

# Data-Driven Calibration of Electric Power Distribution System Models





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# ➢Introduction

# >Overview of Data-Driven Calibration of Distribution System Models

# ≻Use Cases

- Parameter and Topology Estimation of Low-Voltage Secondary Systems
- Phase Identification
- ➢Identification of Service Transformer Connections
- Future Directions of Data-Driven Modeling
- ➢Conclusions

# Introduction

The electric power grid provides roughly 4000 TWh of power per year, delivering power to critical aspects of America's economy, transportation, water, emergency services, telecommunications, manufacturing, defense facilities, and residences.

Transmission System (up to 500kV) transfers power throughout the U.S.

- Real-time measurements (PMU, 1-3 second SCADA, etc.)
- State Estimation, Optimization, and Control

Distribution System (4kV - 35kV) connects to the customers

- Much less monitoring or control due to the size
  - $^\circ~\sim\!300,\!000$  miles of transmission lines vs.  $\sim\!6,\!000,\!000$  miles of distribution lines
  - $\circ~~\sim\!20,\!000$  substation transformers vs.  $\sim\!200,\!000,\!000$  service transformers
- Visibility into distribution system operations is limited, and models are prone to errors







## Electric Power Distribution Systems

Historically, distribution system model accuracy was of little concern, rarely validated, and had limited measurements.

Many of the recent advances in smart grid technologies, proliferation of distributed energy resources (DER), and new control strategies are on the distribution system – electric vehicles, rooftop PV, energy storage, microgrids, etc.

With new smart grid technologies, accurate models are critical

- Accurate PV interconnection analysis and screening
- Optimal operations and control
- Investment planning and decisions
- Improved reliability and resilience (fault location, isolation, and service restoration)

Modern distribution system algorithms and tools are continually improving, but their functionality is only as good as the utility's model of their grid.



## Distribution System Models

The distribution system has been built over many decades, historically recorded with paper schematics for installations, upgrades, and maintenance.

#### **Distribution System Models**

- Are based on manual data entry that is prone to error and often out of date
- Contain additional complexity because they are multi-phase unbalanced with singlephase customers. Cannot use symmetrical component single-line models from transmission system modeling

#### Sources of Error

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- Unlogged or erroneous maintenance reports
- Information not initially recorded in the model

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, that provide new insights and levels of accuracy in distribution system modeling





## **Common Distribution System Model Errors**



L. Blakely, M. J. Reno, and J. Peppanen, "Identifying Common Errors in Distribution System Models," IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference (PVSC). 2019.

# Project Overview

DOE EERE Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) funded project "Physics-Based Data-Driven Grid Modelling to Accelerate Accurate PV Integration"

• Physics-based – using known electrical equations and models that work with today's power systems simulation software (not black box)

FY19 - FY21 project to efficiently process grid measurements and Big Data to provide a more granular understanding of the distribution system and to substantially increase the precision and accuracy of distribution system models – creating a fundamental change from models based on manual entry to data-driven modeling.

Project led by Sandia National Labs, partnering with Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Electric Power Research Institute, Georgia Tech, and CYME/Eaton



**Physics-Based** 





J.S. DEPARTMENT OF

ENERGY

ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

ERNATIONAL T&D

aton's CYME Power Engineering Software

#### **Conventional Methods**

•Manual data entry – compiling records of installations, upgrades, and maintenance over decades

•Prone to errors – unlogged or erroneous maintenance reports or entry into the model

•Little validation with measurements

•Often out of date with a list of changes to add to the model

#### **Physics-Based Data-Driven Modeling**

•Leveraging AMI data and other grid edge sensing to derive and validate system models

•High accuracy and fidelity – a reproduction faithful to the original

•Granular and high resolution, multi-phase model down to the low-voltage system

•Model dynamically adapts and automatically updates based on system conditions

## Data-Driven Distribution Model Calibration



## Advantages of Different Data Sources

## **Demonstration with Utility Partners**

•AMI (Real Power, Reactive Power, and Voltage) measurements from all customers (~3500) on feeders

- •15-minute measurement interval for a year or more
- •Physical validation of the model is difficult and expensive. Results can be confirmed using Google StreetView, satellite images, and network topology.

# Testing with Synthetic Data

- •Actual measurements from customers of real and reactive power are inserted into a distribution system model to simulate the voltages.
- •Measurement noise is added to the simulation results of power and voltage
- •Known errors are injected into the distribution system model to measure the accuracy of the algorithms to detect the model errors.







## Practical Considerations for Real Data

Real data has issues such as bad data or events that should be filtered

- Data cleaning, filtering, and denoising due to failing meters or anomalous readings around outages
- Changepoint detection to filter certain events such as load transfers from other feeders, CVR events, etc..
- Handling missing data imputation

It is important to replicate these issues in synthetic data for algorithm development

- Analysis of utility data provides general range of the amount of frequency of missing AMI data
- Experimental testing of meters in Sandia's AMI Lab provides expected accuracy and measurement noise

Data/metering considerations that are evaluated in synthetic data:

- Measurement Interval
- Data Resolution
- Meter Precision
- Meter Bias

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- Time Synchronization
- Missing data
- Data Availability

L. Blakely, M. J. Reno, and K. Ashok, "AMI Data Quality and Collection Method Consideration for Improving the Accuracy of Distribution System Models," IEEE Photovoltaic Specialists Conference (PVSC), 2019.

#### AMI Data Quality and Collection Recommendations. Based on analysis of synthetic data with varying amount of error

	AMI Requirement
Measurement Interval	15 - 30 minute intervals
Data Resolution	At least 1 decimal on voltage and power measurements (0.1V, 0.1kW)
Meter Precision	< 0.25% maximum noise
Data Availability	> 4 months of AMI data



## **PV** System Identification

**Background**: PV systems may vary from the interconnection plan - not interconnected, project delayed, changed size, shading issues, gradual soiling, or module/string failures

**Problem**: Keeping PV interconnection databases updated is a major challenge. Many utilities do not record parameters for distributed PV such as their DC power rating, tilt, or azimuth. Residential solar PV systems are generally behind-the-meter (BTM), lacking direct measurements or observability.

For BTM PV, solar disaggregation methods can separate the PV from the load measurements. Deep Neural Network used to learn the signature of BTM PV to detect if there is PV, along with its size, tilt, and azimuth.

Parameter estimation of behind-the-meter parameters that do not have direct measurement. Partial observability requires leveraging multiple data streams – nearby voltage measurements, weather data, irradiance measurements, etc.



## Medium-Voltage Model Calibration

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Data-driven calibration of the medium-voltage primary system distribution system:



# Voltage Regulation Equipment Controls and State

**Background**: On the distribution system, voltage regulators and switching capacitor banks control the voltage by switching taps or switching on/off depending on their controls

#### Problem:

- Most distribution voltage regulation equipment (VRE) do not have remote login capabilities, so verifying their settings in planning models requires sending a crew to the device.
- For state estimation or power flow results, knowing the state of VRE is required, but this information is often not available in historical data

By combining distribution system state estimation (DSSE), machine learning, and Big Data from grid edge measurements, we can identify the 1) VRE settings, and 2) the state of the VRE at a given time

#### Determining the Settings of the Switching Capacitor

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Control		
Type:	Voltage	~
Switching Mode:	Three-phase	~
Initial Status:	Closed	~
Current Status:	Closed	~
Monitoring		
Sensor Location:	Capacitor Location	~
Monitored Node:	381594681	$\sim$
Monitored Phases:	🗹 А 🗹 В 🖾 С	
	Close at: Trip at: 115.0 125.0	(120V)

#### Determining the Tap Position



#### Determining the Capacitor State



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## Improved Spatial and Temporal Load Modeling

**Background**: Distribution planning and operations uses a combination of load measurements and load allocation methods, which have significant influence on the system performance

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**Problem:** 1) It is challenging to fully leverage the increased visibility to loads provided by AMI and other emerging data streams. 2) Even with "100% penetration" of AMI, there are many unmetered load in the system. 3) Reactive power measurements of loads are rare and typically very inaccurate.

**Objective**: Develop improved spatial and temporal load modeling methods leveraging AMI and other emerging data streams that are robust to incomplete data sets.



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# Secondary System Parameter and Topology Estimation

**Background**: Multiple customers are generally connected to the distribution feeder through a service transformer and a low-voltage secondary system

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**Motivation**: A large portion of the per-unit voltage drop/raise occurs over the secondaries. A large number of DERs and sensors are connected to the secondary circuits

**Problem**: Secondary circuits are typically not modeled or modeled with limited detail. Manual inspections require considerable man hours and extra resources => not cost effective, and may be hard to perform in urban areas with wiring underground and in buildings

**Objective**: Use customer meter (AMI) voltage and power measurement to resolve secondary system parameters and topology



# Secondary System Parameter and Topology Estimation

**Inputs**: AMI data (voltage, real and reactive power) at 15-minute intervals for 6-months to 1-year, transformer connection

## Procedure:

- 1. Resolve the parameters and topology for all transformers with 2+ customers.
- 2. Resolve the parameters for transformers with only a single customer by pairing them with other single-customer transformers.
- 3. Pair transformers resolved in step 1 with one another to resolve any additional parameters between the virtual nodes where the customers meet and the transformers.

**Output**: Models for each low-voltage secondary system. Compare to utility's unverified, manually-entered secondary model



For all customers on a transformer, find R1, R2, X1, X2

$$V_1 - V_2 = I_{R1}R_1 + I_{X1}X_1 - I_{R2}R_2 - I_{X2}X_2 + \epsilon$$

Known Unknown

- Basic concept
  - Fit R1, R2, X1, X2 values which best fit the V1-V2 fluctuations



 R values were used to compute a distance in feet of triplex cable for various types of cable (#2, 2/0, 4/0)

## 21 Secondary System Example



#### **Parameter Estimation Results**

Meter #		Estimated		Actual			% Error	
	R	Х	Length (ft)	R	Х	Length (ft)	R	Length
1	0.043	0.014	172	0.0425	0.0129	170	1.18%	1.18%
2	0.018	0.006	72	0.0175	0.0053	70	2.7%	2.7%
3	0.043	0.014	172	0.0425	0.0129	170	1.18%	1.18%

Transformer 233 on Feeder I



DSPE results match utility model well, consistent with #2 wire.

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Transformer 301 on Feeder 2

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DSPE results indicate error in utility model: customer 595's meter is actually at the bottom of the utility pole, not at the house.

#### <sup>24</sup> Transformer 322 on Feeder I





DSPE results consistent with utility model for several customers with complicated topology. Pair customers on transformers with only one customer with other solo customers

The upstream virtual node is now on the primary system, but due to the voltage change, the per unit impedance of the medium-voltage conductor is very small



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Pair transformers with one another, run parameter estimation on virtual nodes created in step 1

- Most likely scenario is that virtual node from step 1 is at transformer low side and any found impedance will be due to transformer impedance
- In some cases, step 1 virtual node will be away from transformer
  - Serial connection between customers
  - Parallel connection that meets before the transformer
  - It is important to derive the additional impedance to fully resolve the secondary circuit

Transformer size (kVA)	3	5	10	15	25	37.5	50	75
Assumed resistance	1.5%	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	1.16%	0.96%	1%	0.87%

Transformers 415 and 416



Customers 325 and 883 (on transformer 416) had a virtual node away from the transformer, which is accounted for by pairing transformer 415 with 416.

## 28 Results for Entire Feeders



Customers often vary significantly from a simple 100ft of #2 assumption: up to three times this value was common.

## Synthetic Feeder Results

The results for the synthetic test circuit (1209 residential customers):

• Error is defined as *Estimated\_Value – Actual\_Value* 



	R % Error	X % Error	Length (ft)
Mean Error	1.2064 %	2.6187%	1.26
Mean Absolute Error	1.5400 %	3.284%	1.4
Root Mean Square Error	1.653 %	3.5010%	1.5

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- Over all customers, found that ~8,000 data points (<3 months of 15min data) was sufficient to accurately derive parameters and topology.
- Need about 2V and 0.25kW or better resolution; low kVAr sensitivity
- Random errors in measurements => random errors in DSPE

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Utilities may not record reactive power measurements from AMI

Parameter estimation can still be performed without reactive power, if the X/R ratio of the conductors is known (based on cable type)

- As a side note, using the correct X/R of the cable improves the parameter estimation results 1.0% MAE vs. 1.5% MAE
- Accuracy is very sensitive to having the correct X/R ratio

It also only works if the X/R is low and power factor is high. Errors are large for parameter estimation across transformers if we do not have reactive power measurements.



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## 33 Phase Identification - Introduction

Problem Statement: Given a set of customers, identify the correct phasing for each customer

- Phase Identification methods generally fall into three categories, hardware-based, power-based, or voltage-based methodologies
  - ~40 publications on phase identification methods





#### Hardware Methods:

#### ( $\mu PMU$ devices, Signal injection)

- Advantages:

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- Highly accurate and well-established
- Disadvantages:
  - Expensive equipment
  - Large numbers of man-hours are required



#### Power-Based Methods: (Load summing methods, Salient features)

- Advantages:
  - Most utilities record this data
  - Do not require extensive man-hours
- Disadvantages:
  - Often sensitive to less than 100% AMI coverage
  - Recent work shows these methods to be less accurate in general than hardware-based or voltage-based methods

#### Voltage-Based Methods: (Correlations between customers)

- Advantages:
  - Robust to less than 100% AMI coverage
  - Shown to be more accurate in general than powerbased methods
  - Do not require extensive man-hours
- Disadvantages:
  - Fewer utilities are currently recording this data

#### 35 Phase Identification - Methodology

Conceptually we understand from experience and the physical design of the system, that customers connected to the same wire (Phase A, Phase B, or Phase C) probably vary together.





Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters provide timeseries voltage measurements at each residence

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#### An ensemble algorithm using spectral clustering is used to create a co-association matrix which is used to group customers by phase



Choose how to assign final predicted phases based on the availability (and trust) in existing utility phase labels

## Phase Identification - Methodology

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## 38 Phase Identification - Results

Testing Circuits - Sandia:

- Synthetic Data:
  - EPRI Ckt 5 1379 Residential Meters
  - Achieved 100% accuracy under rigorous testing scenarios
- Utility Data:
  - 1055 Residential Meters from a utility in the Northeastern US.
  - Predicted 143 customers (~13%) to be on a different phase from the original utility model

#### **Testing Circuits - CYME:**

- Synthetic Data:
  - Achieved >99% accuracy on all systems
- Utility Data:
  - 209 Residential Meters from a utility in the Northeastern US.
  - Predicted 35 customers to be on a different phase from the original utility model, 29 from one lateral and 6 from individual transformers





Network	Nodes	AMI Meters	Substation Regulators	Inline Regulators
EPRI's CKT5	3003	1373	0	0
North #1	2369	615	1	3
North #2	4065	963	1	6
South	1778	447	0	1

Figure Credit: Francis Therrien - CYME | Eaton

1: Figure Citation: J. Fuller, W. Kersting, R. Dugan, and S. C. Jr., "Distribution Test Feeders," *IEEE PES AMPS DSAS Test Feeder Working Group*, 2013. [Online]. Available: http://sites.ieee.org/pes-testfeeders/.



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Purple and Orange marked meters are incorrectly labeled in the original utility model



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Left-hand transformer labeled in the utility model as Phase A, but predicted to be Phase C by our phase identification algorithm

Right-hand transformer is the next Phase C transformer to the North (labeled and predicted to be C) is clearly connected to the same wire as the left-hand transformer

Not shown, the next Phase C transformer to the south is also connected to the same wire Note the group of Phase B (green) customers clustered with the majority Phase C (red) customers in the right-hand cluster

This lateral was identified by the phase identification algorithm as incorrect and the predicted labeling of Phase C was verified by the utility.



The utility reported that they had planned to move the lateral to Phase B from Phase C and changed the labeling in the model but did not physically move the lateral. Thus the 29 customers on that lateral remain on Phase C as predicted by the phase identification algorithm and shown in the figure.

#### Meter to Transformer Task - Introduction

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Problem Statement: Given AMI data from a set of customers, group the customers by transformer





## Meter to Transformer Task – Error Flagging Methodology

Correlation Coefficient analysis is used to flag transformer with customer connection labeling errors **h** 



A significant concern with distribution system model validation is the false positive case, where a methodology injects new errors into a model

#### **Utility Data Testing**

Original Utility Labeling



Synthetic Data Testing

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Actual labeling verified using Google Earth imagery



## Meter to Transformer Task - Pairing Methodology

A pairwise linear regression model is fit between customers to estimate the goodness of fit, reactance distance, and resistance distance for the customers

$$V_1 - V_2 = P_1 R_1 + Q_1 X_1 - P_2 R_2 - Q_2 X_2$$

Fit regression model to calculate

- measure of fit, **MSE** or  $R^2$
- Reactance Distance  $(X_1 + X_2)$
- Resistance Distance  $(R_1 + R_2)$
- X and R represent the 'distance' from the AMI meters to the nearest point the two meters are electrically connected (
  )



When the regression fit (
) is good there are two options: Customers on the same transformer (left), single customers on transformers (right) 67



The difference in these two cases is evident in the reactance distance  $(X_1 + X_2)$ 







This method works well in the base case (unmanipulated data) however an ongoing research challenge is adapting this method to work in the under the various data issues mentioned in previous slides

## 47 Conclusions and Future Work Directions

#### Many innovations in AI and machine learning have not yet been applied to the power systems domain

As improvements and breakthroughs happen in other domains, those concepts can be adjusted and applied to solve power systems problems

Similarly, lessons learned from other domains can be used to avoid similar situations

#### Integration of Physics-based Constraints into AI

- Leverage existing knowledge (physical laws, power flow, etc) in AI-based algorithms
- Achieve more accurate results and faster training
- SNL Project "REDLY: Resilience Enhancements through Deep Learning Yields"
- *loss* = 'model-based' loss + 'physics-based' loss
- $loss = loss_{data}(X_b, y_c) + (\mu loss_{KCL}(X_c) + \alpha loss_{KVL}(X_c))$ (Kirchoff's Current Law) (Kirchoff's Voltage Law)

#### Explainable AI and Uncertainty Quantification

- Understand why a particular prediction/decision was given
- Understand the error bounds on predictions/decisions
- SNL Project "Opening the Black Box': An Experimentally-Validated Explainable Machine Learning Framework"



A. Karpatne *et al.,* "Theory-guided Data Science: A New Paradigm for Scientific Discovery from Data," *IEEE Trans. Knowl. Data Eng.,* vol. 29, no. 10, pp. 2318–2331, 2017.

#### Distributed, AI-based Controls using Fog Computing

- Create resilient systems in the event of communication loss
- Accelerate systems with low latency because processing happens physically close to sensors
- SNL Project "HEDGES: High-Security Edge Computing for Smart Sensor Systems"

#### Semi-Supervised, Few-Shot Learning, or Synthetically-Generated Training Data

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- Learn with few or no examples of critical events
- Generate realistic new data from existing samples
- SNL Project "Semi-Supervised Bayesian Low-Shot Learning for Explosive Device Characterization"



A. Yousefpour *et al.*, "All One Needs to Know About Fog Computing and Related Edge Computing Paradigms: A Complete Survey," *J. Syst. Archit.*, vol. 98, pp. 289–330, Sep. 2019.

## 9 Conclusion

• There are many promising applications of Big Data and Machine Learning in power systems.

• It is an exciting time to be at this intersection – new algorithms, large datasets, computing power

• There are many challenging problems yet to be solved with some fascinating future research directions in big data and machine learning:

- Integration of Physics-based Constraints into machine learning algorithms
- Explainable AI and Uncertainty Quantification
- Distributed AI-based Controls using Fog Computing
- Semi-supervised, Few-shot learning, or Synthetically Generated Training Data
- Best results require integration between Big Data experts and power system experts

# **Questions?**

For details and references, see: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/project/Intelligent-Model-Fidelity-IMoFi">https://www.researchgate.net/project/Intelligent-Model-Fidelity-IMoFi</a>



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