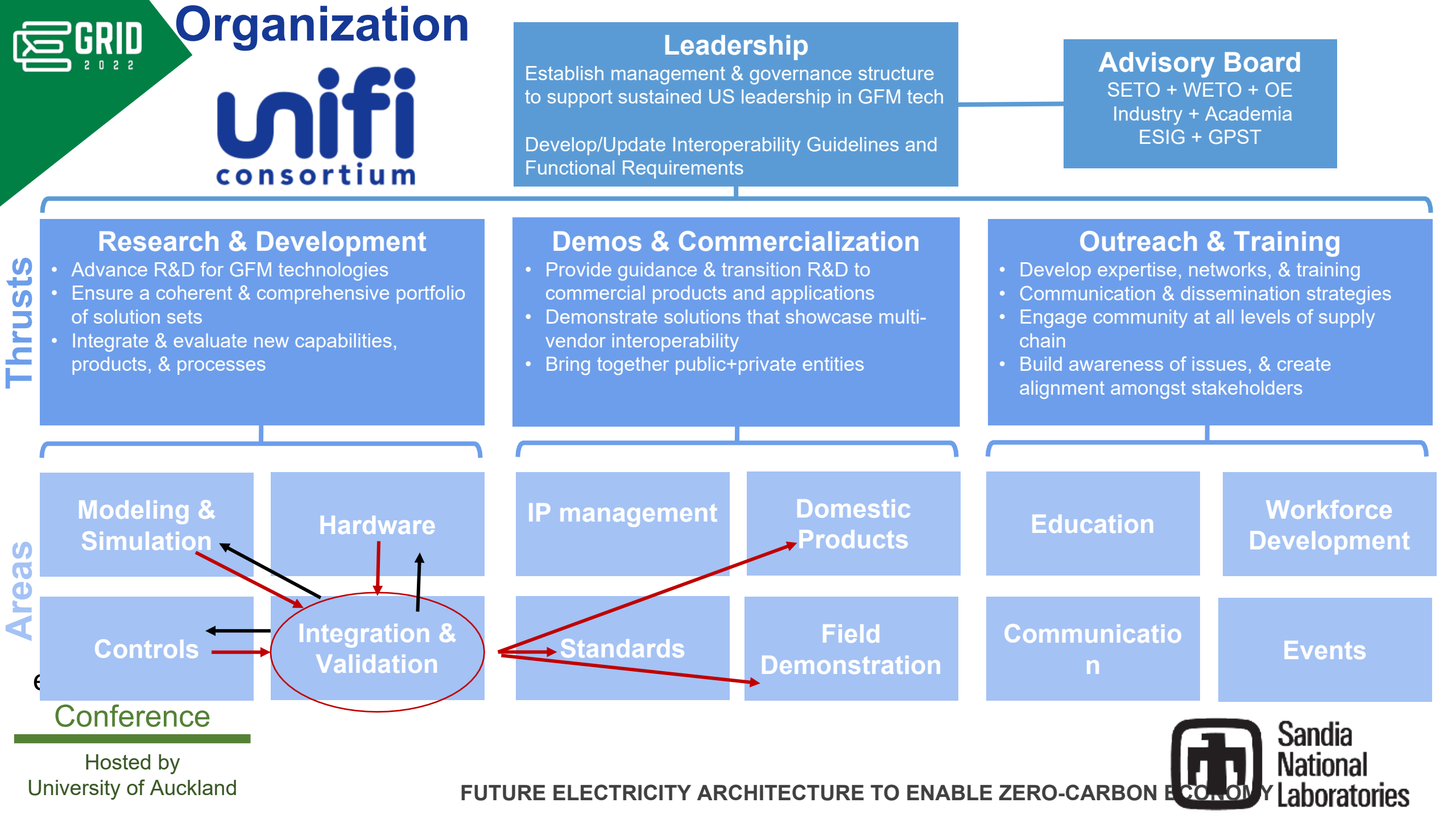
Principle Member of the Technical Staff  
Sandia National Laboratories

Power Electronics and Energy Conversion Systems

December 01, 2022



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# Integration and Validation – Focus

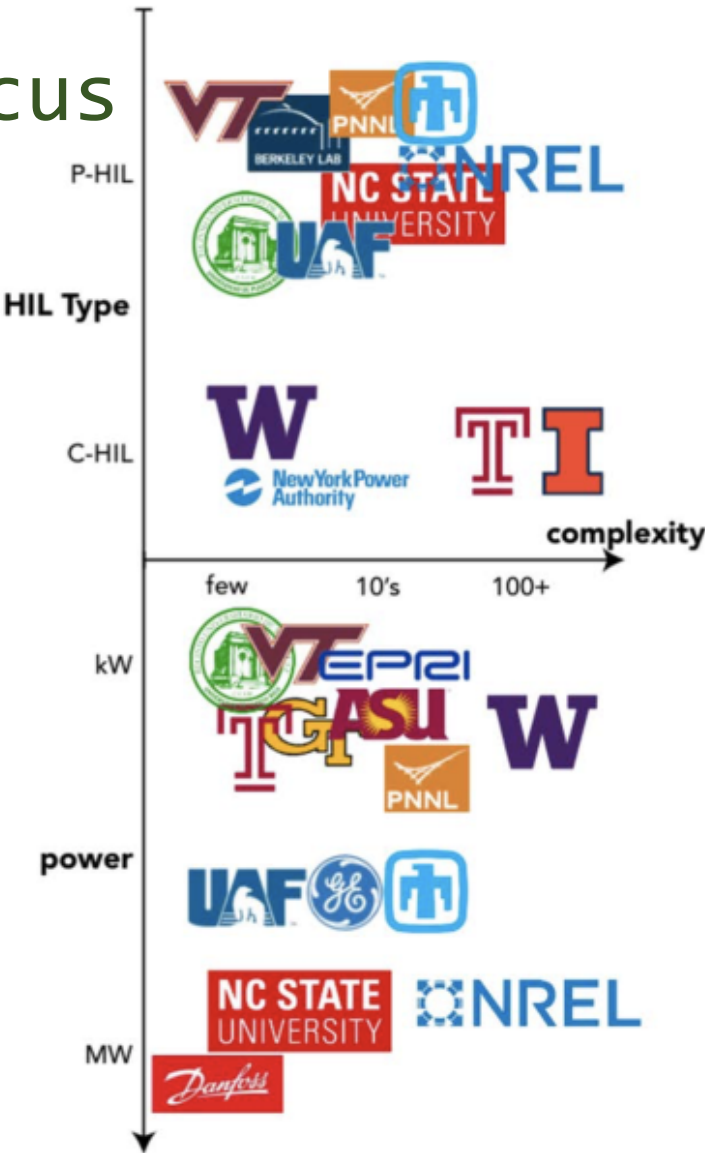
1. Evaluate the performance of GFM technologies at scale in representative integrated power system environments
2. Establish a conduit between the R&D areas and specific activities in the D&C Areas
3. Evaluate the *Interoperability Guidelines & Functional Requirements* developed by the consortium

## I&V Thrusts

1. Validation infrastructure and IBR baseline characterization
2. Integration of GFM Technology into power systems
3. 1+MW Multi-vendor Experiment

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# Integration & Validation Area

## 1 MW Experiment – at NREL in Year 3

- Includes various physical sizes (250W-1MW)
- Three-phase, single-phase generation & loads
  - GFM, GFL, & synchronous machines
  - Comms interfaces (2030.5, SunSpec)
- Multiple source-side resources (PV, energy storage, wind (if possible))
- Coupled to PHIL to evaluate scales: 1MW microgrid to larger grids
- 50%, 75%, 90%, and 100% power contribution from GFM IBRs
- Network connections (LV and MV, overhead and conductors)
- Connections to multiple laboratories: integrated testing and validation approach to realize multiple 1MW demos



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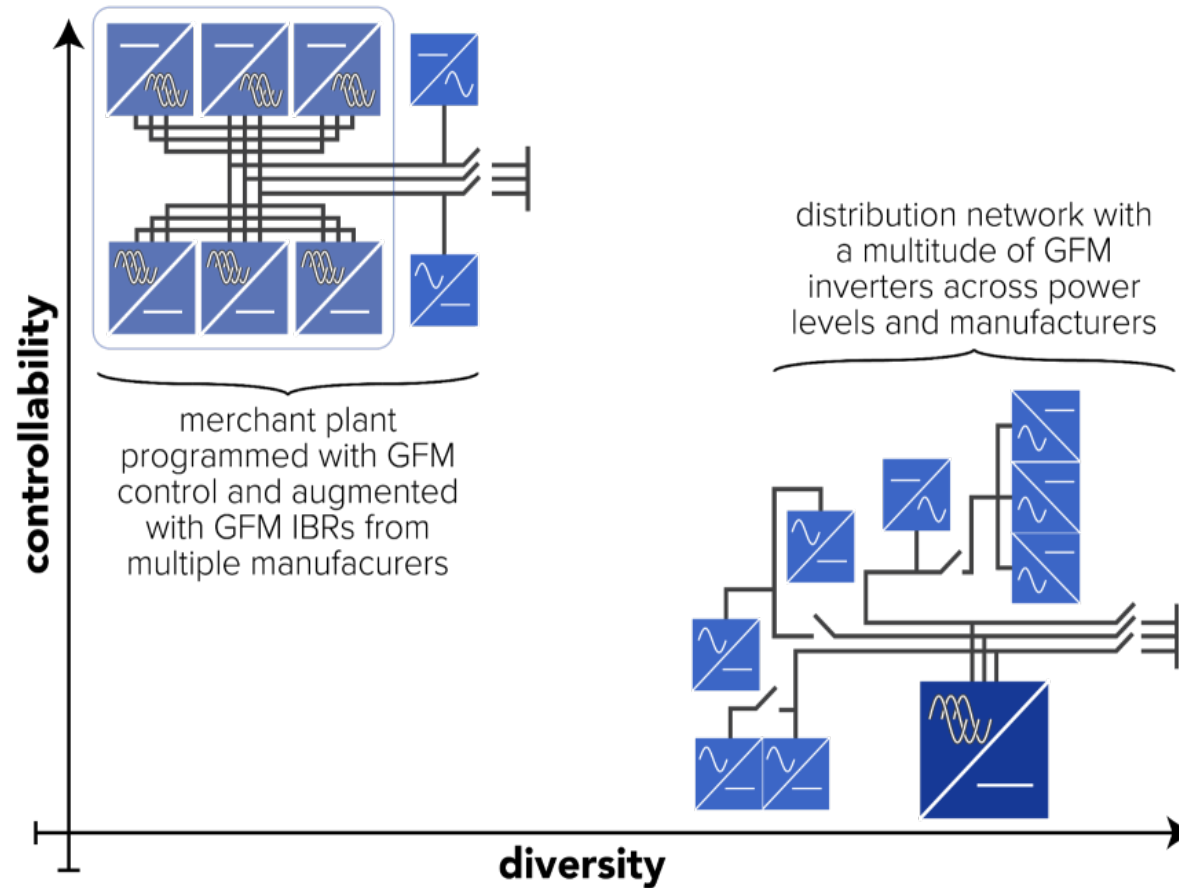
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# 20+MW Demonstration



Large-scale Plant Integration  
[Barilla Solar, TX]



Distribution Networks with high PV integration



[Chicago, IL]



[Oahu, HI]

- Examining a **range of possible sites** that trade off controllability and diversity of resources and IBR size
- Also looking for demonstrating much larger than 20MW sizes and at possibly **at multiple sites**
- Demonstrate a full range of GFM services and validate *Interoperability Guidelines & Functional Requirements*
- Would like to examine unique objectives if possible such as energy justice (collocate with underserved communities)

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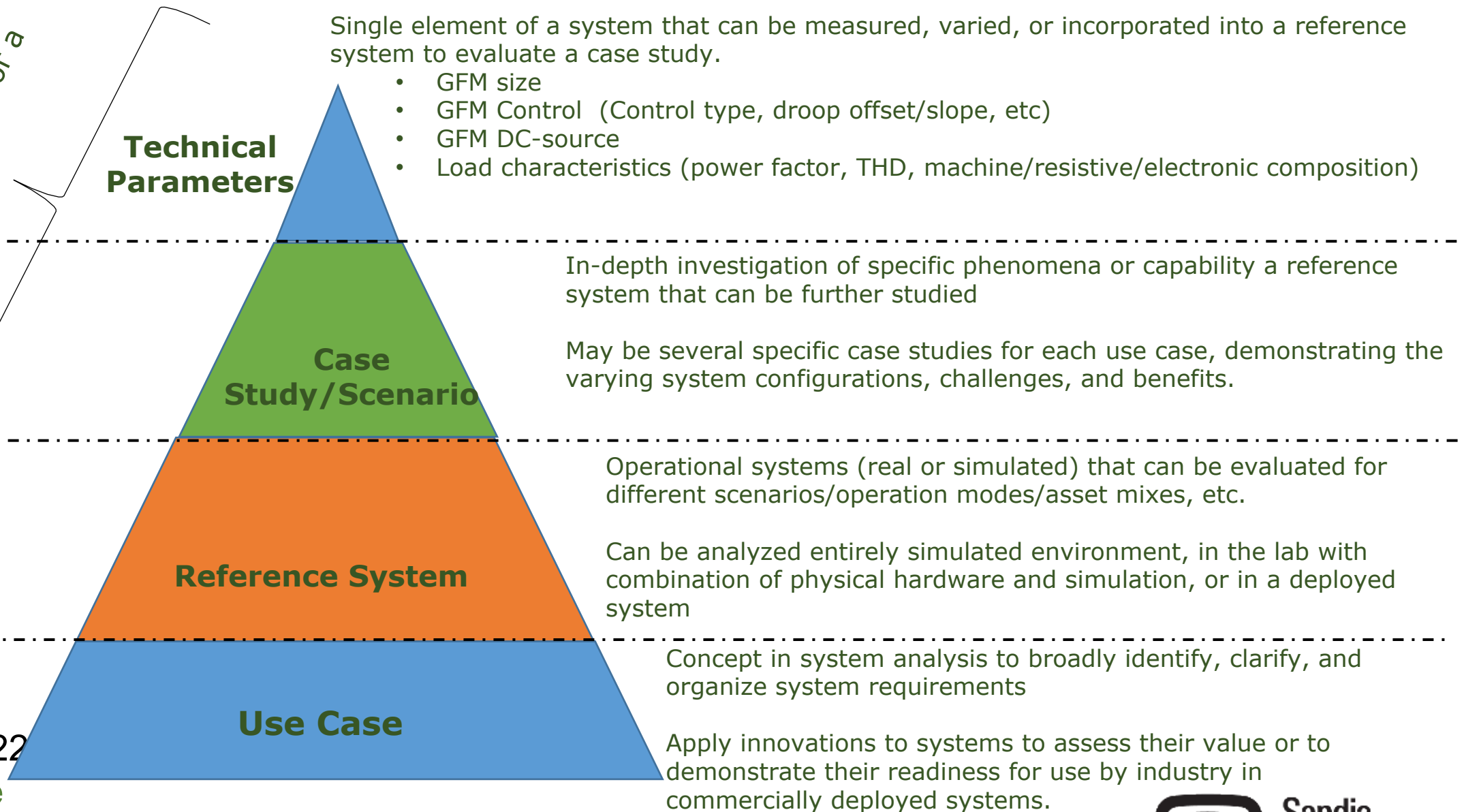
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# Hierarchical Categorization of GFM Use

Specificity ↑

Test Plan: How/what you're measuring for a given scenario





# Hierarchical Categorization of GFM Use

Use Cases	Microgrid----	Island (isolated) Grid	Distribution Connected	Transmission connected
<b>Reference Systems</b> (linked to mod/sim software library)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Banshee</li><li>• Sheriff</li><li>• Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions (CERTS)</li><li>• 1MW Demo System</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hawaiian Islands (Oahu, Kauai, Maui)</li><li>• St. Mary's, AK</li><li>• South Australia, AEMO</li><li>• Culebra, PR</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IEEE test feeders (342-Node, 13-Node, 34-Node, 123-Node, 8500 system)</li><li>• EPRI Ckt 5</li><li>• 20 MW Demo</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1WECC System</li><li>• IEEE systems (39 Bus, 14 Bus)</li><li>• 2000 Bus Synthetic Texas System</li><li>• Hydro Quebec System</li><li>• Eastern Interconnect</li></ul>
<b>Scenarios</b> (linked to <i>Interoperability Guidelines and Functional Requirements</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blackstart</li><li>• Generation Loss/Load step</li><li>• Fault (balance/unbalance)</li><li>• Phase Imbalance (voltage/power)</li><li>• Island/resynch. (control/uncontrolled)</li><li>• Inductive Inrush/motor stall</li><li>• Overload (load &gt; generation)</li><li>• DC-side Dynamics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blackstart</li><li>• Generation Loss/Load step</li><li>• Fault (balanced/unbalanced)</li><li>• Phase Imbalance (voltage/power)</li><li>• Multi-segment island/resynch</li><li>• Overload (load &gt; generation)</li><li>• Inductive Inrush/motor stall</li><li>• DC-side Dynamics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generation Loss/Load Step</li><li>• Fault (distribution)</li><li>• Phase Imbalance(voltage/power)</li><li>• Loss of Utility</li><li>• DC-side loss of generation</li><li>• Inductive Inrush</li><li>• Protection Coordination</li><li>• Overload (load &gt; generation)</li><li>• Fault (Transmission)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generation Loss/Load Step</li><li>• Fault (Distribution)</li><li>• Blackstart</li><li>• System oscillation/transient stability</li><li>• Line Series Compensation</li><li>• FACTs device interaction</li><li>• Fault (Transmission)</li><li>• Protection Coordination</li></ul>

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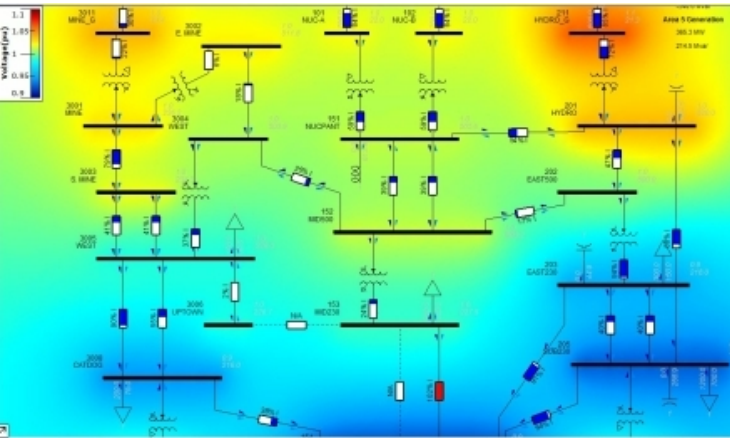
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# Experimental Continuum

## Flexibility



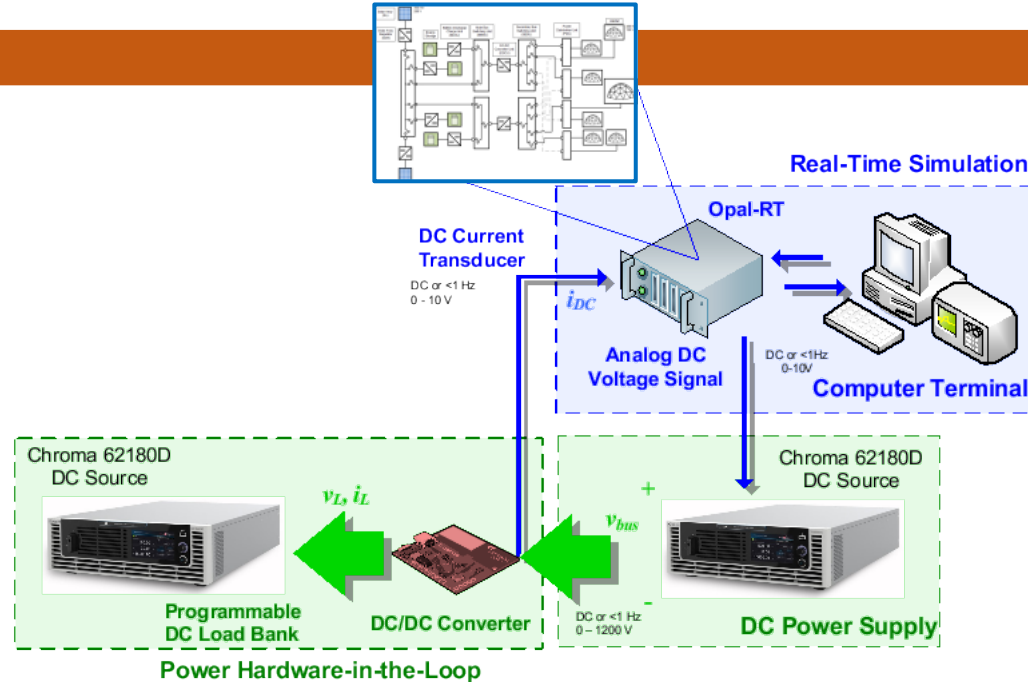
**Pure Simulation**  
Extended system representation

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C/P HIL: Testing of external devices interfaced to a simulated system

- Simulations are normally **closed loop**
- DUT receives signals from the simulation and provides signals back to the simulation
- Mix of fidelity of response with flexibility of scenarios



**Controller HIL**  
High fidelity control systems

**Power HIL**  
High fidelity Unit Response

**Pure Hardware**  
Nonlinear interactions



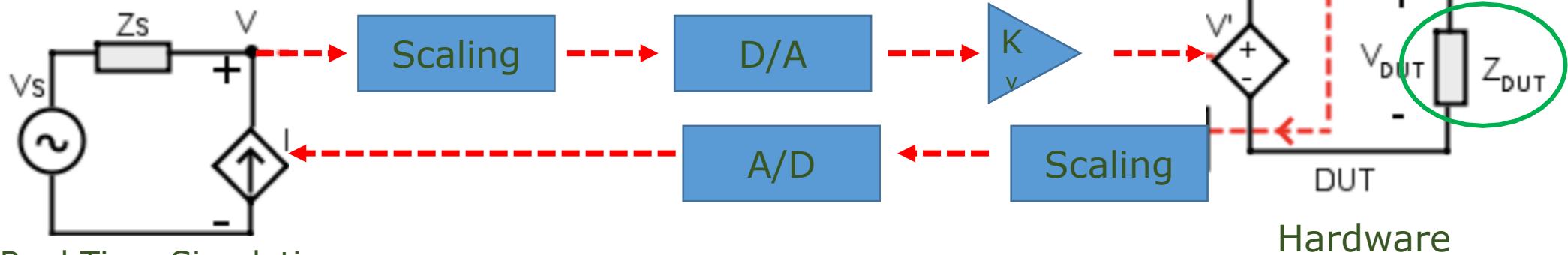
**Fidelity**



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# Power Hardware in Loop of GFM-Ideal Transformer Method



Real Time Simulation

Hardware

The Ideal Transformer Method (ITM) is one of the most common PHIL setup  
Simple to implement, Faster solve times, good stabilityx

DC Power Supply



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Issue: GFM is not a **pure load**,  
but a **4 quadrant voltage source**

**Warning: Direct connection** of  
voltage sources is metastable

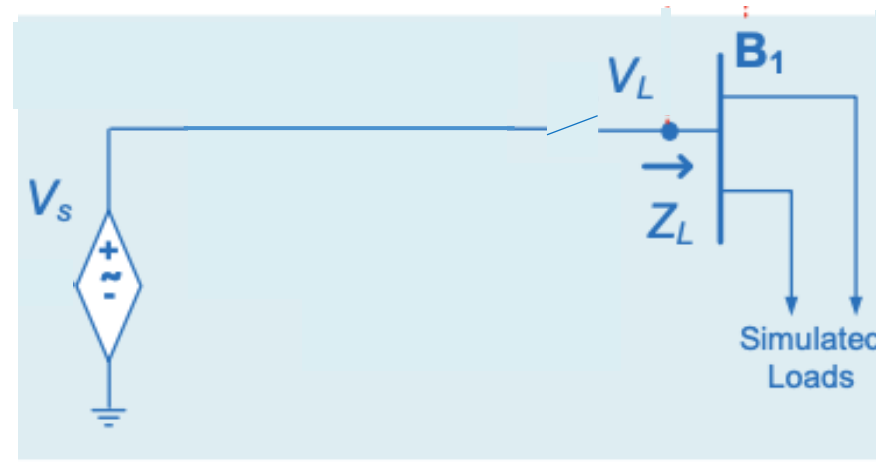
Can result in instability during  
simulation

# Blackstart of GFM in HIL

Power System  
Simulation



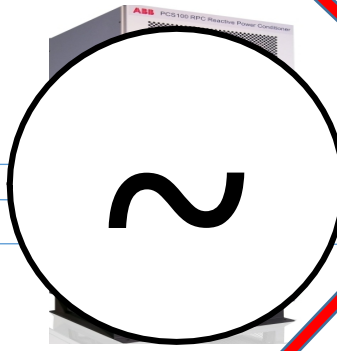
Real Time Simulator



In simulation

In laboratory

DC Power  
Supply



Device Under Test



AC Amplifier

$V_s = 1\text{pu}$

$V_L = 0$

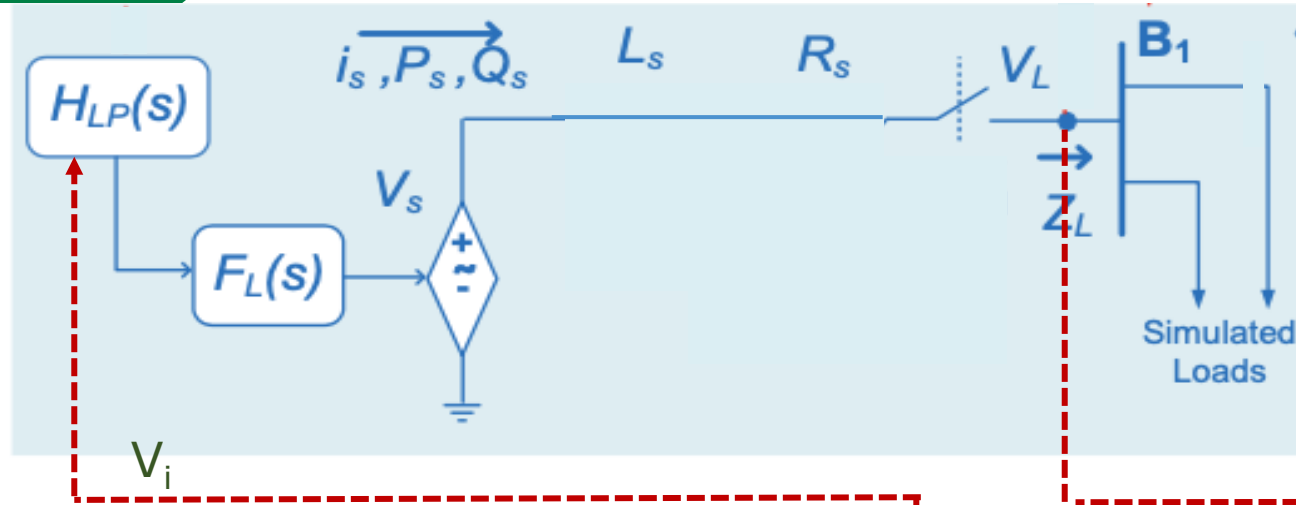
Same issue for isoch  
mode voltage sources

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# Blackstart of GFM in HIL



- Add real inductor in between GFM and AC amplifier
  - Inductor and total resistance in hardware side replicated inside the simulation
  - forming a digital twin
- Voltage waveform measured and then injected into the simulation/amplifier
  - No current monitoring
  - ITM uses 1 voltage measure and 1 current measure

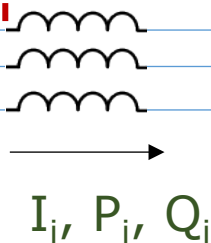
DC Power Supply



Device Under Test



$V_g$



$I_i, P_i, Q_i$



AC Amplifier

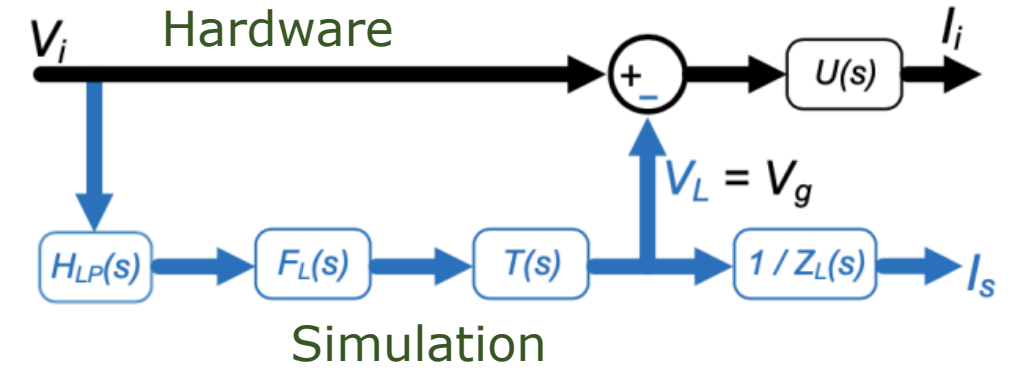
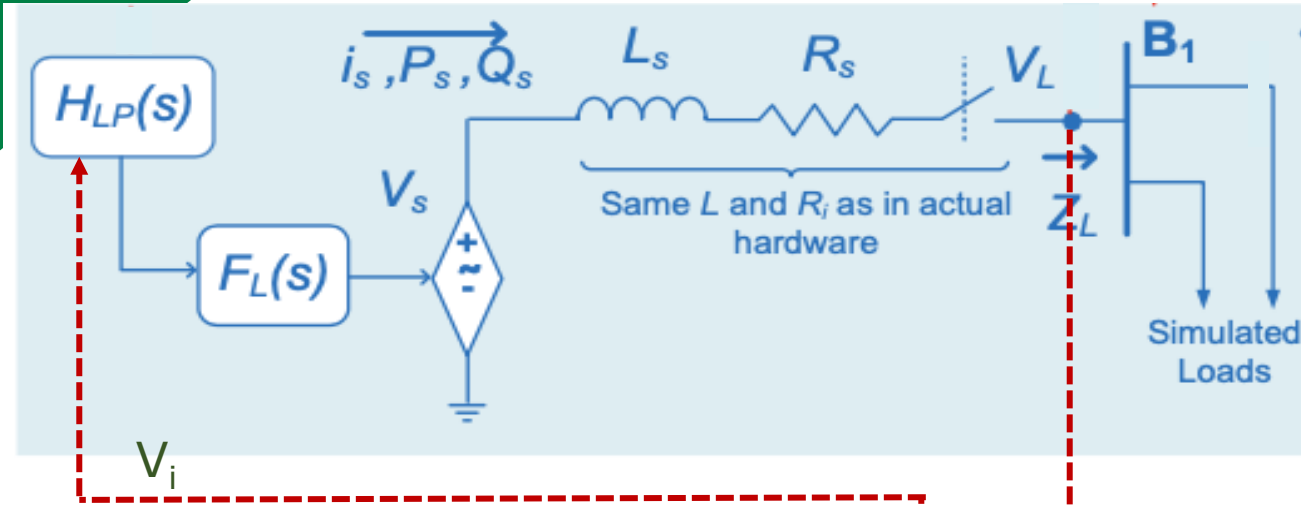
Javier Hernandez-Alvidrez; Nicholas S. Gurule; Matthew J. Reno; Jack D. Flicker; Adam Summers; Abraham Ellis, Method to Interface Grid-Forming Inverters into Power Hardware in the Loop Setups, 2020 47th IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference (PVSC).

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# Blackstart of GFM in HIL



$$\frac{I_i}{V_i} = [1 - H_{LP}(s) \cdot F_{LP}(s) \cdot T(s)] \cdot U(s)$$

$$\frac{I_i}{V_i} = \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\omega_c}{s + \omega_c} \right) \cdot \left[ \frac{s + (p_1 + \alpha)}{s + p_1} \right] \left[ \frac{Z_L(s)}{sL_s + R_s + Z_L(s)} \right] \right] \cdot \frac{1}{sL_i + R_i}$$

$\omega_c, p_1, L_i, R_i > 0 \rightarrow$  all associated pole on LHS  
 $\rightarrow$  Ensures stable behavior

So stability determined by zeros of:

$$sL_s + R_s + Z_L(s) = 0$$

DC Power Supply



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Device Under Test



$I_i, P_i, Q_i$

$V_g$



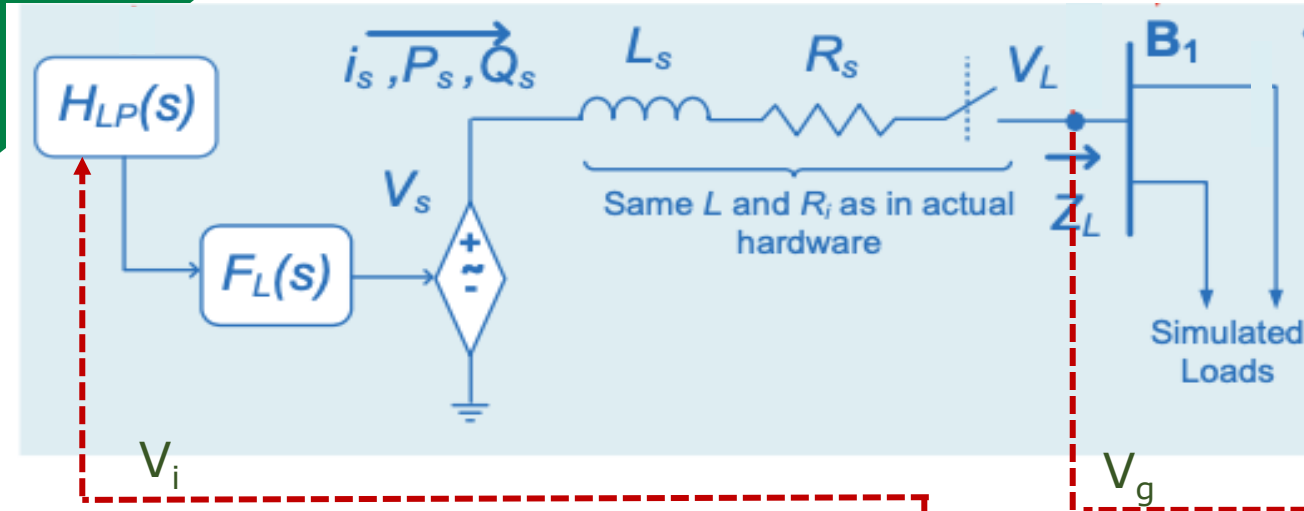
AC Amplifier

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# Blackstart of GFM in HIL



For RLC series case:

$$Z_L(s) = R_L + sL_L + \frac{1}{sC_L}$$

$$s = \frac{-(R_S C_L + R_L C_L) \pm \sqrt{(R_S C_L + R_L C_L)^2 - 4(L_S C_L + L_L C_L)}}{2(L_S C_L + L_L C_L)}$$



A lot of algebra later...

$$-4(L_S + L_L) < 0 \quad \text{Inequality to ensure stability...}$$

Since  $L_S$  and  $L_L$  are real quantities...

***exponentially stable for all systems that can be represented by Series RLC circuit***

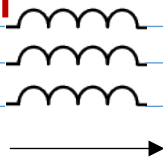
For the RLC parallel case, closed expression is more difficult → solve numerically dictated by how well real inductance and resistance is represented in simulation (digital twin)

- Issues with nonideal/nonlinear inductance/resistance

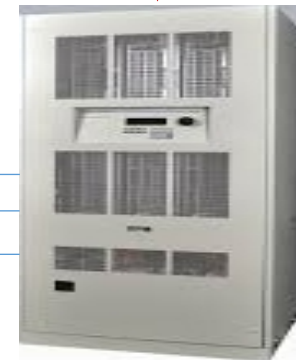
DC Power Supply



Device Under Test



$I_i, P_i, Q_i$



AC Amplifier

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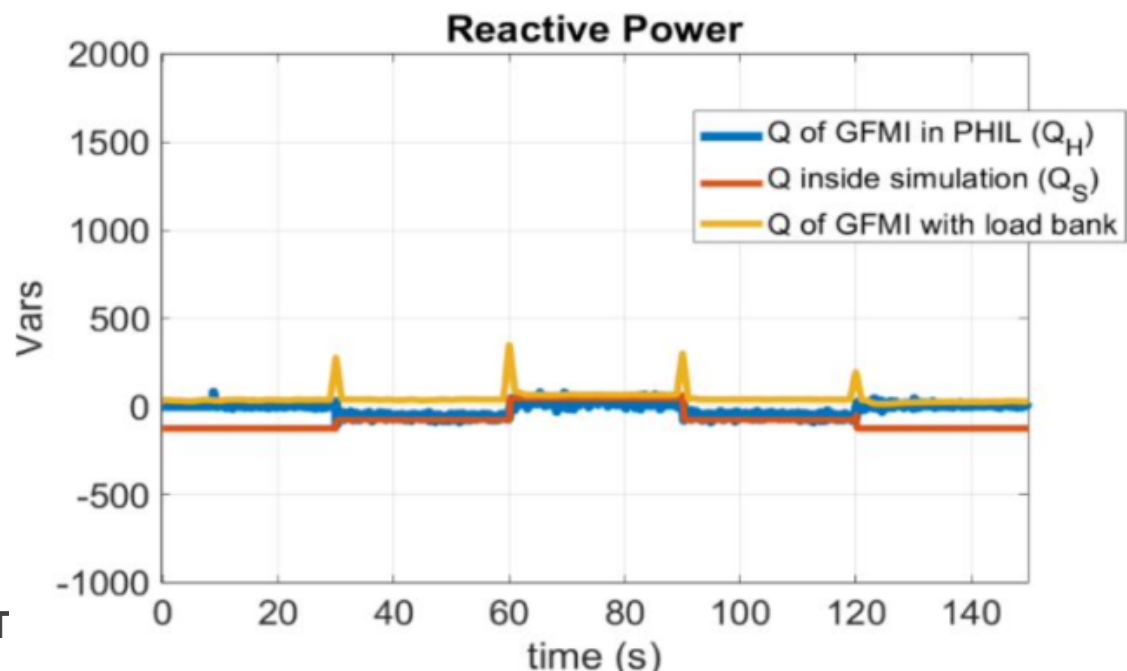
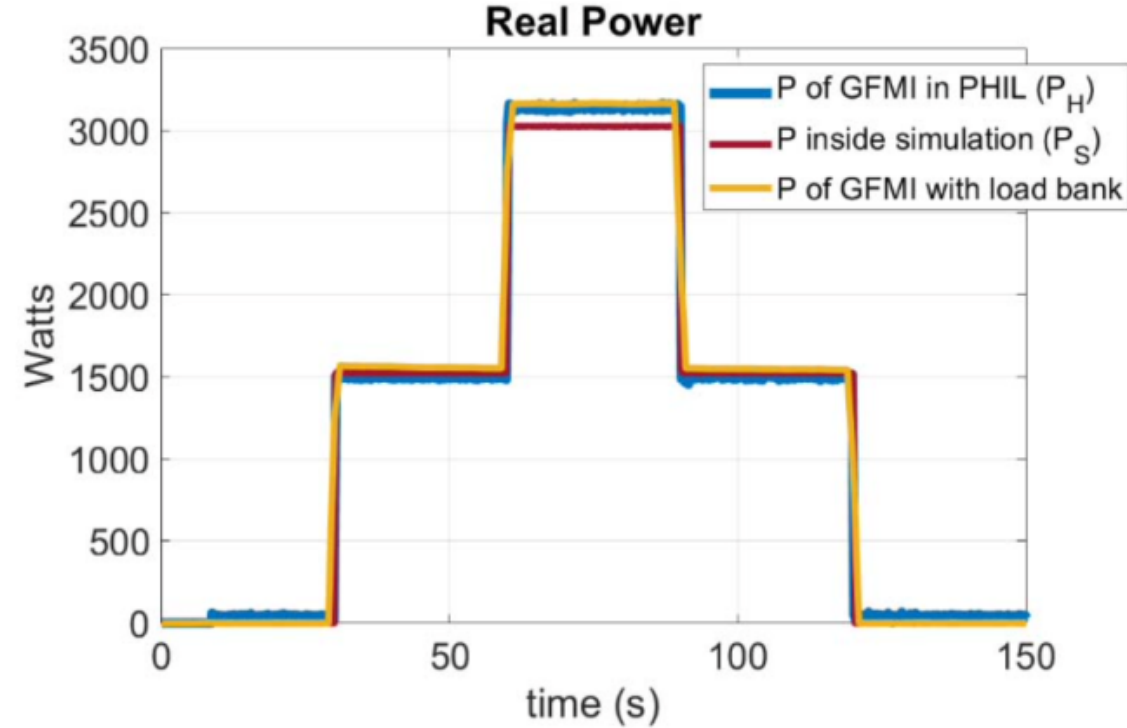
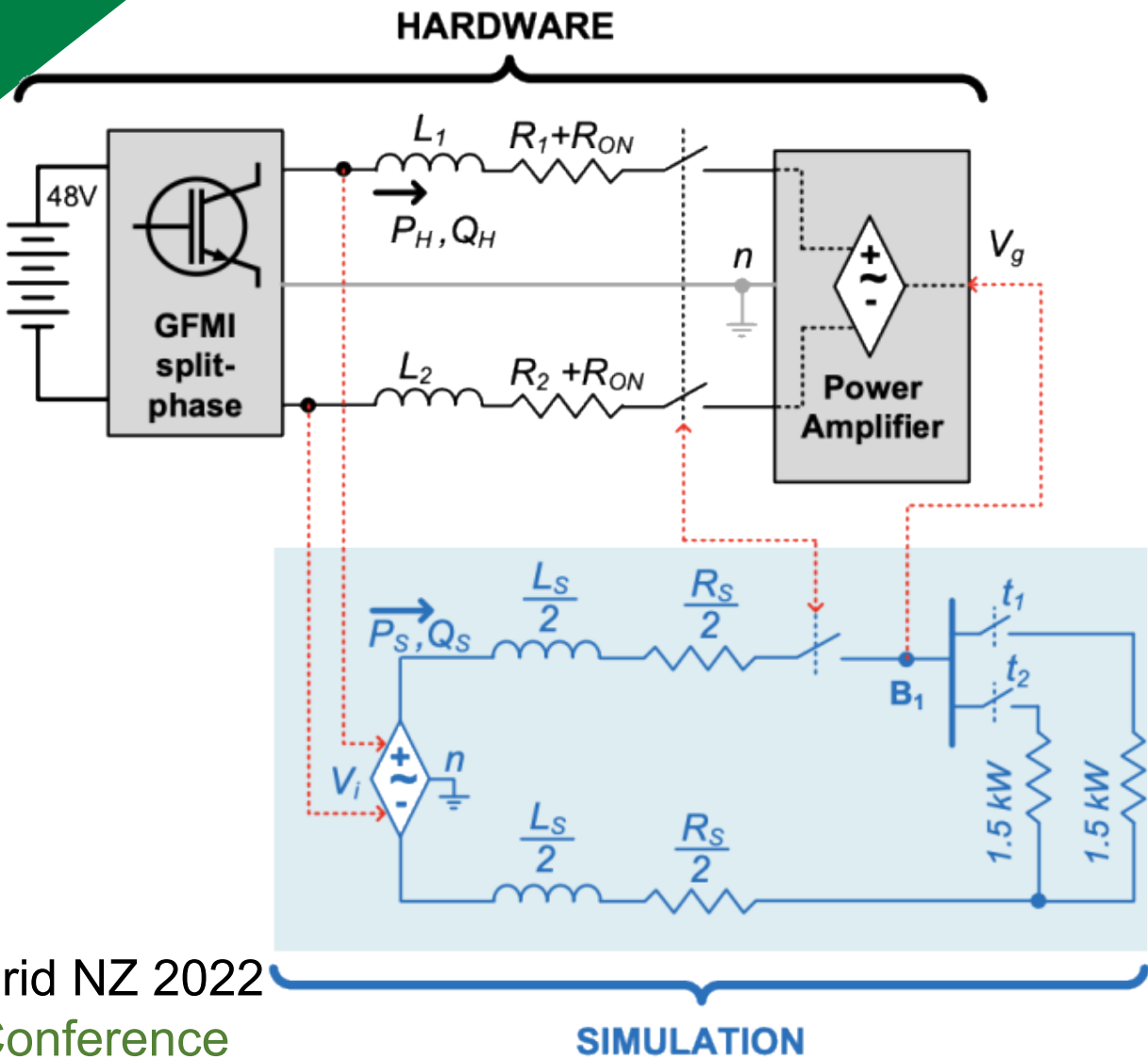
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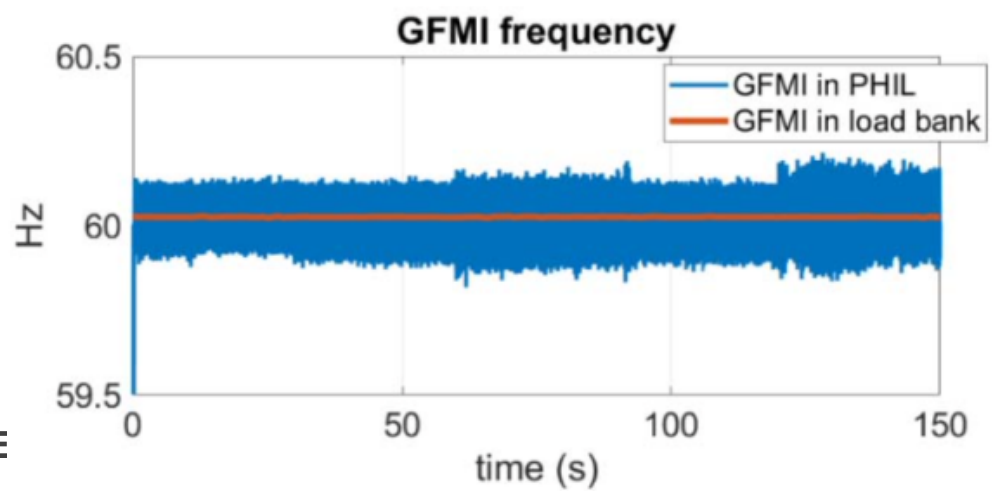
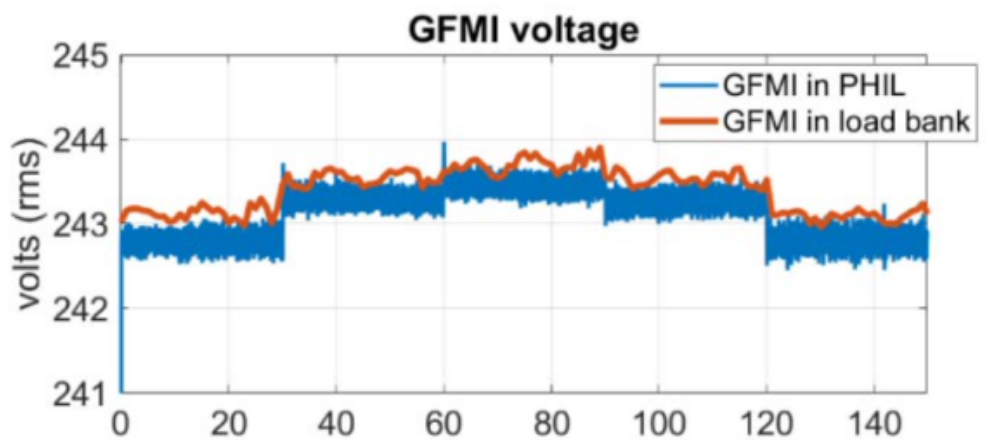
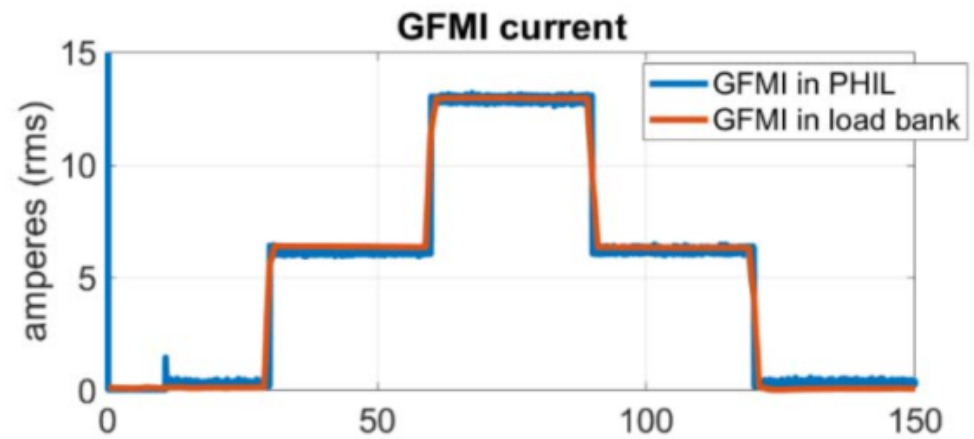
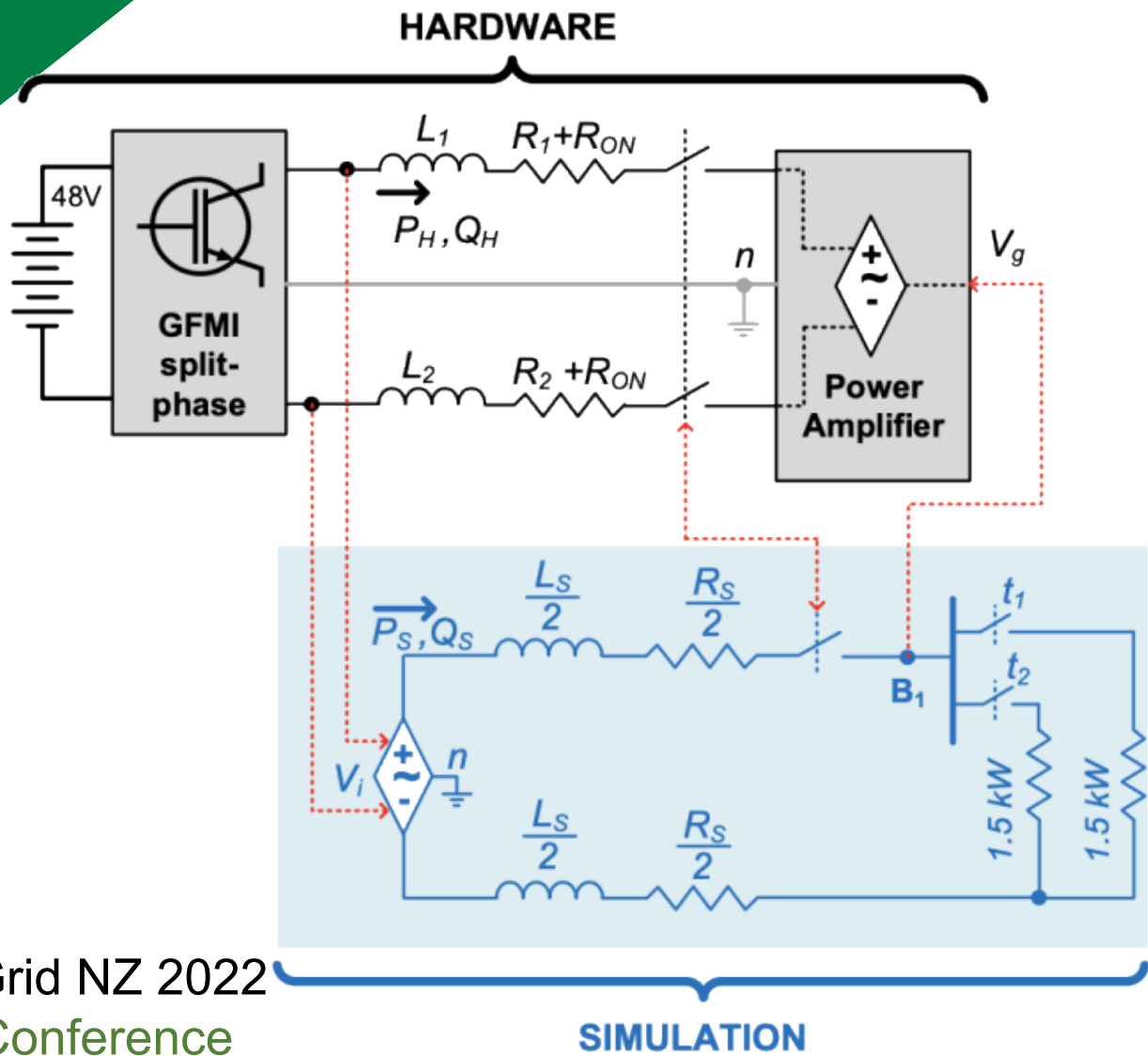


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# Blackstart of GFM in HIL



# Blackstart of GFM in HIL





# Future Work

Integration of GFM into power systems is a new and emerging area. HIL can elucidate behavior of fielded systems

- Protection
  - Short circuit protection
  - Power flow and impedance changes during contingency events
  - Protection in the Loop
- Interoperability with other units
  - Diesel + GFM (significantly different time scales)
  - Multiple GFM (different control mechanisms)
- Black start and islanded operation

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