

# Real-Time Monitoring of Distribution Systems: Challenges

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Focus: Why is it taking so long to develop these Tools?

➤ Phase I: Initial Research

- Challenges on Distribution System for Real-time Monitoring
- Branch Current Based State Estimation (BCSE)

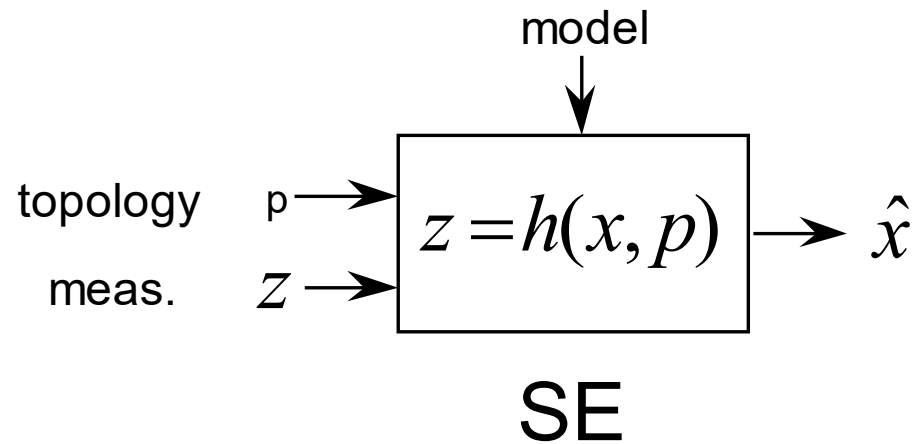
➤ Phase II: Recognizing & Addressing Challenges

- Business Case?
- Addressing practical Issues

➤ Phase III: Improving Performance

- Why DSSE does not perform as expected in practice?

- Motivation:
  - No tools were available
- Tool: **State Estimation**



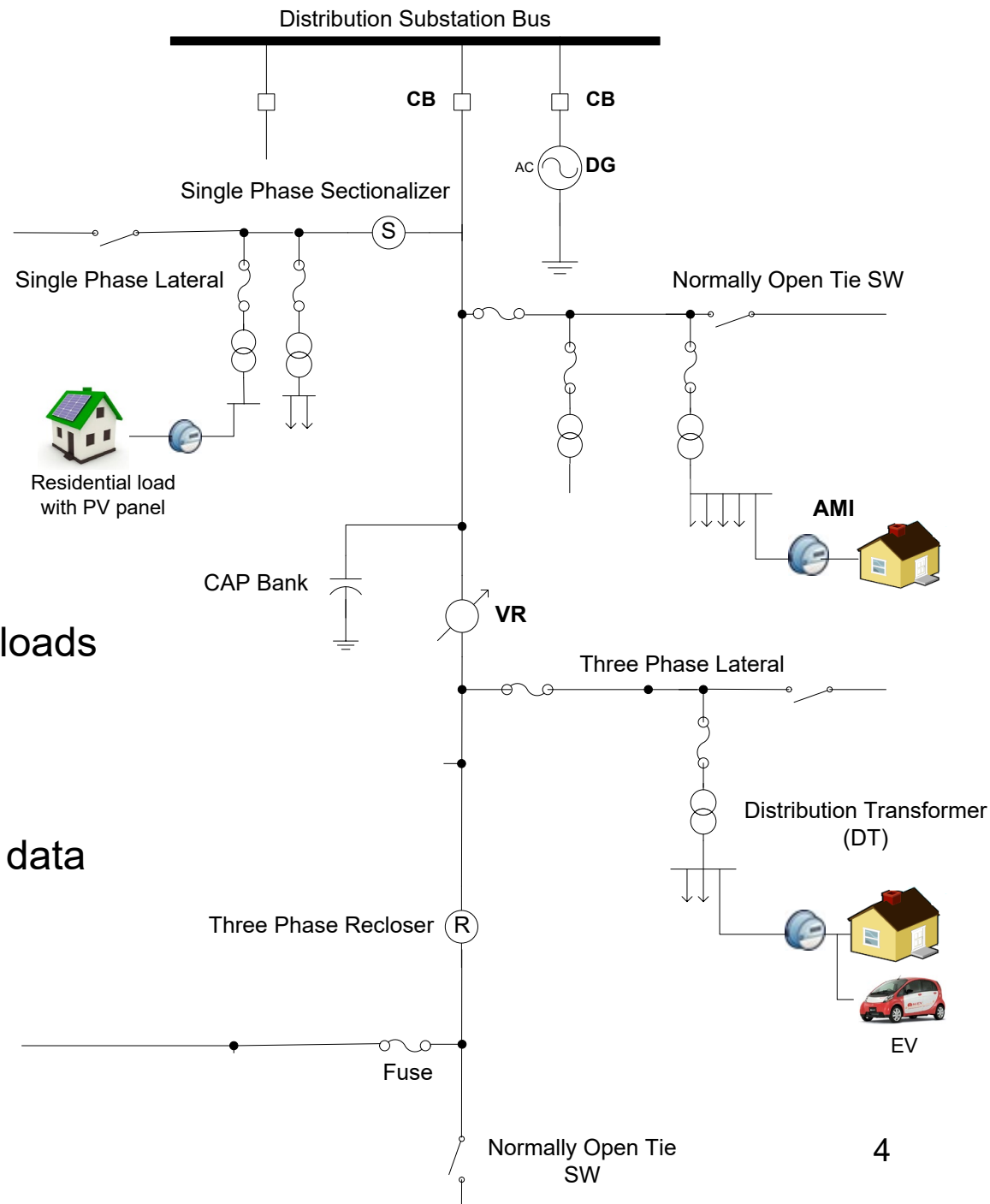
# Challenges for SE

## (a) System

- Multi-phase System
- Multi-phase unbalanced loads

## (b) Data

- Very few measurements
- Limited accuracy of load data



# Distribution Feeder



Challenge: Scale!

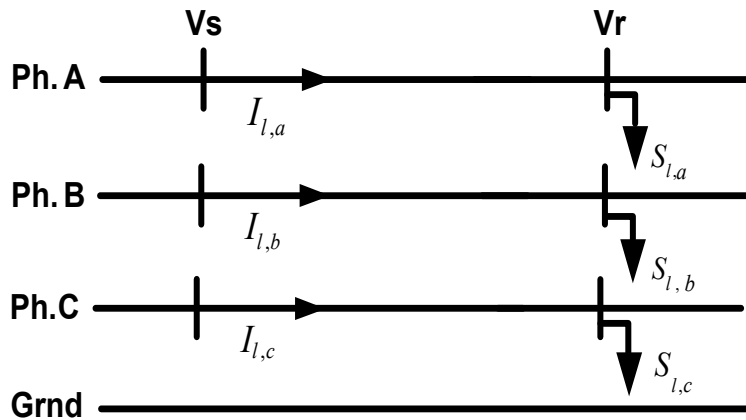
- **Approach: WLS**

$$\min_x J(x) = \sum_{i=1}^m w_i (z_i - h_i(x))^2 = [z - h(x)]^T W [z - h(x)]$$

Good choice [1]

## ➤ Challenge: Multi-phase unbalanced system

- Line Model



$$\begin{bmatrix} V_{r,a} \\ V_{r,b} \\ V_{r,c} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} V_{s,a} \\ V_{s,b} \\ V_{s,c} \end{bmatrix} - l \begin{bmatrix} Z_{aa} & Z_{ab} & Z_{ac} \\ Z_{ba} & Z_{bb} & Z_{bc} \\ Z_{ca} & Z_{cb} & Z_{cc} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_{l,a} \\ I_{l,b} \\ I_{l,c} \end{bmatrix}$$

- 3 phase coupled model with low x/r ratio

- Loads

can be three, two, or single-phase

➤ Challenge: Limited Measurements

Load data:

- historical load data!
- loads are cyclic with a daily pattern

→ Load data → pseudo measurements for SE

→ Minimum meas: meas at the feeder head



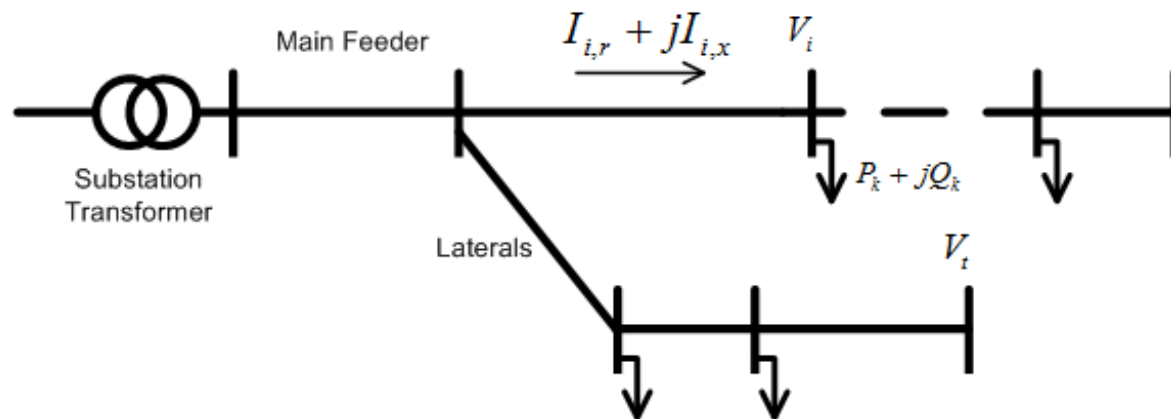
- Challenge: Computational Burden

3 phase coupled model -> cannot adopt decoupled SE

# Branch Current SE

→ The BCSE

- branch currents as the system state  $x$  (for radial feeders)

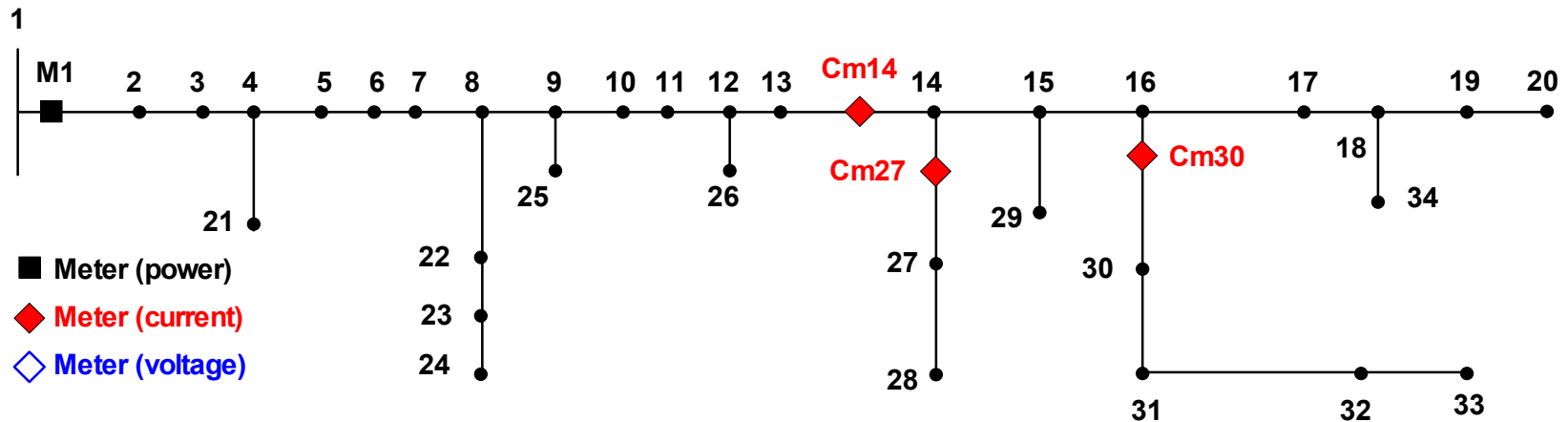


$$x_i = [I_{r,i}, I_{x,i}]$$

- Convert measurements to equivalent current measurements

→ **Meas Jacobian  $H$  is constant and decoupled!**

## IEEE 34 node radial test feeder



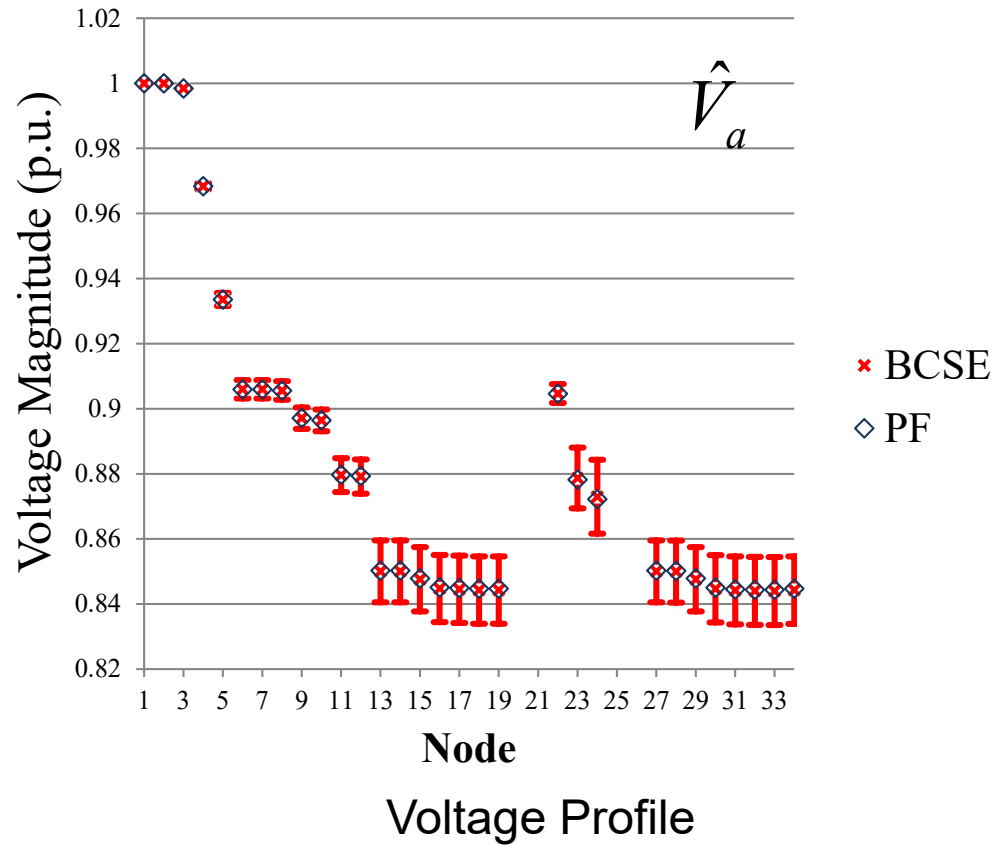
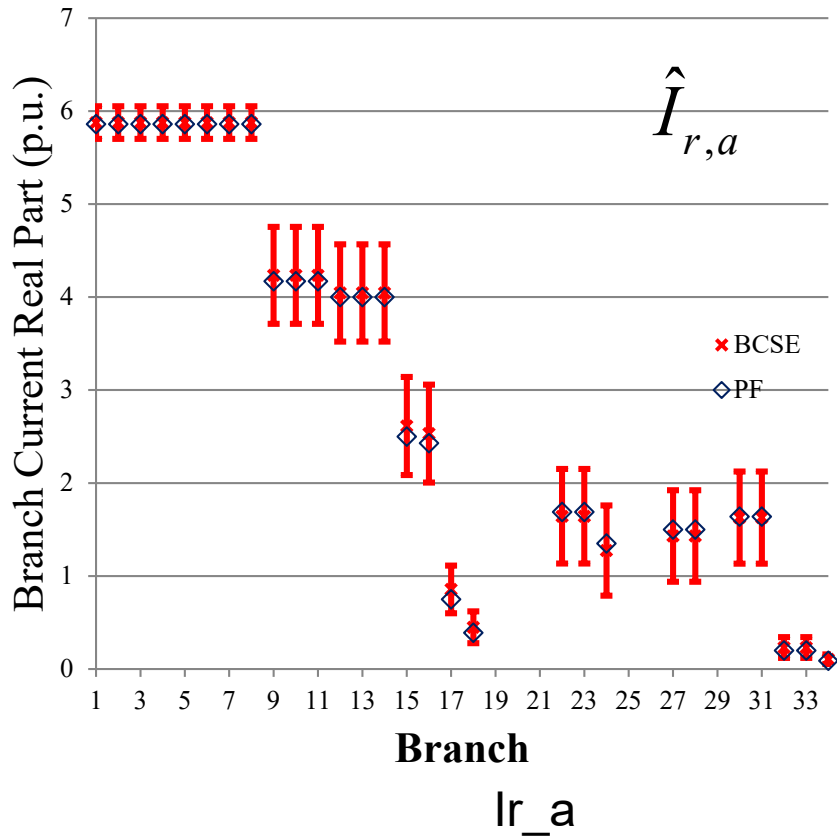
## Test cases

- **Case 1:** Power and voltage measurements (M1) at the substation and forecasted load data.
- **Case 2:** Case 1 plus three CMs at branches: Cm14, Cm27, and Cm30.

- 3% error for real-time measurement
- 50% error for load estimation

# Simulation Results

## Case 1 - Phase A



# Phase II: Application

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## **Challenge:**

- **Had to explain to industry why they need SE**

# Phase II: Application

## ➤ Opportunity

- AMI



Jame Hollland

Mainly for Energy Metering

## Phase II: Application

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### ➤ Opportunity

- AMI
- **New Application (Business Case):**  
 Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR)
  - Need: - monitor voltages (at PCC) → **SE**
  - Volt/Var control (VVC)

## ➤ Contribution

- Load Estimation Using AMI data
- Meter Placement:

Measurements needed to obtain good voltage estimates



# Load Estimation

## ➤ Load Estimation using AMI data

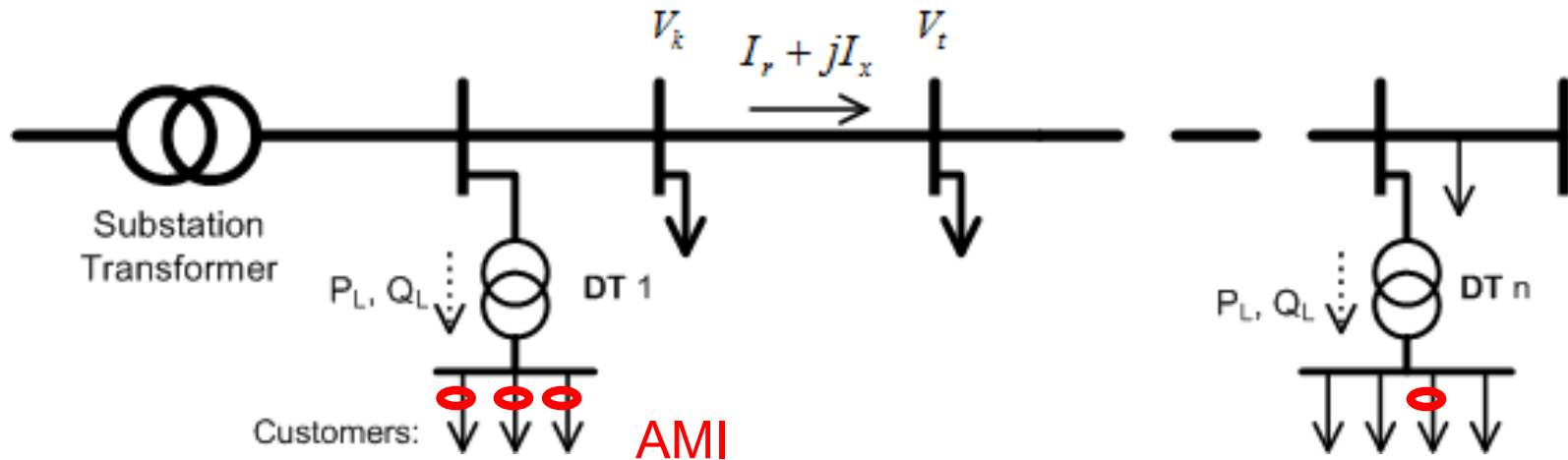
### Challenges:

- AMI is not designed for real-time monitoring
- millions of customers to monitor



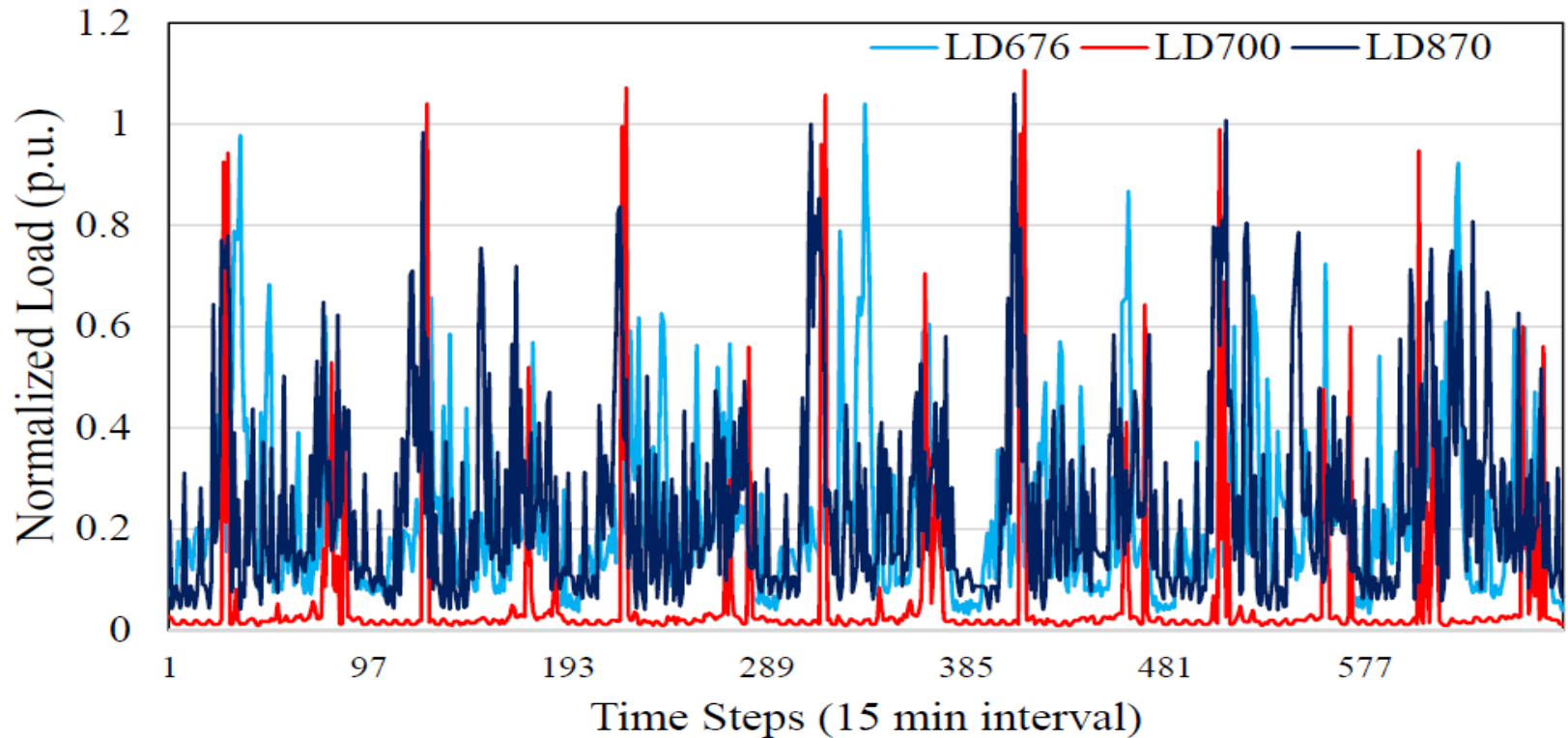
# Load Estimation

- Load Estimation using AMI data



- For SE, load of Distribution Transformers (DT) is needed.
- Loads: real and reactive power  $P_i + jQ_i$ .

# Load Profiles from AMI

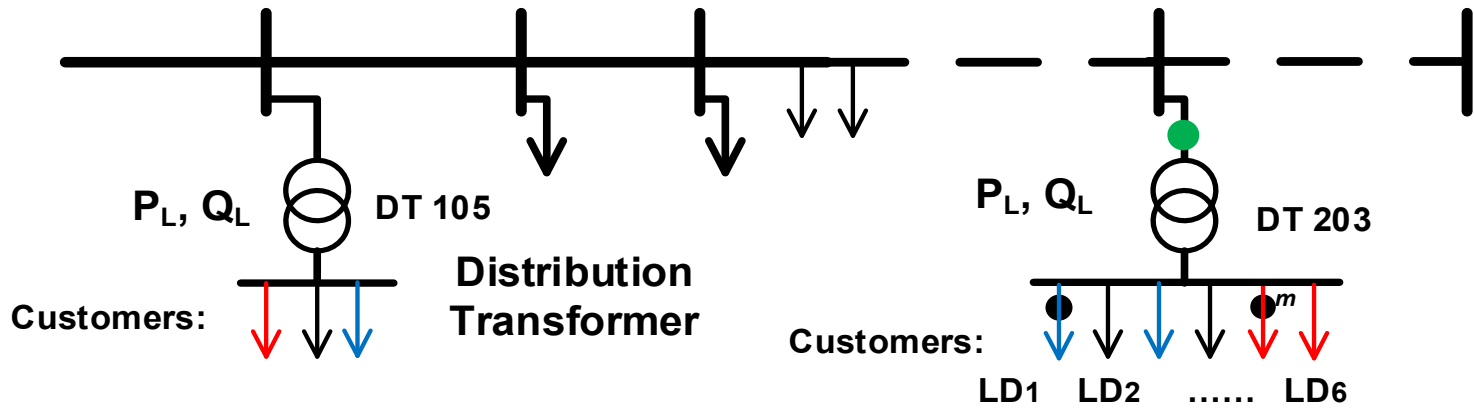


N. Lu, Et al. "Smart meter data analysis," *T&D Conf 2012*

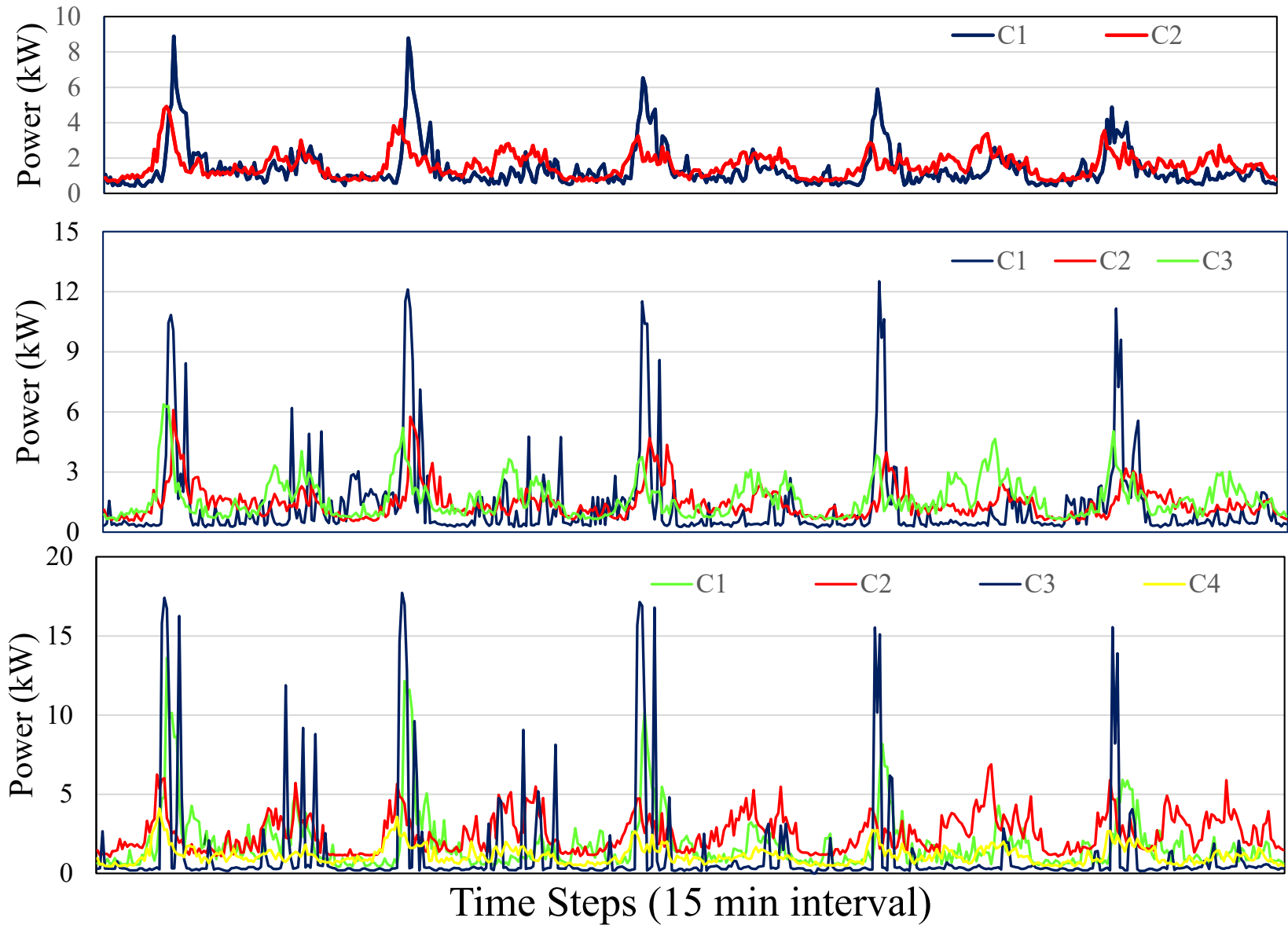
- Step 1: Load Clustering
  - Finding similar customers by clustering analysis
  
- Step 2: Load Estimation
  - statistical models

# Load Clustering

Total Customers: 22



# Load Clustering



## - *Historical Model: Load Model with Daily Harmonics*

$$y(t) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_h} \beta_i \cos\left(\frac{2\pi ti}{n}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} \beta_j \sin\left(\frac{2\pi tj}{n}\right) + R_t$$

$$R_t = \varphi_1 R_{t-1} + \varphi_2 R_{t-2} + \varepsilon$$

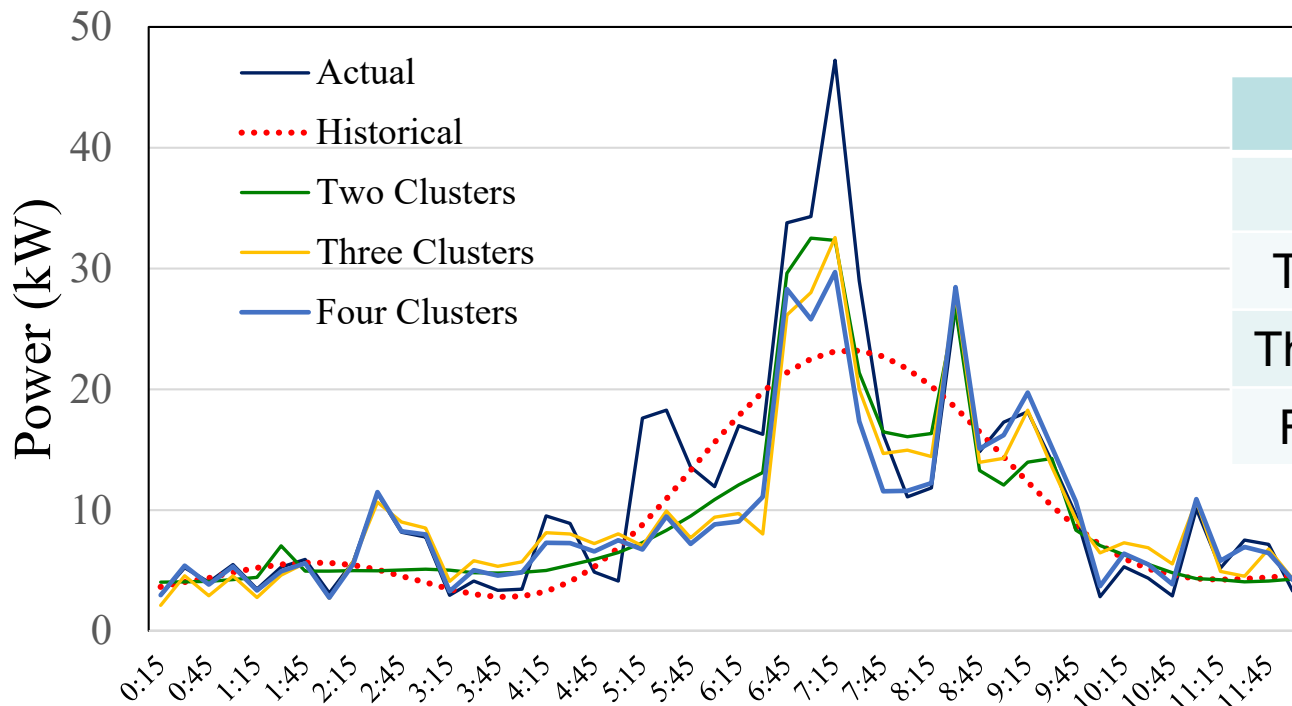
## - *Load Estimation: Load Model with Real-time Data*

$$y(t) = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{N_h} \beta_i \cos\left(\frac{2\pi ti}{n}\right) + \sum_{j=1}^{N_h} \beta_j \sin\left(\frac{2\pi tj}{n}\right) + \sum_{k=1}^{N_C} \beta_{t,C_k} P_{t,C_k} + R_t$$

$$R_t = \varphi_1 R_{t-1} + \varphi_2 R_{t-2} + \varepsilon$$

***AMI Data from  
Each Cluster***

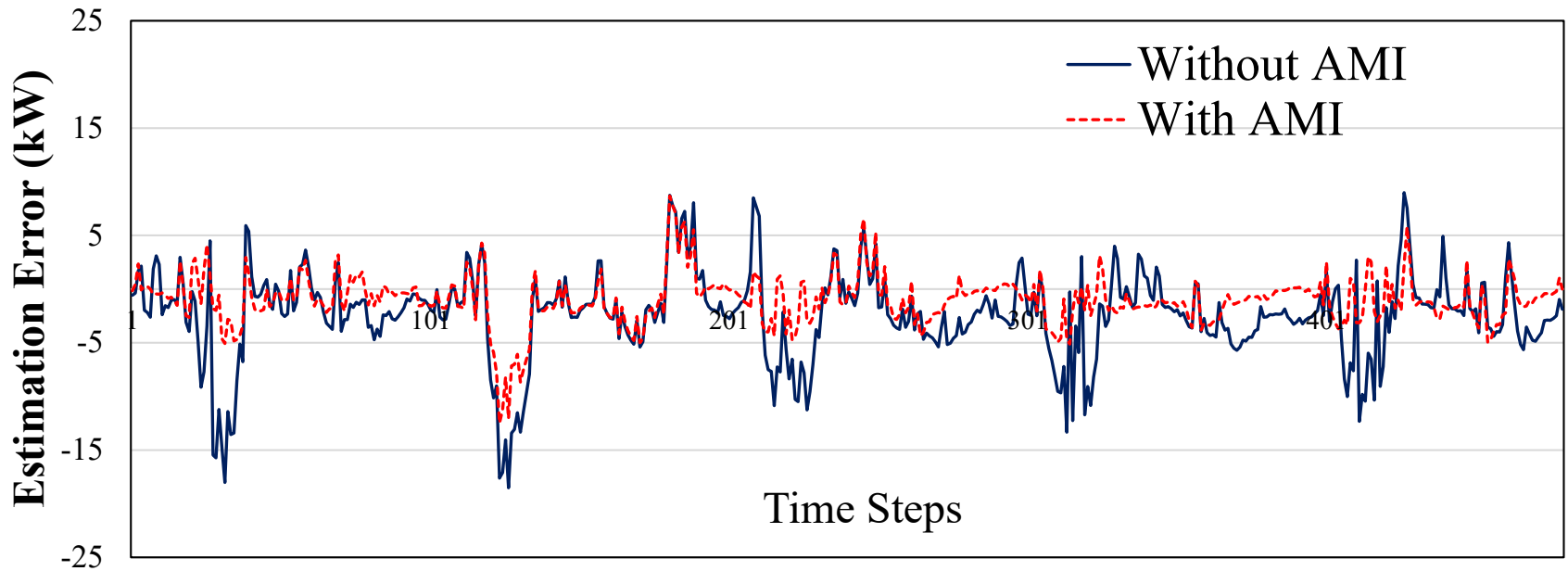
# Load Estimation



Model	RMSE
Historical	4.87
Two Clusters	3.88
Three Clusters	3.41
Four Cluster	3.38



# Performance



Real-time measurements from AMI improves the load estimation accuracy by 48% (in MAPE & RMSE).

# Meter Placement

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- Meter Placement: Measurements Needed to obtain *good estimate*
- Objective: *Interested quantity*: voltages at PCC  
measure: variance of voltage estimate

- Real-Time measurements
  - Number of measurements and their location
  - Type of measurements, i.e. voltage, current, and power

## **Meter Placement Problem**

Determine the meters that needs to be placed on a given feeder such that the SE with these measurements can estimate the voltages within desired accuracy ( $\pm 1$  V) .

# Meter Placement Problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min f_o &= \sum_{i=1}^n C_i(d_i) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad \max \{ \hat{\sigma}_V \} &\leq \bar{\sigma}_V \\ \mathbf{M}_1(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{z}) &= 0 \\ \hat{\sigma}_V &= \mathbf{M}_2(\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{z}) \\ d_i &\in \{0, 1\} \end{aligned}$$

where:

$d_i$  :decision variable of that measurement

$C_i$  :cost function of the measurement

$\hat{\mathbf{x}}$  :estimated system state

$\mathbf{z}$  :measurements for SE

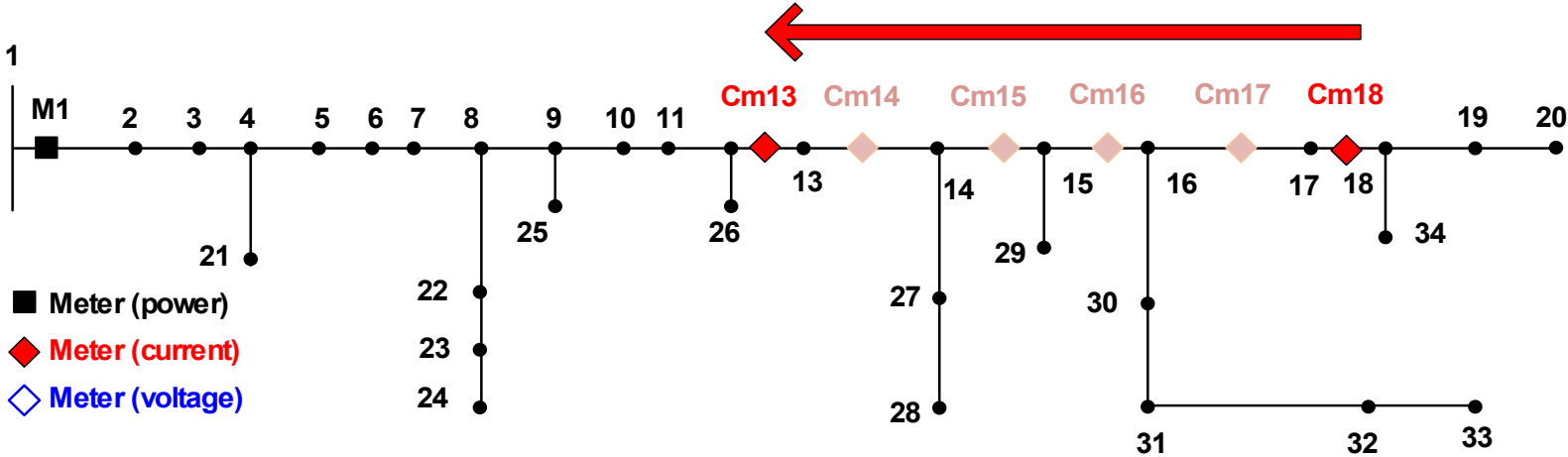
$\hat{\sigma}_V$  :voltage standard deviation

$\mathbf{M}_1$  :SE mapping

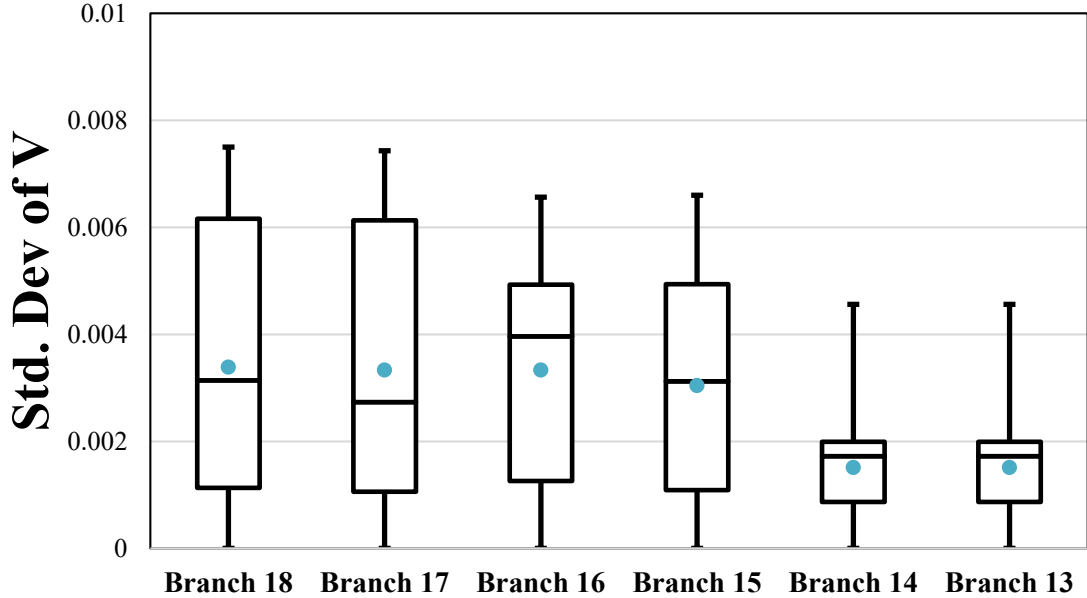
➤ This is a difficult problem

➤ Use Sensitivity to determine good places for each measurement type

# Sensitivity Analysis



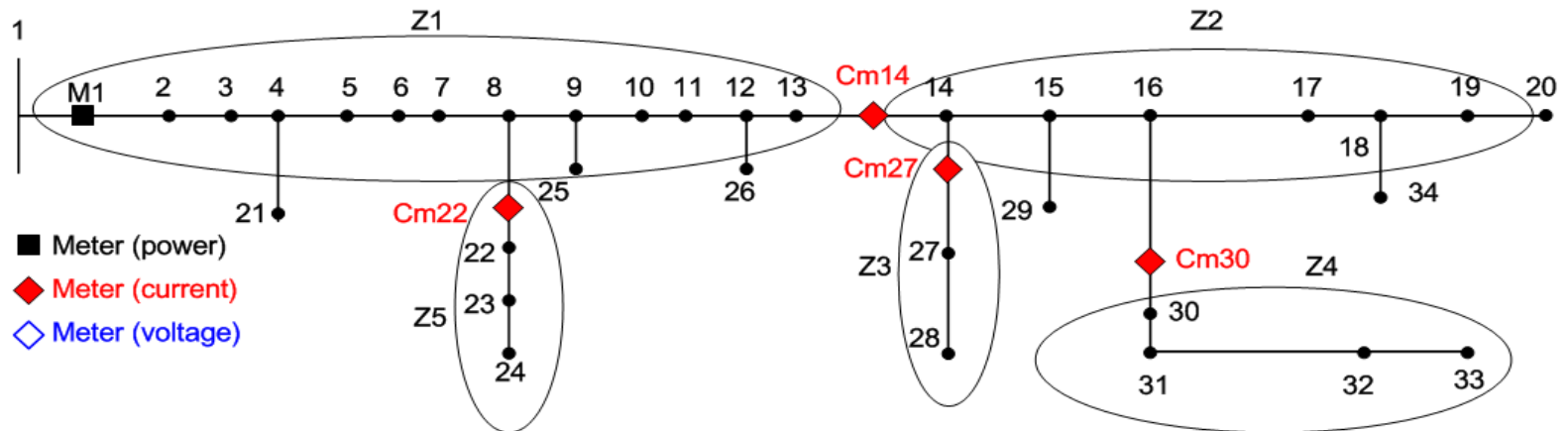
- Meter (power)
- ◆ Meter (current)
- ◇ Meter (voltage)



Placing the CMs close to the beginning of the substation/ the beginning of the lateral/ before big loads.

# Meter Placement Rules

- **Rule 1:** Determine the load zones along the feeder with similar loading & Put CMs in the beginning of each load zones



- **Rule 3:** 'Put VMs at the end of the main feeder and laterals

# Meter Placement Scheme

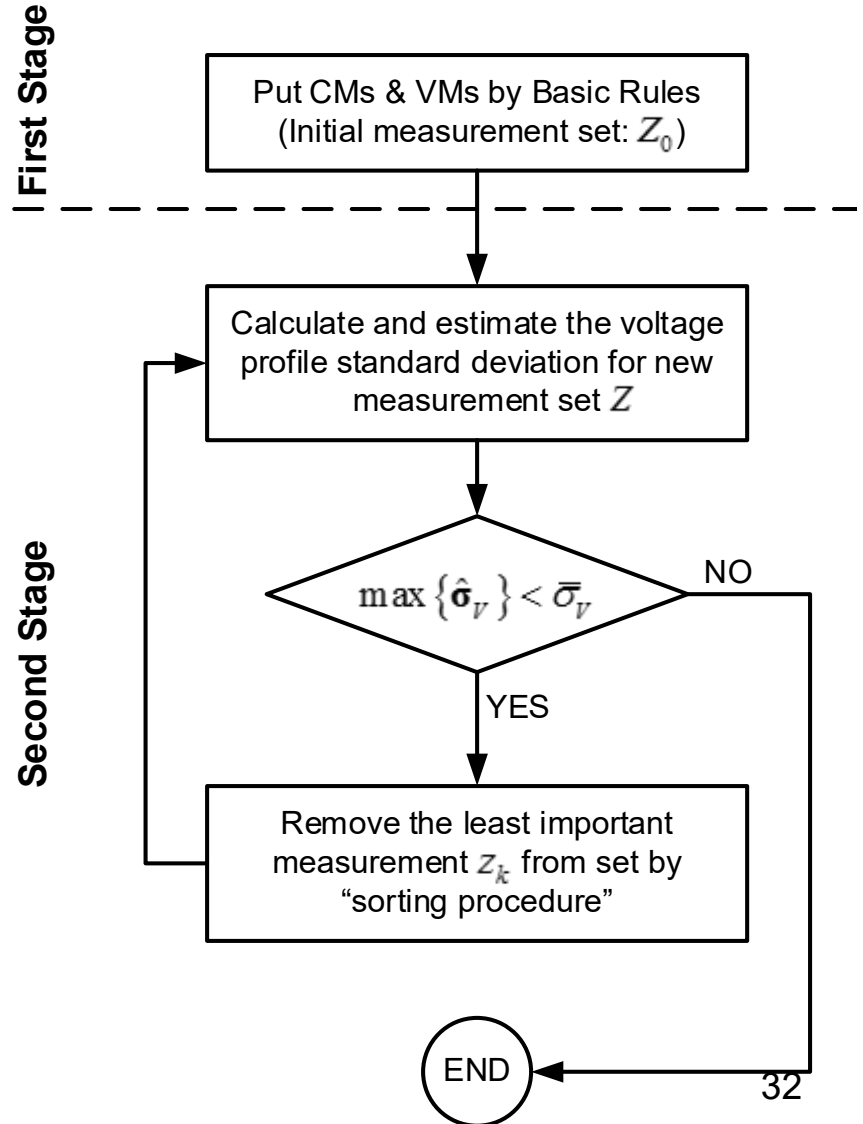
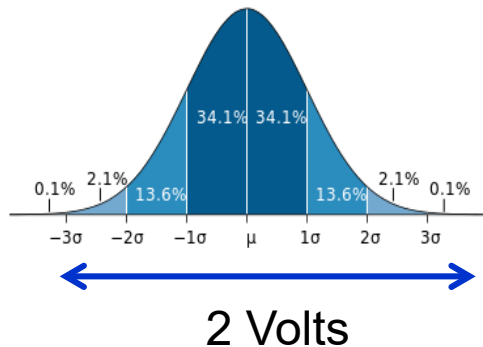
## Stage 1:

Put VMs and CMs based on the Rules

## Stage 2:

Meter Elimination

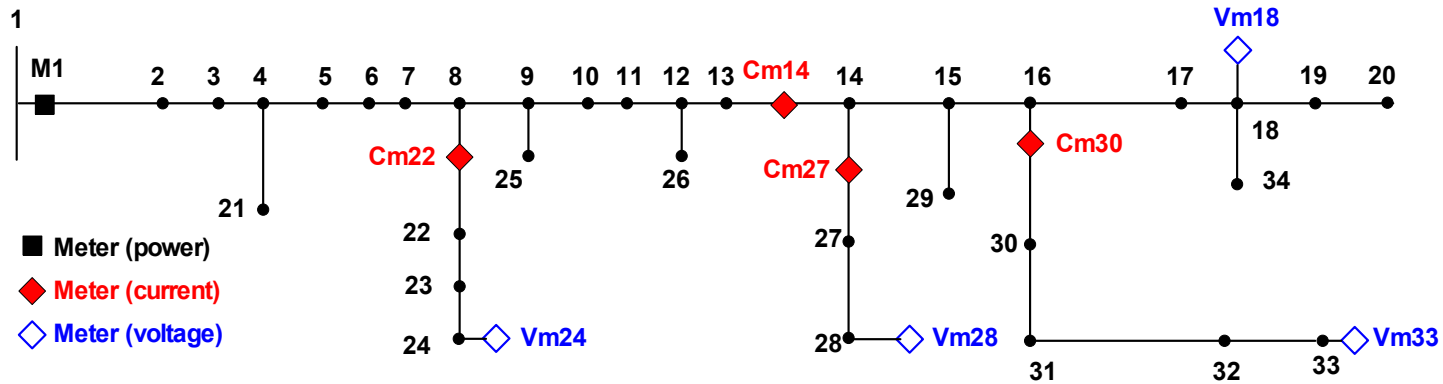
➤ Target value  $\bar{\sigma}_V$



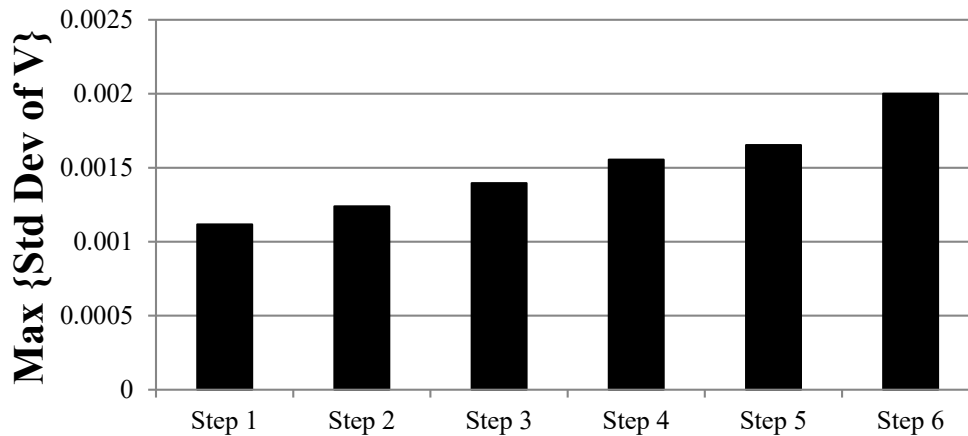


# Case Study

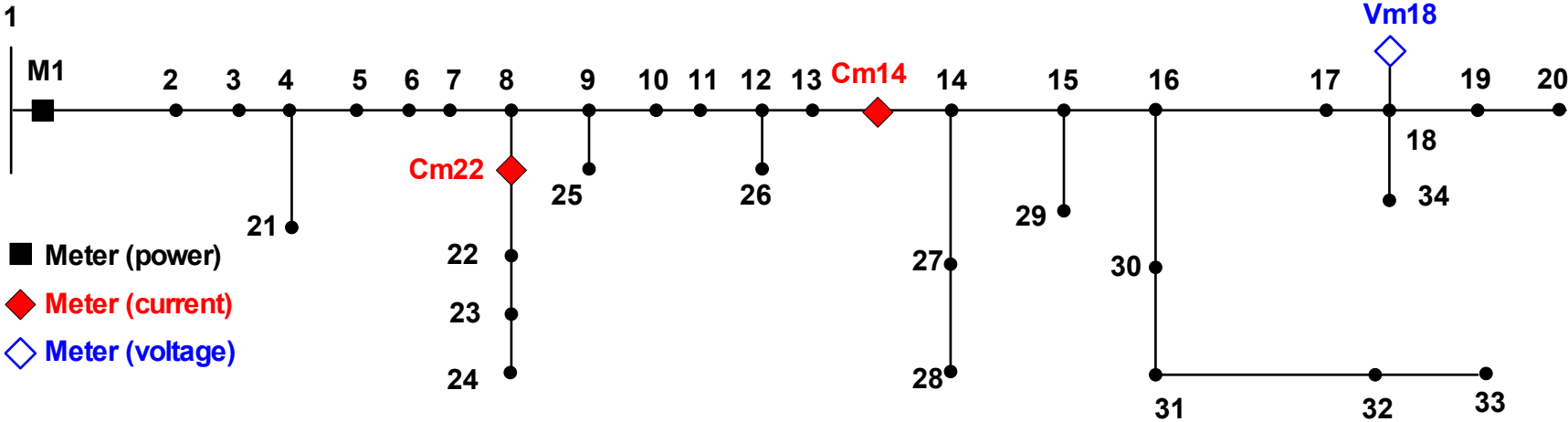
➤ Step1: placing all VMs and CMs



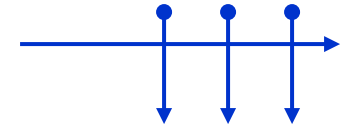
➤ Step2: Meter Elimination



# Final Measurement Set



- Different Estimation Approaches:
  - Bayesian
  - Forecast Assisted State Estimation
- Load Estimation
- Detailed Feeder Model



## Review paper

A Survey on State Estimation Techniques and Challenges in Smart Distribution Systems  
K. Dehghanpour, Z. Wang, et al, IEEE TSG, March 2019

➤ Two main approaches adopted

- PF



- WLS

## ➤ Challenges

- Renewables: intermittency



## ➤ Challenges

### - DSSE Performance

- Good estimation for interested quantities (voltage at PCC)
- General: should work on all types systems (feeders)
- Reliable performance
- Should not diverge
- Have diagnostic tools

### - Bad data and topology processing

➤ Project: SE performance

- Issue: SE performs well on some of the systems but not some others
- Goal: Identify the main factors contributing to poor performance
- Approach: Can ML help?

# Papers

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1. R. Singh, B. Pal, and R. Jabr, "Choice of estimator for distribution system state estimation," *IET Gen. Trans. Dist.*, 2009.
2. M. Baran and A. Kelley, "A branch-current-based state estimation method for distribution systems," *IEEE TPWS*, Feb. 1995.
3. *V. Zamani, and M. Baran*, "Feeder Monitoring for Volt/VAR Control in Distribution Systems", *IEEE PES GM 2014*
4. *U. Singh, V. Zamani, and M. Baran*, "On-line Load Estimation for Distribution Systems with AMI" *IEEE PES GM 2014*
5. D. Ablakovic, I. Dzafic, R. A. Jabr, and B. C. Pal, "Experience in distribution state estimation preparation and operation in complex radial distribution networks," *IEEE PES GM, 2014*



Thank You