



# Unsupervised Physics-Informed Learning Approaches for State Estimation

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# Small Data Learning

ANDREW NG: UNBIGGEN AI

Why Small Data Is  
the New Big Data

UPenn (Knowledge at Wharton)

## Learning with Small Data

KDD 2020 Tutorial

- Datasets in power systems are not always big and labelled
- Can we learn from small (labeled/unlabeled) datasets?

# State Estimation

Receives raw measurements (nodal injection, line flows, voltage etc.) from measuring devices.

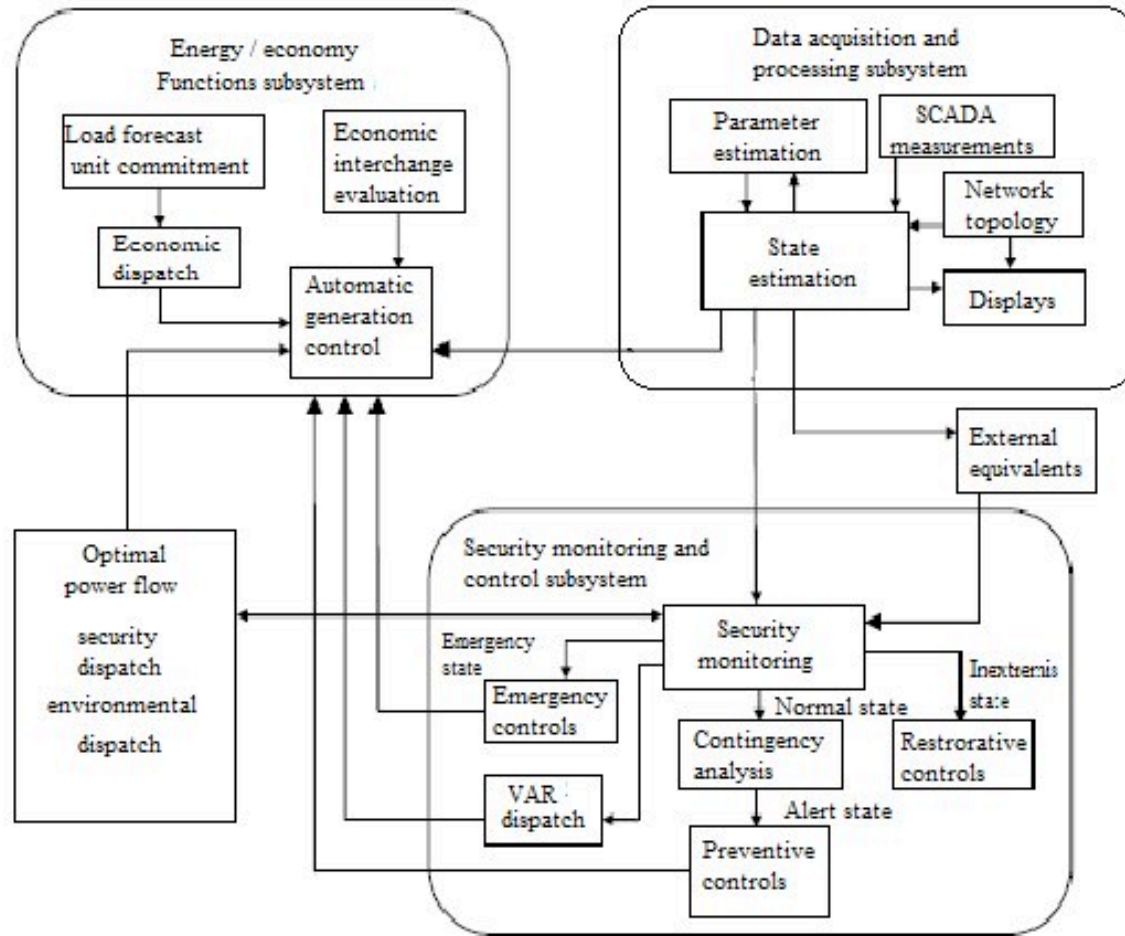
Seeks to identify the values of the bus voltage magnitudes and angles  $\{|V_n|, \theta_n\}_{\forall n}$

$$z_\ell = h_\ell(\mathbf{v}) + \epsilon_\ell$$

SE:

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{z}) := \arg \min_{\mathbf{v}} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}))^T \mathbf{W} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}))$$

# State Estimation Block



- Challenges:
  - Data quality
  - Latency constraints
  - Robustness and reliability
  - Model identification!

# SE Approaches

## Model based method [1]:

- Existing GN method takes a **lot of iterations**.
- GN method may **not converge** for some scenarios.

$$\hat{\mathbf{v}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{z}) := \arg \min_{\mathbf{v}} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}))^T \mathbf{W} (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}))$$

$$\mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}) \simeq \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}_k) + \mathbf{G}_k^T (\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{v}_k), \mathbf{G}_k : \text{Jacobian at } \mathbf{v}_k$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{k+1} = \mathbf{v}_k + (\mathbf{G}_k \mathbf{G}_k^T)^{-1} \mathbf{G}_k (\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}_k))$$

## Supervised learning for state estimation [2, 3, 4]:

- Requires significant training samples **with labels**, not easy to obtain.
- Ignores the knowledge of known **mathematical structure of state estimation process**.

$$\mathbf{g}_K(\mathbf{z}) = \sum_{k=1}^K \alpha_k \sigma(\mathbf{w}_k^T \mathbf{z} + \beta_k)$$

$$\min_{\{\alpha_k, \mathbf{w}_k, \beta_k\}_{k=1}^K} \sum_j \|\mathbf{v}^j - \mathbf{g}_K(\mathbf{z}^j)\|_2^2$$

[1] I. Dzafic, R. A. Jabr, and T. Hrnjic, "Hybrid state estimation in complex variables," IEEE Trans. Power Syst., 2018.

[2] K. Mestav et al. "Bayesian state estimation for unobservable distribution systems via deep learning," IEEE Trans. Power Syst., 2019.

[3] L. Zhang, G. Wang, and G. B. Giannakis, "Real-time power system state estimation and forecasting via deep unrolled neural networks," IEEE Trans. Signal Processing, 2019.

[4] A. S. Zamzam, N. D. Sidiropoulos, "Physics-aware neural networks for distribution system state estimation," IEEE Trans. Power Syst., 2020

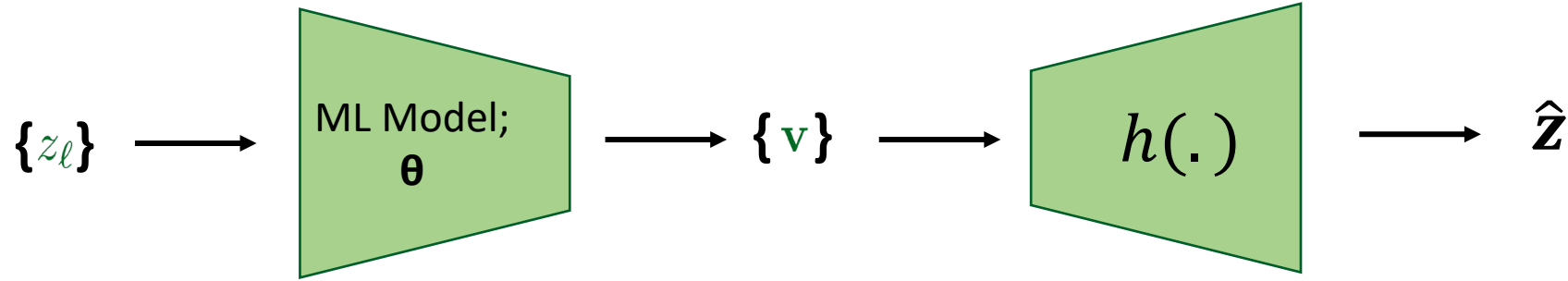
# Learning vs. Optimization

- Learning approaches require very large number of diverse samples to approximate the SE mapping
  - Simulations
  - SE solver
- Most optimization approaches suffer from scalability issues especially when:
  - Majority of measurements are nonlinear
  - Not enough redundancy with noisy measurements

# Learning SE Approach

$$z_\ell = \mathbf{v}^H \mathbf{D}_\ell \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{c}^H \mathbf{v} + \mathbf{v}^H \mathbf{c}$$

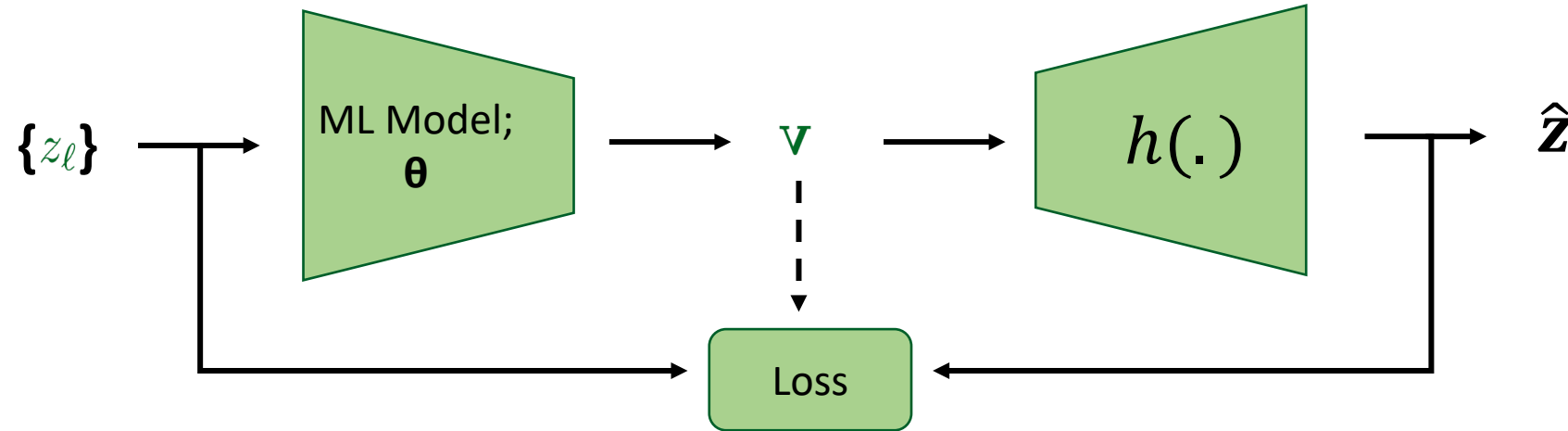
$$\longrightarrow \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v})$$



$$\hat{\theta} := \arg \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \left\| \hat{\mathbf{v}}^{(i)}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}; \theta) - \mathbf{v}_{true}^{(i)} \right\|_2^2 \longrightarrow \hat{\theta} := \arg \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \left\| \mathbf{h}(\hat{\mathbf{v}}^{(i)}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}; \theta)) - \mathbf{h}(\mathbf{v}_{true}^{(i)}) \right\|_2^2$$

$$\hat{\theta} := \arg \min_{\theta} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \left\| \mathbf{h}(\hat{\mathbf{v}}^{(i)}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}; \theta)) - \mathbf{z}^{(i)} \right\|_2^2$$

# Unsupervised Learning Approach

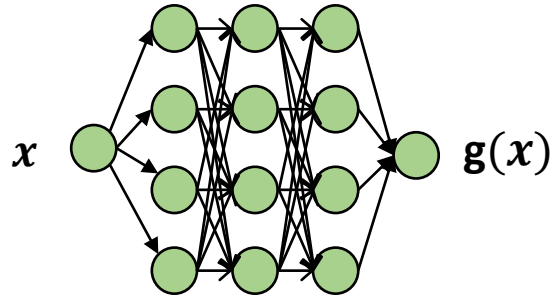


$$\min_{\theta} \frac{1}{K} \sum_{i=1}^K \left\| h(\hat{\mathbf{v}}^{(i)}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}; \theta)) - \mathbf{z}^{(i)} \right\|_2^2 + \lambda \left\| \hat{\mathbf{v}}^{(i)}(\mathbf{z}^{(i)}; \theta) - \mathbf{v}_0 \right\|_2^2$$

- We do NOT need ground-truth solutions/labels (unsupervised learning)
- Physics knowledge is exploited in the learning process
- Similarity with Auto-Encoders!



# Unlabeled Datasets



$$f(x) = e^x, \quad f^{-1}(x) = \log(x)$$

$$\min_{\theta} \sum \|g(x^{(i)}; \theta) - e^{x^{(i)}}\| \quad \longrightarrow \quad \min_{\theta} \sum \|\log(g(x^{(i)}; \theta)) - x^{(i)}\|$$

## Labeled data

- Need to generate labels (voltages) for each set of measurements
- If measurements do NOT have redundancy, getting the correct labels will be very noisy or corrupt
- Training process is straightforward

## Unlabeled data

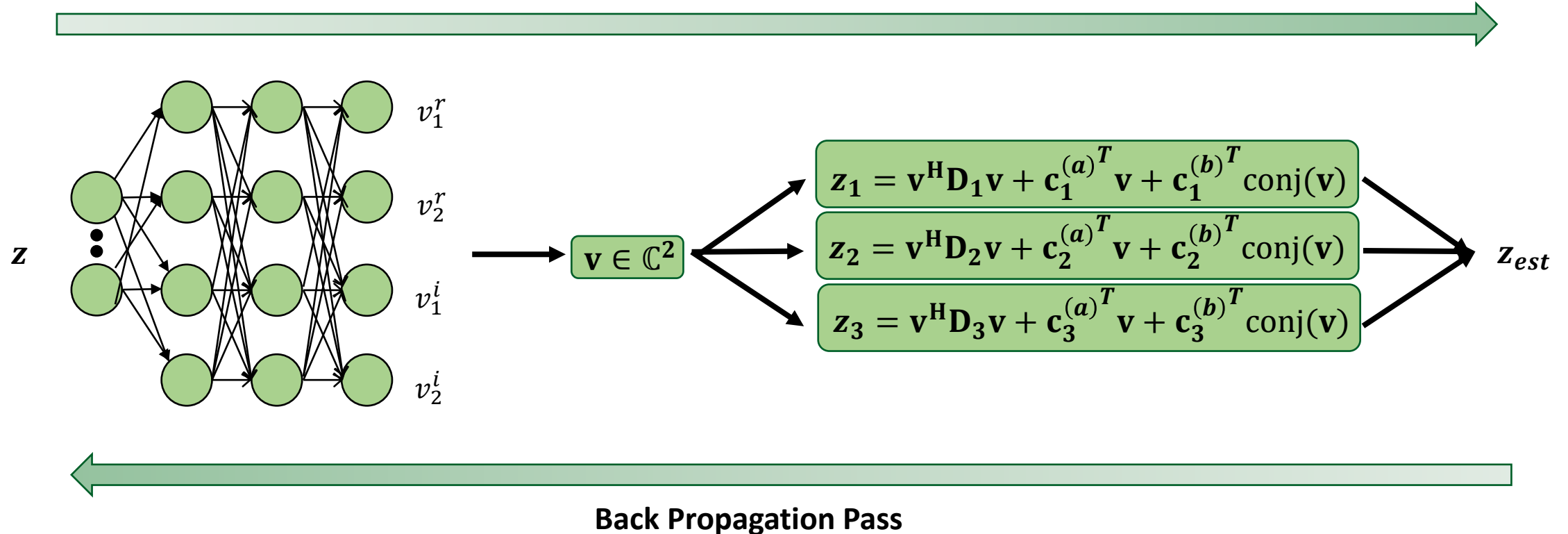
- No need for ground-truth voltage estimates
- If measurements do NOT have redundancy, the estimates quality will depend on the regularization approach used
- Training process required differentiating through the physics model

# Data Generation for SE

- To be able to measure quality of our estimates, we store all ground-truth voltage profiles  $(|v|, \theta)$ .
- Any set of measurements can be driven from the state of the system.
- We simulate the system under significant penetration of renewables and varying loading conditions.
- The approach can be applied essentially with only measurements.
- If a model-based SE is solvable, it will help assess the quality of the proposed estimator.

# Computational Graph

Forward Pass



# Unsupervised Learning Approach

## Experiment: 37-Bus Distribution system

- Insufficient measurements
- Inferior measurement precision

Customized loss function:

$$Loss = \sum (Z_{measured} - Z_{est})^2 + \lambda_1 [(V_{r,ph1} - \mathbf{2.8497})^2 + (V_{i,ph1} - \mathbf{0})^2 + (V_{r,ph2} - (-\mathbf{1.4623}))^2 + (V_{i,ph2} - (-\mathbf{2.4349}))^2 + (V_{r,ph3} - (-\mathbf{1.3895}))^2 + (V_{i,ph3} - \mathbf{2.4336})^2]$$

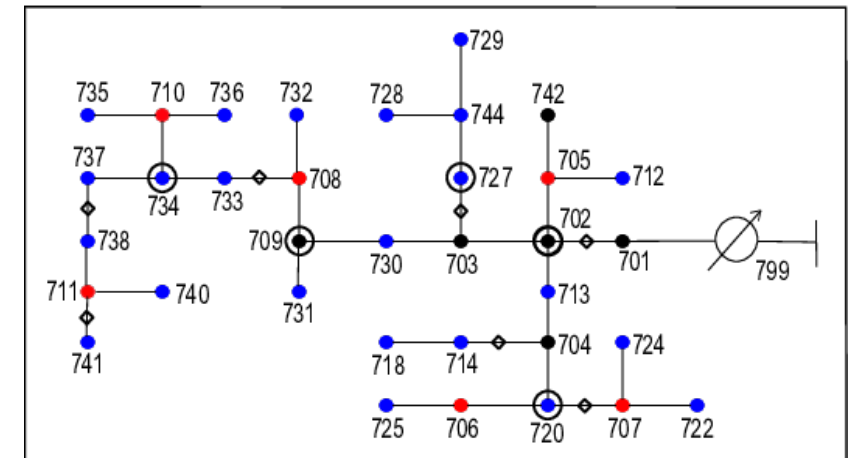
Physical equation utilized during training:

$$\mathbf{z}_{est,i} = \mathbf{v}^H * D_i * \mathbf{v} + c_i^{(1)T} * \mathbf{v} + c_i^{(2)T} * conj(\mathbf{v})$$

where,

$v$  = predicted voltage

$Q$ ,  $P1$ , and  $P2$  are the parameters of the measurement function



IEEE 37-bus unbalanced distribution feeder

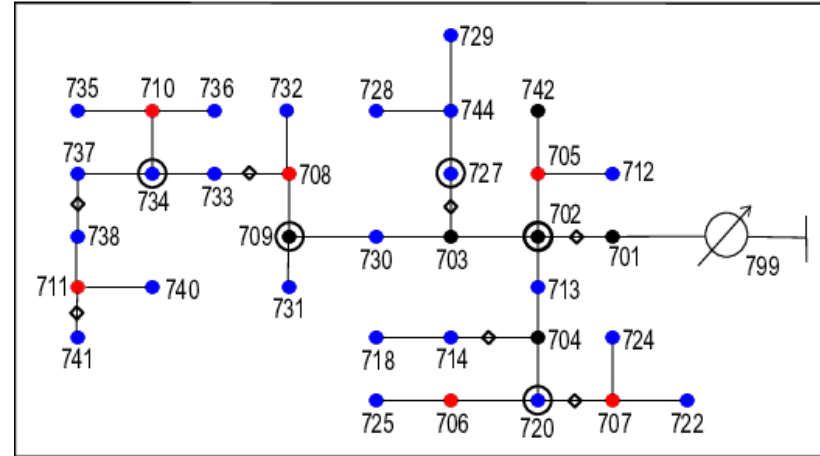
# Result Analysis

## Training Statistics:

- 90,000 scenario
- 130 Epochs
- Batch size 1000
- Learning rate 0.01

## Test Statistics

- 10,000 scenario
- MSE Estimation loss: 26.5851
- MSE Voltage loss: 0.0209



$\lambda$	1e-3	1e-2	1e-1	1e0	1e1	1e2	1e3
<b>Training loss</b>	0.0025	0.0043	0.0046	0.0074	0.0135	0.0348	0.0772
<b>Z_loss</b>	0.1104	0.3123	0.4548	0.4586	0.4313	0.4737	0.5998
<b>Vr_loss</b>	0.2390	0.0316	0.0020	0.0007	0.0005	0.0009	0.0011
<b>Vi_loss</b>	0.0113	0.0098	0.0096	0.0098	0.0096	0.0094	0.0095



# OPF-Learn: An Open-Source Framework for Creating Representative AC Optimal Power Flow Datasets

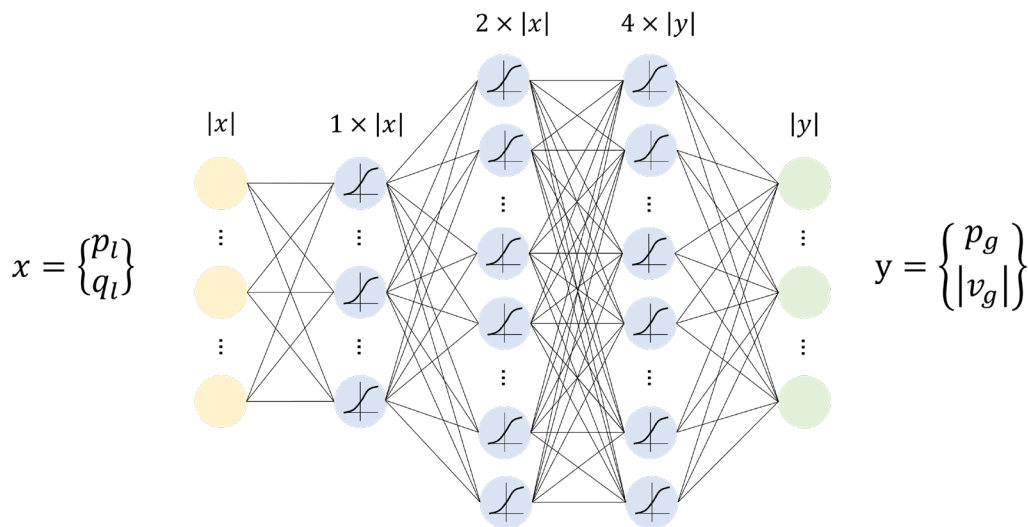
# Do we have confidence in ML-based models?

- All papers in learning for OPF use different datasets
- ...and different ways of generating those datasets (“we perturbed the base loading point randomly +/-10%...)
- Some different models or versions of models (MATPOWER 118-bus vs. PG-lib 118-bus)
- Impossible to compare the results in these papers

# More representative datasets

→ Current datasets for power system optimization generally just contain single points

→ For supervised learning tasks, we need a lot of OPF solutions, that span a good representation of the feasible space



## OPF-Learn: An Open-Source Framework for Creating Representative AC Optimal Power Flow Datasets

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University of Washington

Kyri Baker  
University of Colorado Boulder

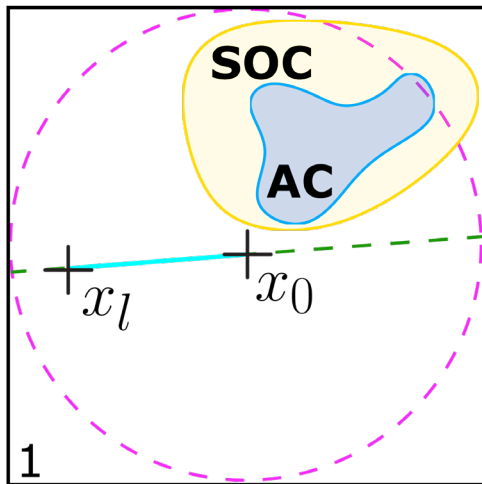
Ahmed S. Zamzam  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Will be available soon at: <https://github.com/NREL/OPFLearn.jl> and corresponding paper on arxiv

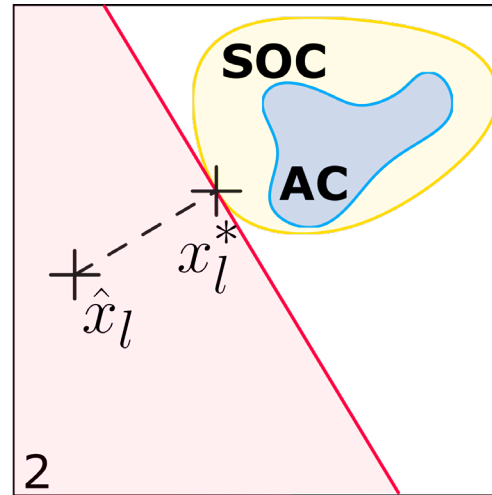
Kudos to the following work for N-1 security classification tasks which inspired this one: A. Venzke, D. K. Molzahn, and S. Chatzivasileiadis, "Efficient creation of datasets for data-driven power system applications," Electric Power Systems Research, vol. 190, p. 106614, 2021.



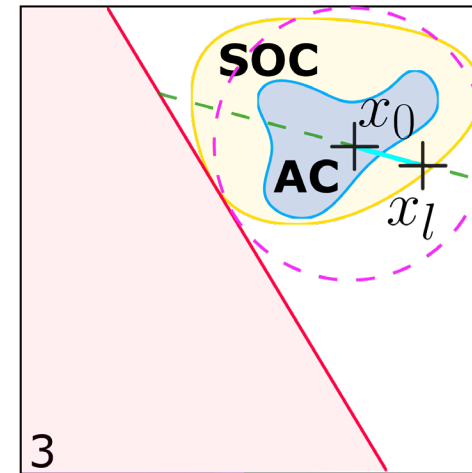
# Data Generation Technique



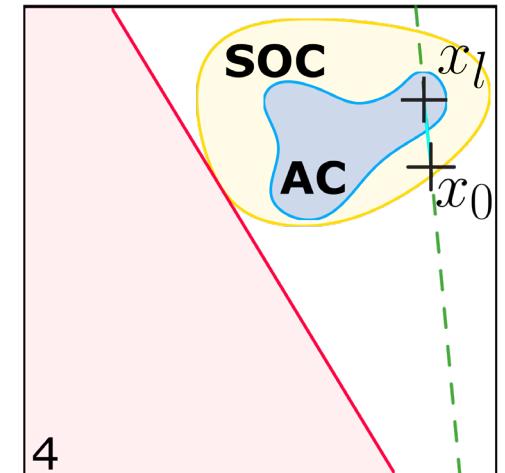
1  
Find the Chebyshev center,  $x_0$ . Generate a random direction vector and travel a random distance along this vector to find a new load sample,  $x_l$ .



2  
Check if  $x_l$  is AC-feasible. If not, find the nearest SOC feasible point,  $x_l^*$ . Since  $\hat{x}_l \neq x_l^*$ , define a new infeasibility certificate at  $x_l^*$  with normal,  $\vec{n} = \hat{x}_l - x_l^*$ .

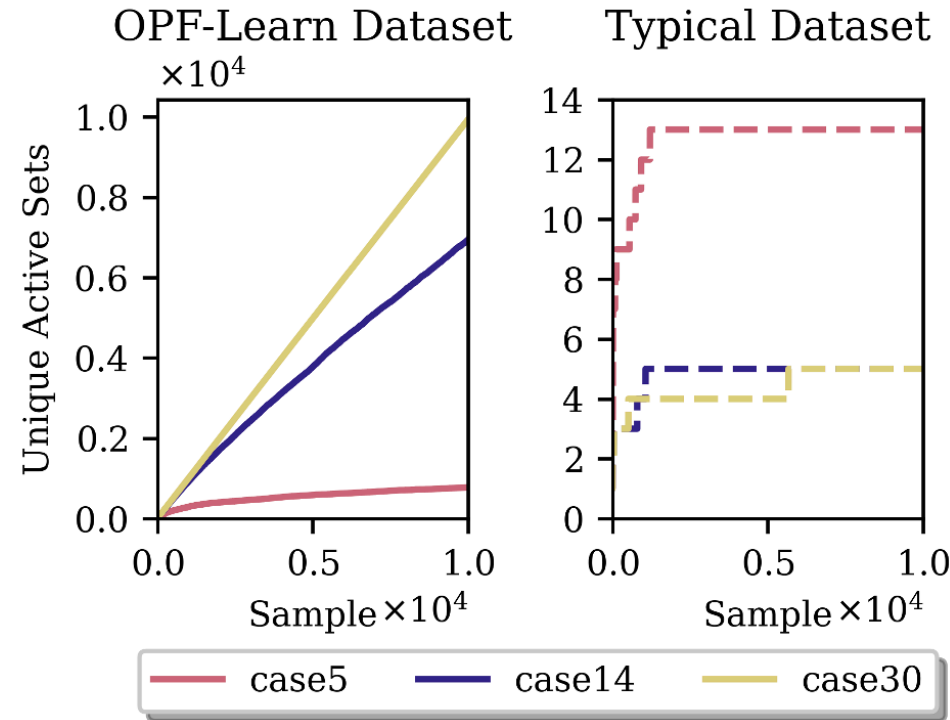


3  
Gather a new sample,  $x_l$ , as in step 1. Check if the new  $x_l$  sample is AC-feasible. Here it is not, so the nearest SOC feasible point is found.  $\hat{x}_l = x_l$ , so discard this sample.



4  
Sample a new load profile,  $x_l$ , as in step 1, but starting from the last point, now  $x_0$ . Check if  $x_l$  is AC-OPF feasible.  $x_l$  is AC-OPF feasible, so store  $x_l$  and its AC-OPF optimal solution.

# Finding new AC OPF solutions more efficiently



*Plot of unique active sets found over time with a typical dataset creation methods and the OPF-Learn dataset creation method. Note the difference in the y-axis scale*

# Improved model performance

Test Dataset:	OPF-Learn Dataset Trained Model		Typical / OPF-Learn	Typical Dataset Trained Model		OPF-Learn / Typical
	OPF-Learn	Typical		OPF-Learn	Typical	
<b>case5</b>	2.17E-2	1.86E-3	<b>8.57E-2</b>	1.33E+0	9.08E-6	<b>1.46E+5</b>
<b>case14</b>	2.75E-4	1.01E-4	<b>3.67E-1</b>	3.94E-2	9.41E-7	<b>4.19E+4</b>
<b>case30</b>	1.55E-4	5.46E-4	<b>3.52E+0</b>	8.17E-3	1.60E-8	<b>5.11E+5</b>
<b>case118</b>	6.97E-2	2.35E-1	<b>3.37E+0</b>	4.47E-1	4.47E-3	<b>1.00E+2</b>

NN models trained on OPF-Learn data have less mean squared error (MSE) when tested on representative test sets compared to the same model trained on a typical dataset.

# Conclusion & Future Research

Learn state estimation mapping in unsupervised fashion utilizing **knowledge of the model**.

Labeled data are substituted for using model information, at the price of increased learning complexity.

Future research:

- Adaptive penalty (linearized power flow)
- Learning model parameters in an outer loop
- Learn using distribution of measurements instead of data records

OPF-Learn.jl generates diverse datasets of loads and their optimal solutions increasing trust in ML models.

# Thank you for your attention!

## Many thank to collaborators:

Fouad Hasan  
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Andrey Bernstein



Trager Joswig-Jones



Kyri Baker

