

LIVE EVENT

# Implementing and Real-Time Testing a Controller for a Grid-Tied Inverter

19 May 2021 | 10:00 - 11:00 (GMT+8)

Starting soon....

## Highlights:

*Coordinated Control of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) in Microgrids*

*in Collaboration with IEEE Power & Energy Society Singapore Chapter*



**Jonathan LeSage**  
Senior Application Engineer  
MathWorks



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Associate Professor | School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering  
Cluster Director | Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N)  
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  
Chairman | IEEE Power & Energy Society Singapore Chapter



## Using Simulink to Develop Grid-Tied Inverter Controls



## Table of Contents

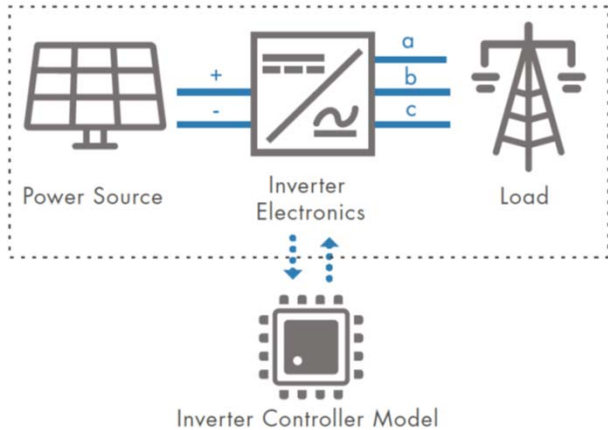
- Introduction
- What is hardware-in-the-loop?
- Overview of solar inverter control development
- Control design tasks for power capture and grid protection
- Code generation for controller and plant
- Hardware-in-the-loop testing with Speedgoat hardware

## Key Takeaways

- Simplify control development for power electronics using Simscape Electrical and Speedgoat hardware
- Automatically generate C and HDL code for plant simulations and production code from Simulink and Simscape Electrical
- Use hardware-in-the-loop to test normal operation and fault conditions such as Fault-Ride Through

# Simulink and Speedgoat are a common platform for control design and testing

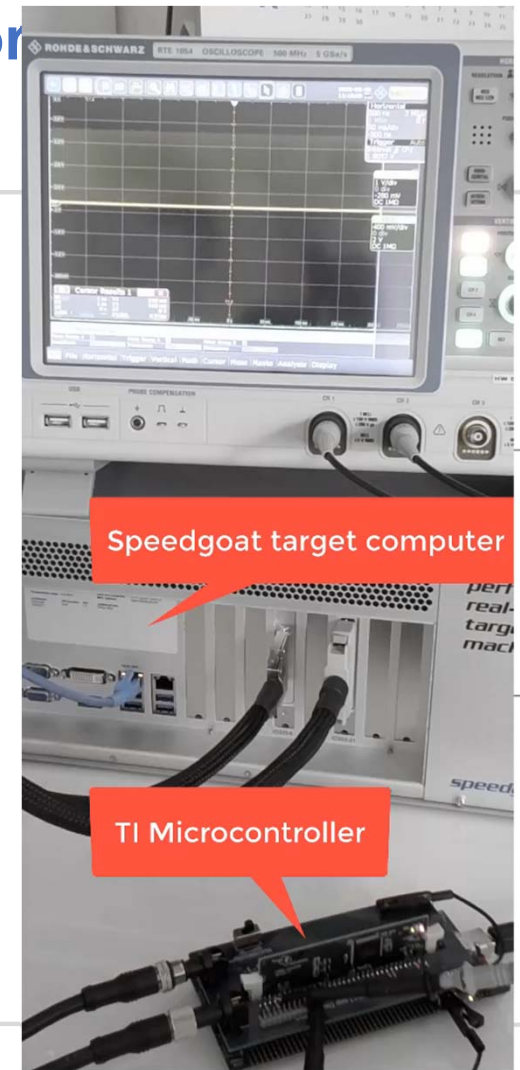
Design and optimize controls using electrical systems simulation



Generate code for the plant



and the controller



## About Speedgoat

- A MathWorks associate company, incorporated in 2006 by former MathWorks employees. Headquarters in Switzerland, with subsidiaries in the USA and Germany
- Provider of real-time target computers, expressly designed for use with Simulink
- Real-time core team of around 200 people within MathWorks and Speedgoat. Closely working with the entire MathWorks organization employing around 5,000 people worldwide



## What is Our Goal?

- Primary goal is to design power electronics hardware and controllers

### Controller



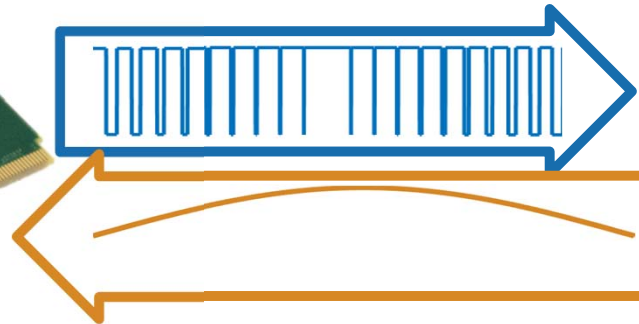
### Hardware (Plant)



## What is Our Goal?

- Primary goal is to design power electronics hardware and controllers
  - Hardware in the loop (HIL) testing can improve this process

### Controller

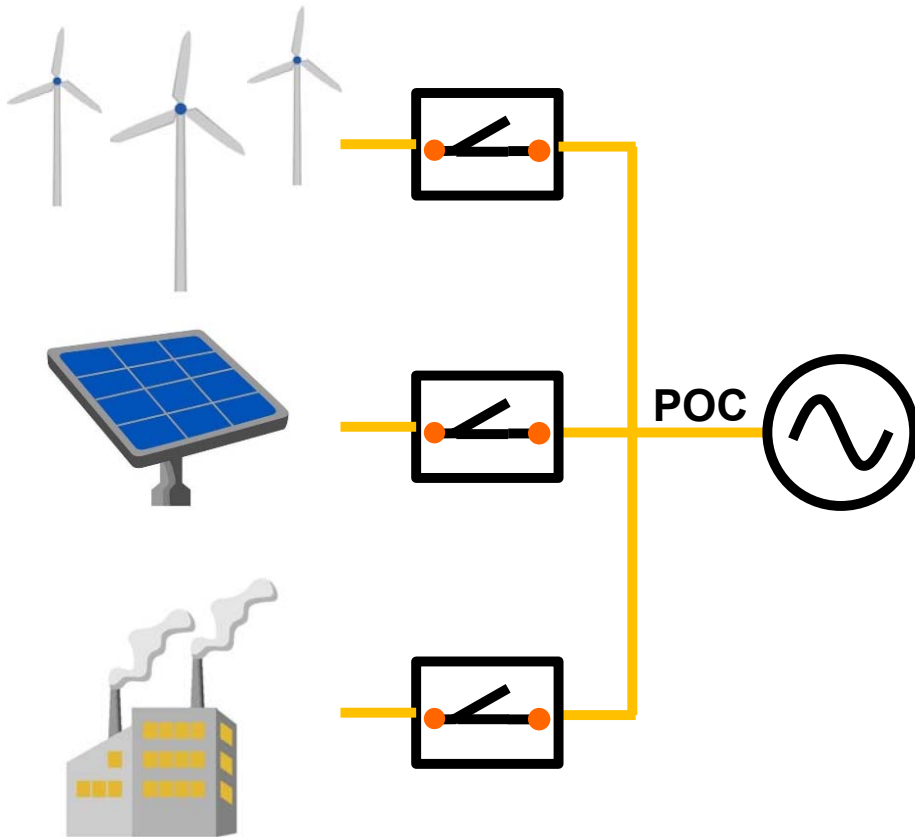


### Hardware (Plant)

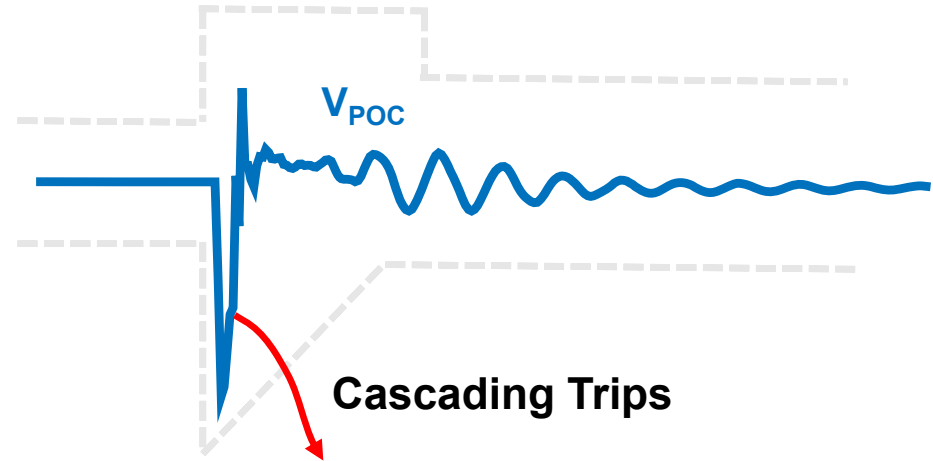




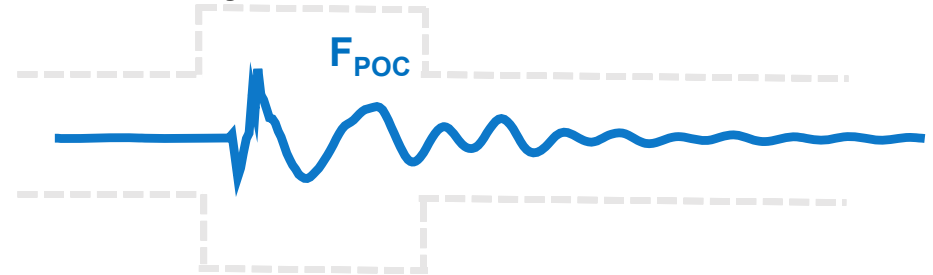
# Protecting the Utility Grid



## Voltage Grid Codes



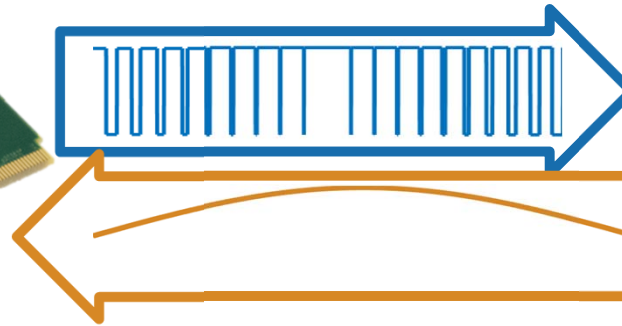
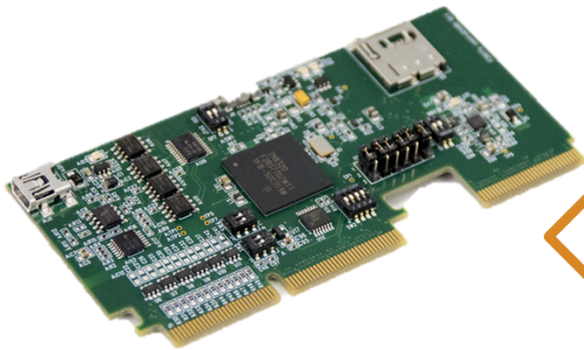
## Frequency Grid Codes



## What is Hardware in the Loop (HIL) Testing

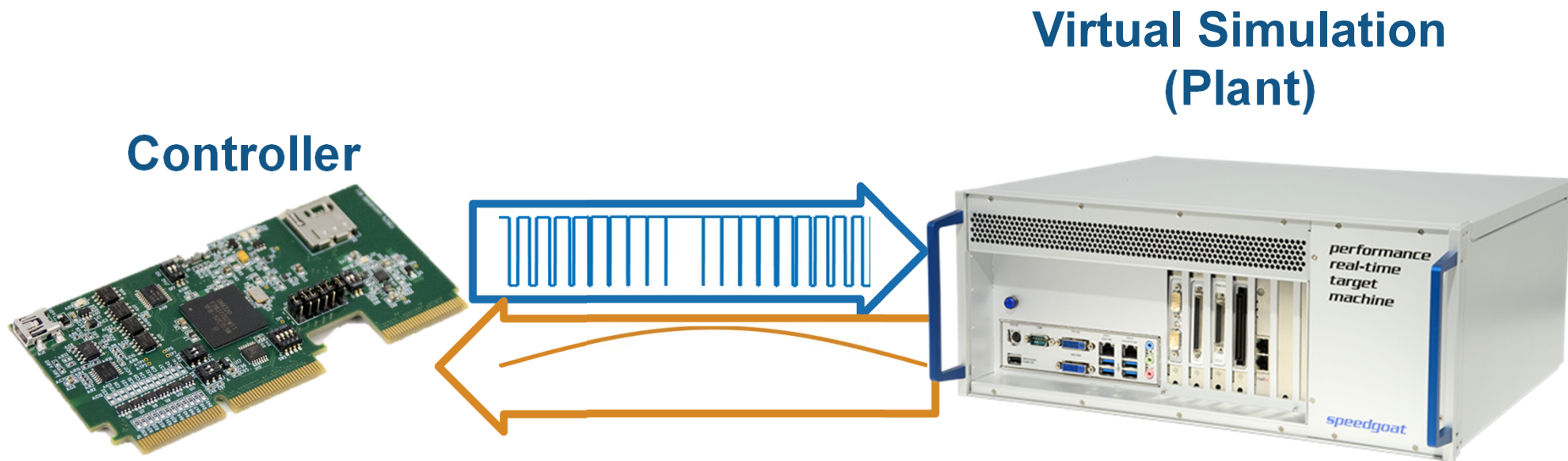
- HIL replaces the power electronics hardware with a virtual simulation

**Controller**



## What is Hardware in the Loop (HIL) Testing

- HIL replaces the power electronics hardware with a virtual simulation
  - Controller can operate as if in the real system

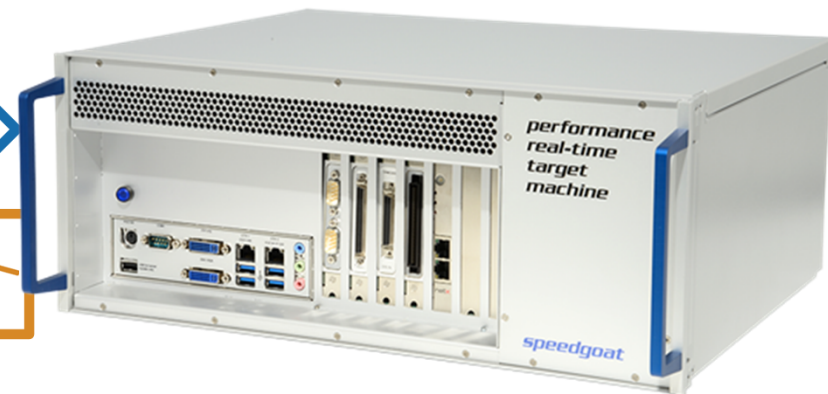
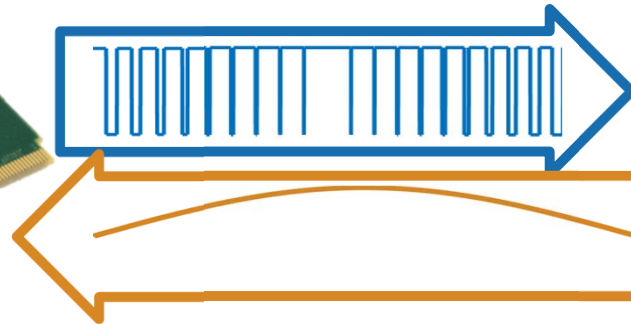
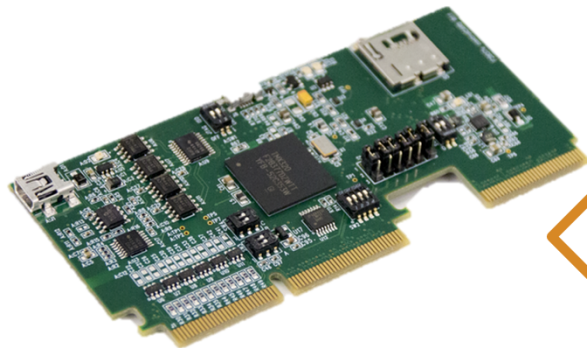


## Advantages of Hardware in the Loop (HIL) Testing

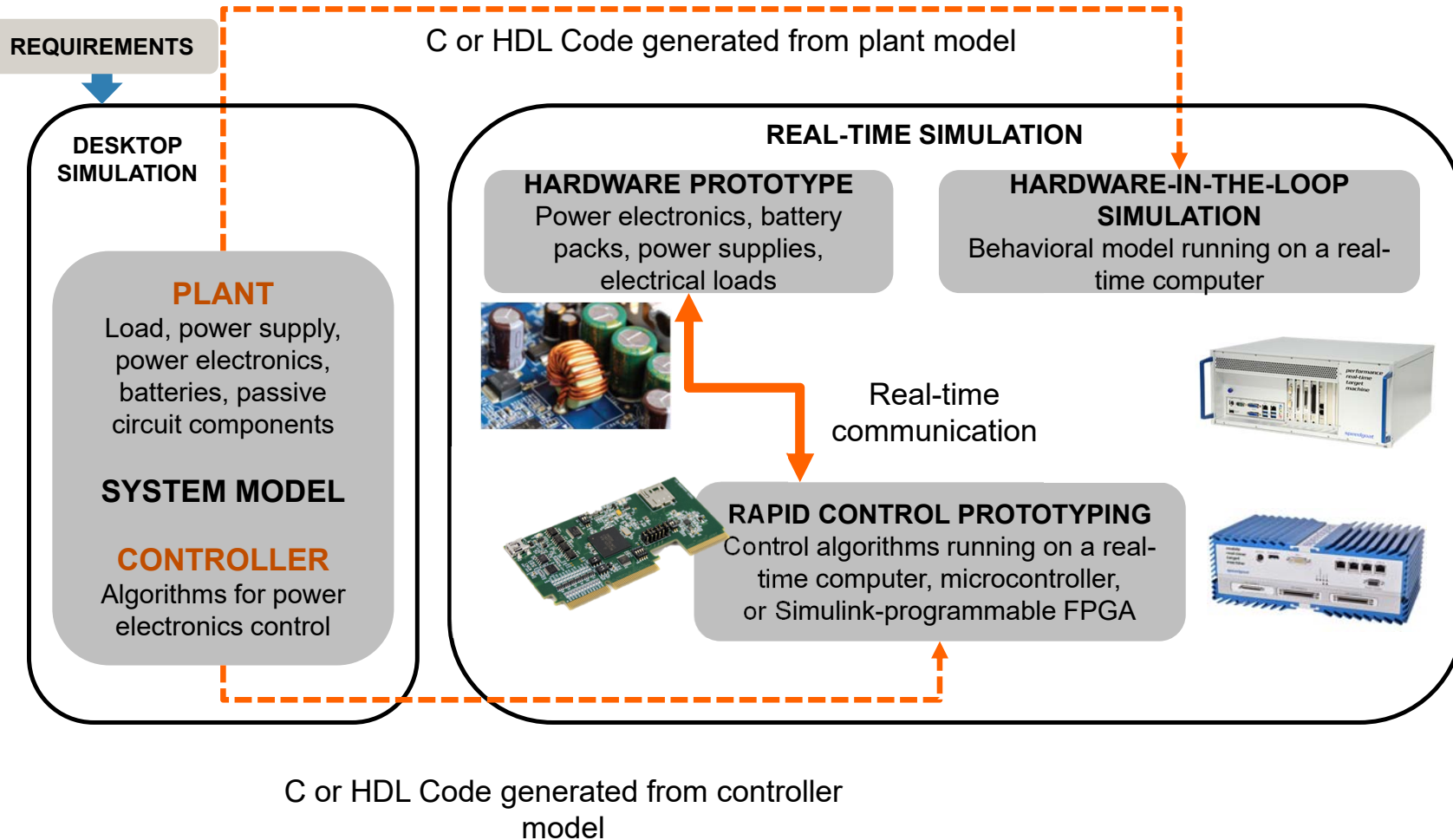
- Can replace prototypes or production hardware with a real-time system
- Easier to automate testing and **test grid code fault scenarios**
- Safer than most power electronics hardware
- Start many design/test tasks earlier

### Virtual Simulation (Plant)

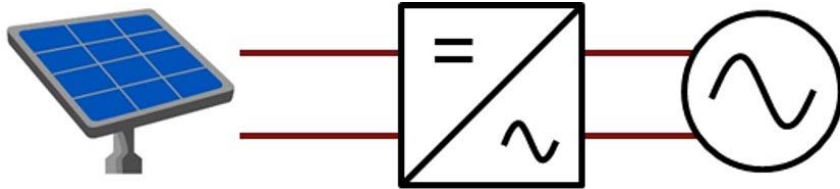
### Controller



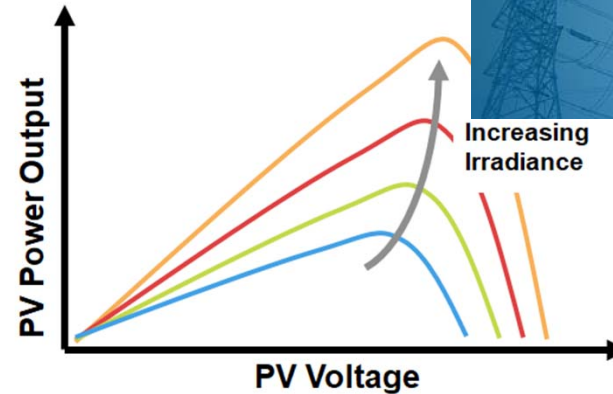
# Model Based Design for Power Electronics



# Overview of Solar Inverter Control Development

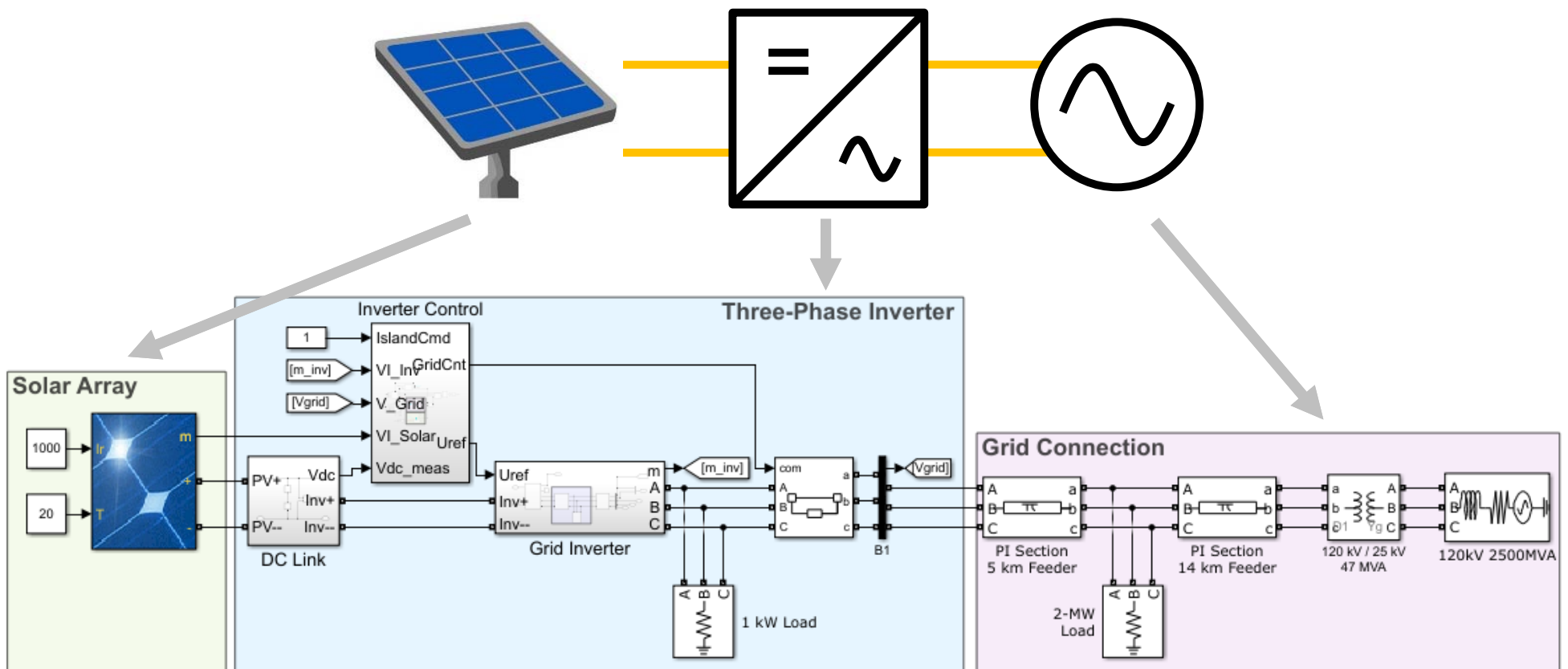


- 1 Plant Modeling**  
(Photovoltaic plant, Inverter, Grid)
- 2 Control Design**  
(Grid synchronization, MPPT algorithm)
- 3 Automatic Code Generation**  
(Deploy code to TI C2000 and Speedgoat hardware)
- 4 Hardware-in-the-Loop Testing**  
(Controller verification with Speedgoat hardware)



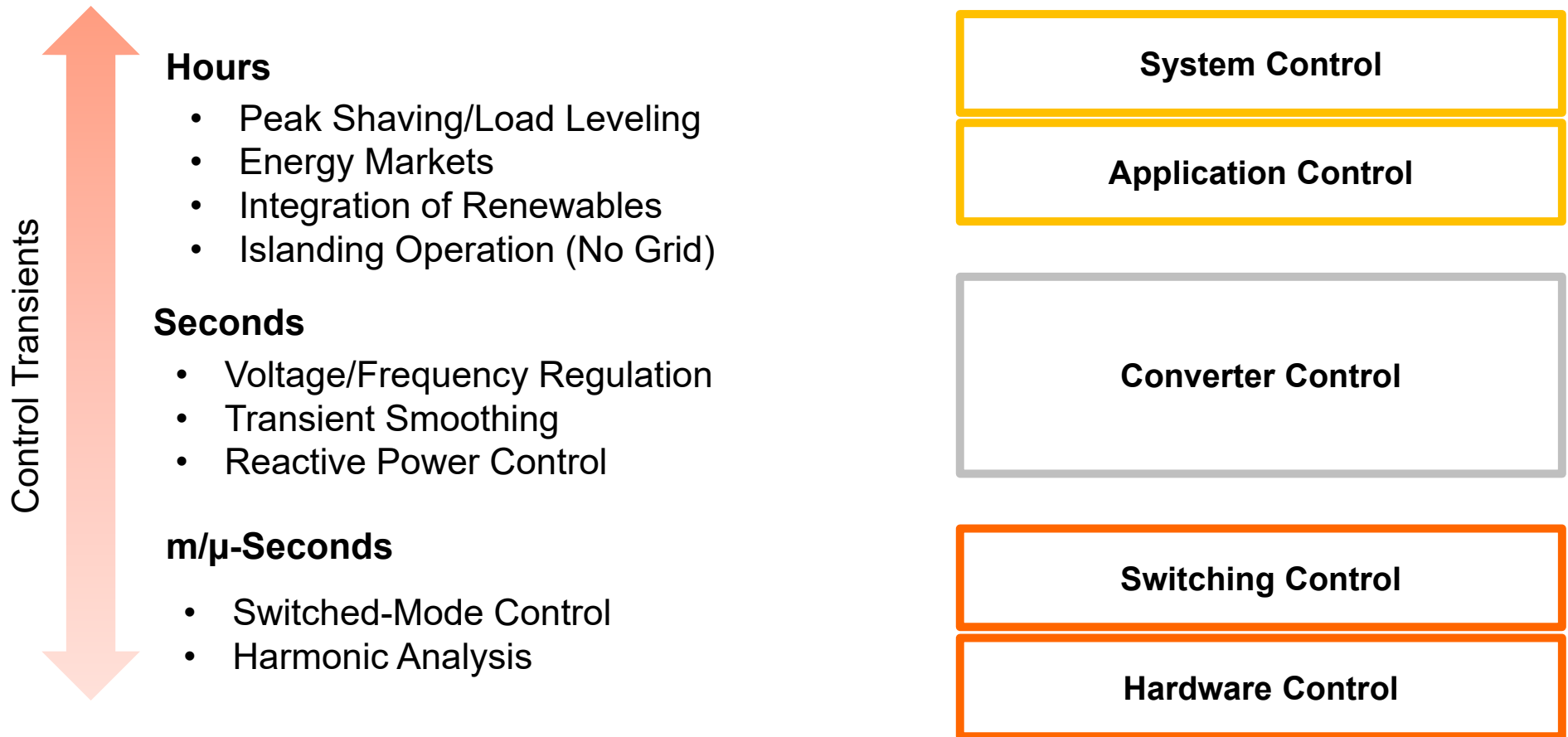
# 1 Plant Modeling

Schematic-based modeling with common power electronics topologies



# Layers of Control in Smart Grid Applications

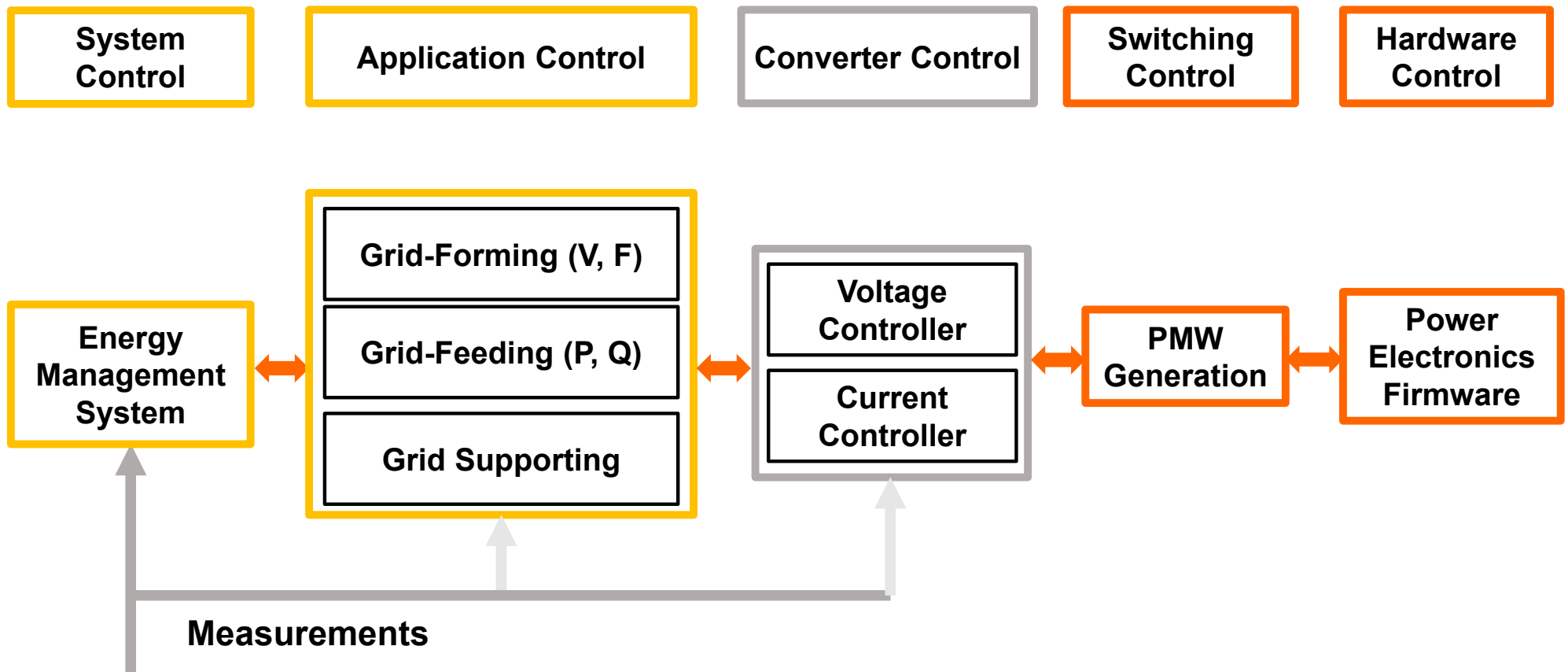
## IEEE1676 – Power Electronic Building Blocks



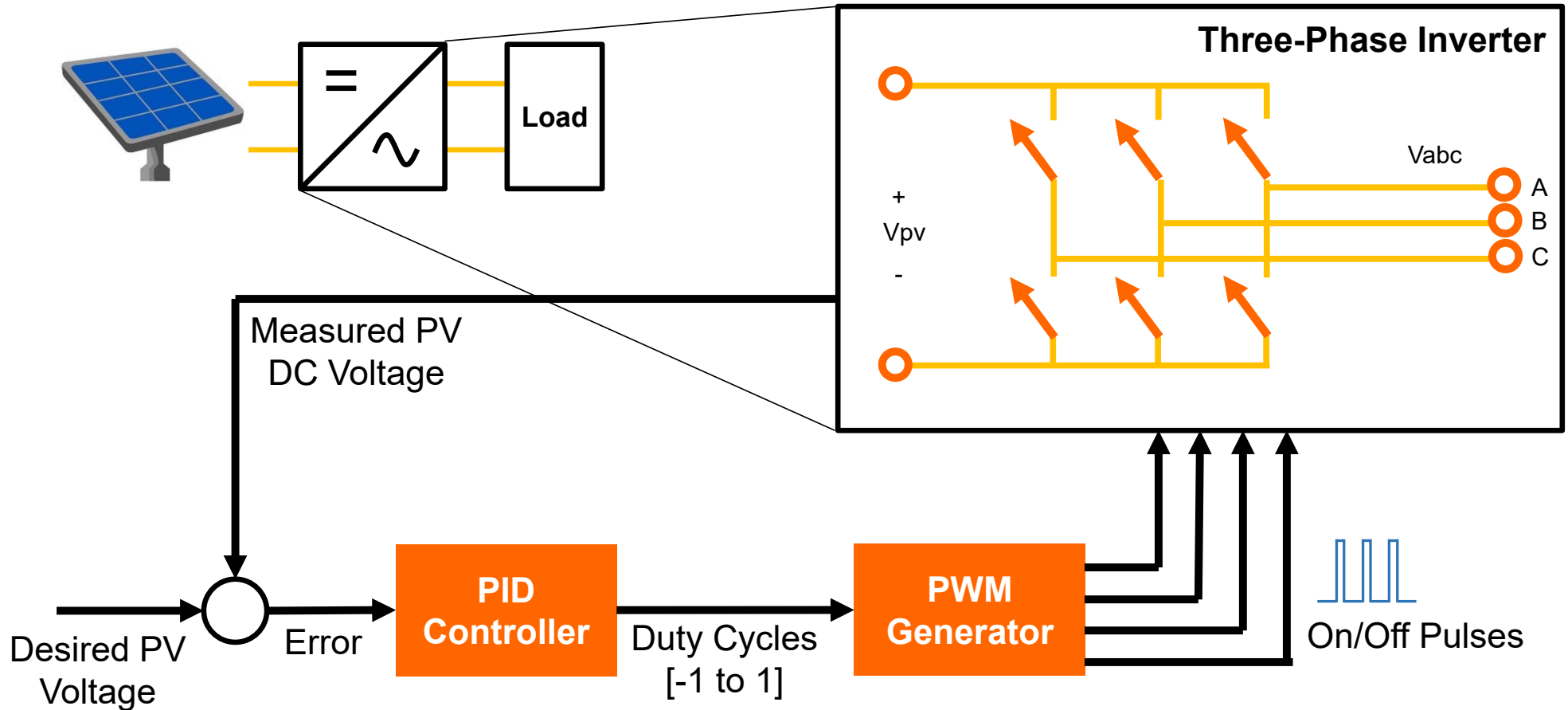


# Layers of Control in Smart Grid Applications

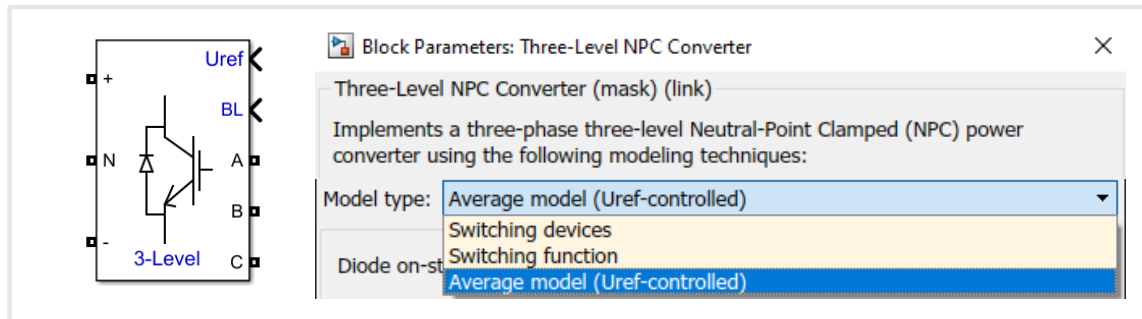
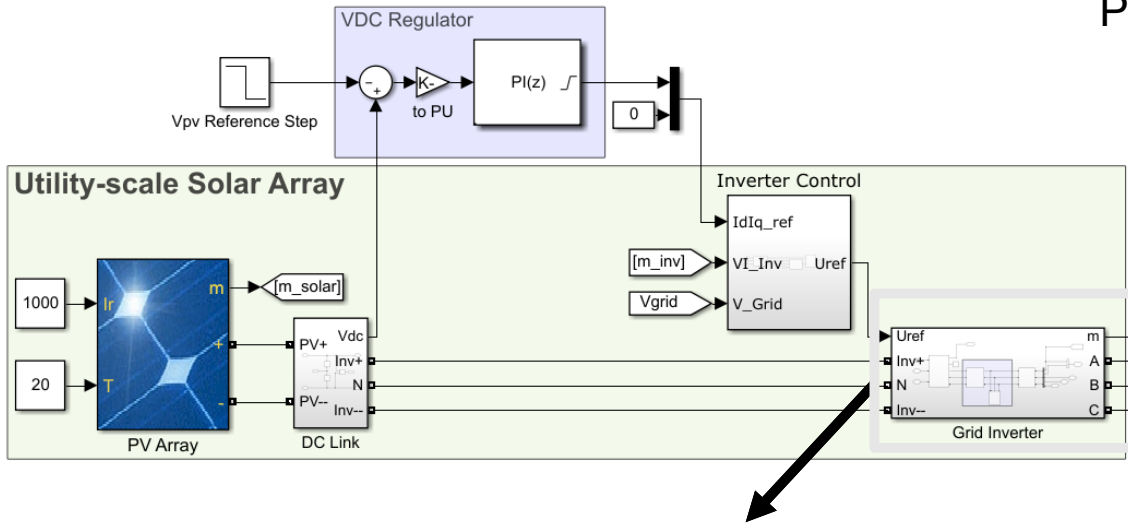
## IEEE1676 – Power Electronic Building Blocks



## 2 Control Design Task 1 - Power Electronics Feedback

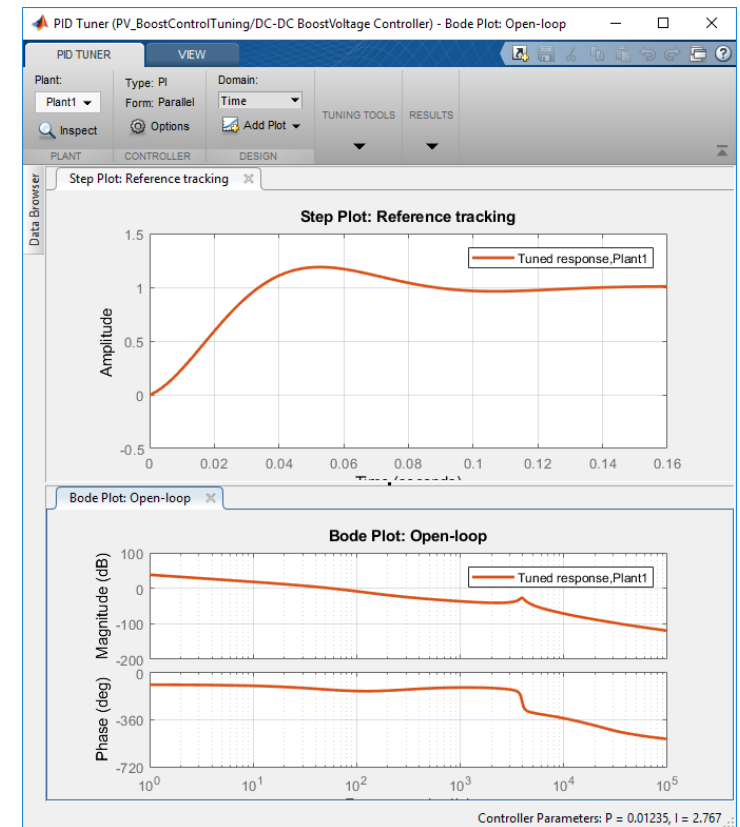


## 2 Tuning DC-DC Boost Converter Controls

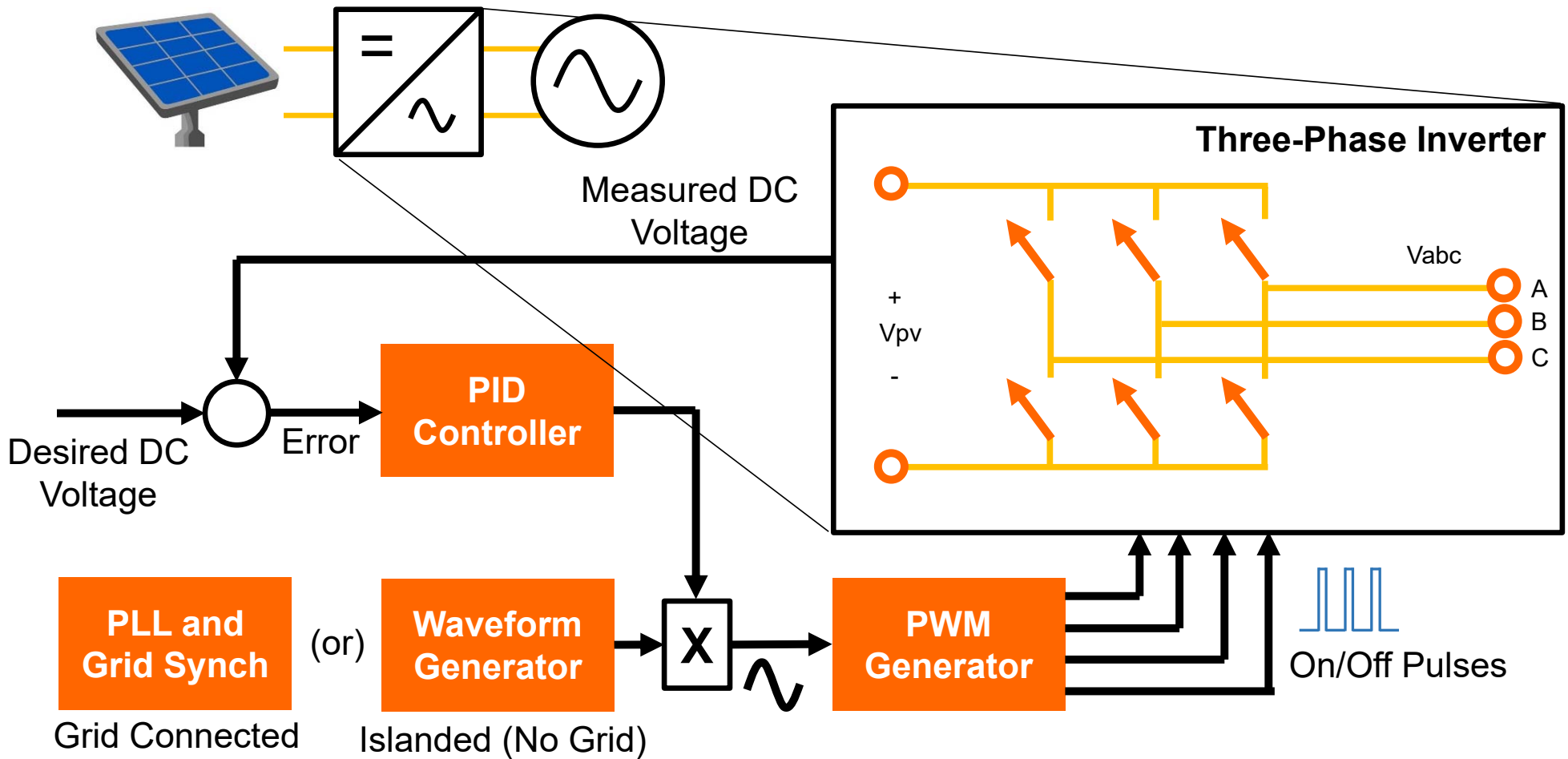


Leverage Average-Value Approximation of Power Electronics for Control Design

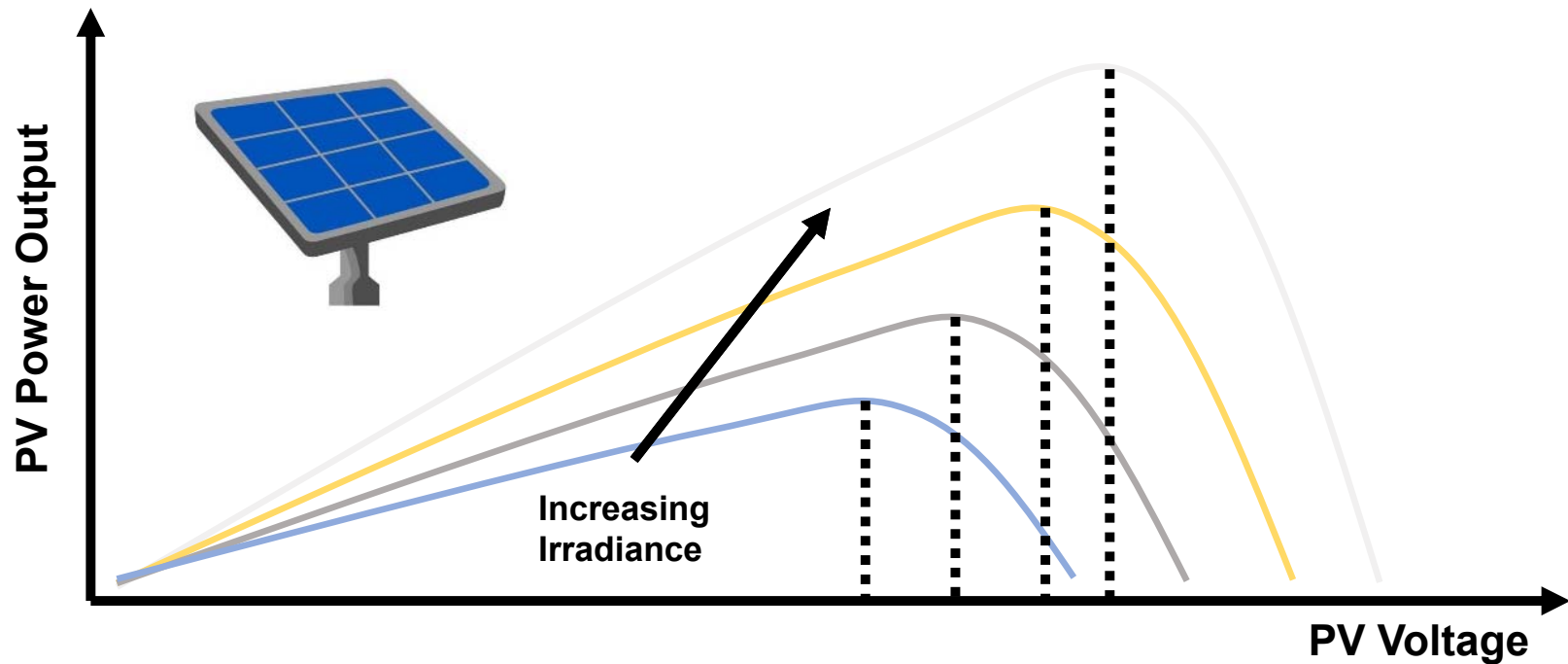
PID Tuning (and other methods) on Non-linear and Switched-Mode Power Systems



## 2 Control Design Task 2 – Grid Synchronization



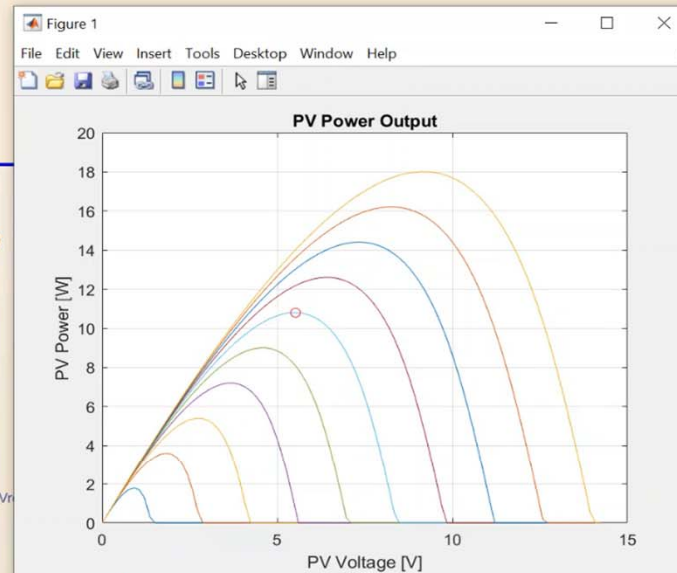
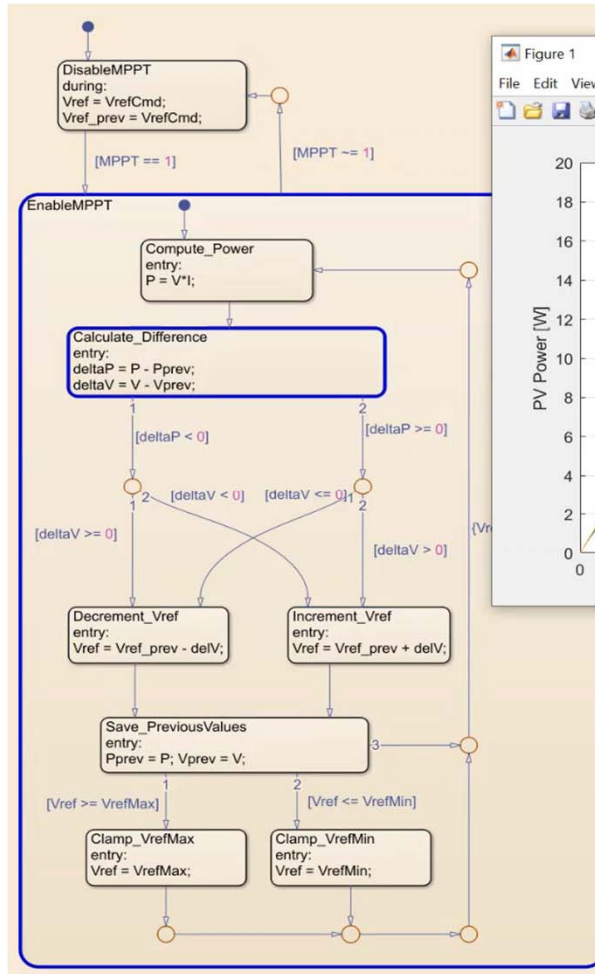
## 2 Control Design - MPPT



**Maximum Power Point Tracking**

Automatically adjust desired PV Voltage to find Peak Power Output at any Operating Condition

## 2 Control Design - MPPT



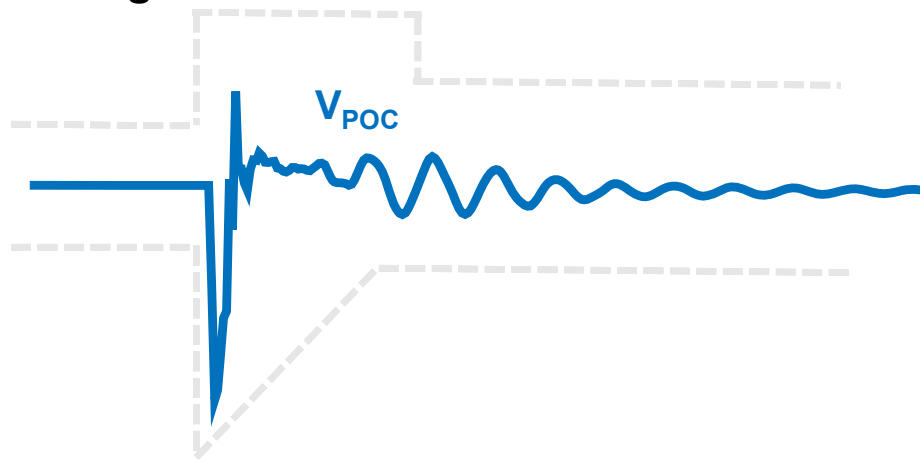
- Using inverter control to track maximum power point

Learn more: [Webinar on Modeling, Simulating, and Generating Code for a Solar Inverter](#)

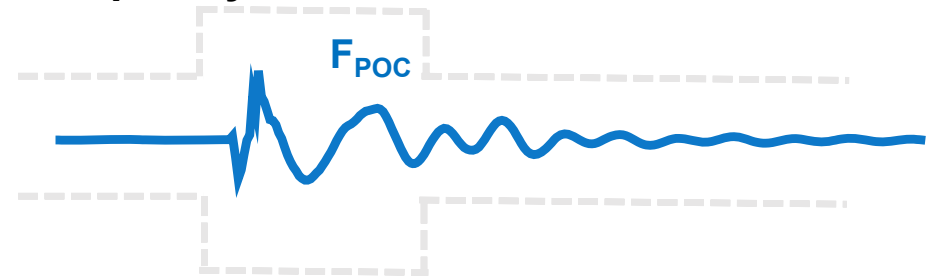
2

## Control Design - Designing Fault-Ride Through Algorithms

Voltage Grid Codes

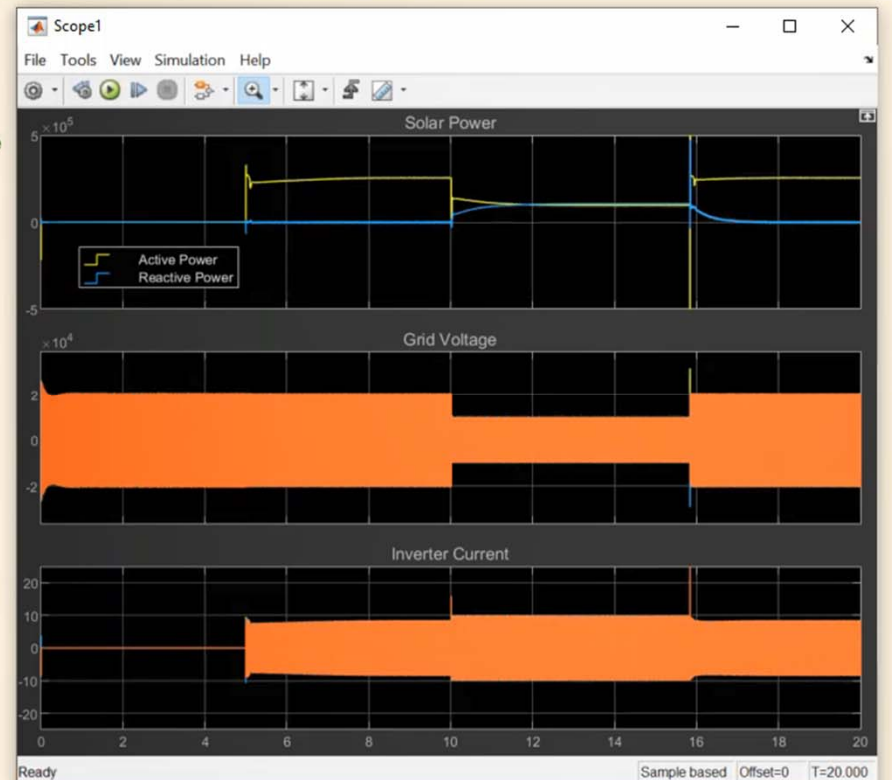
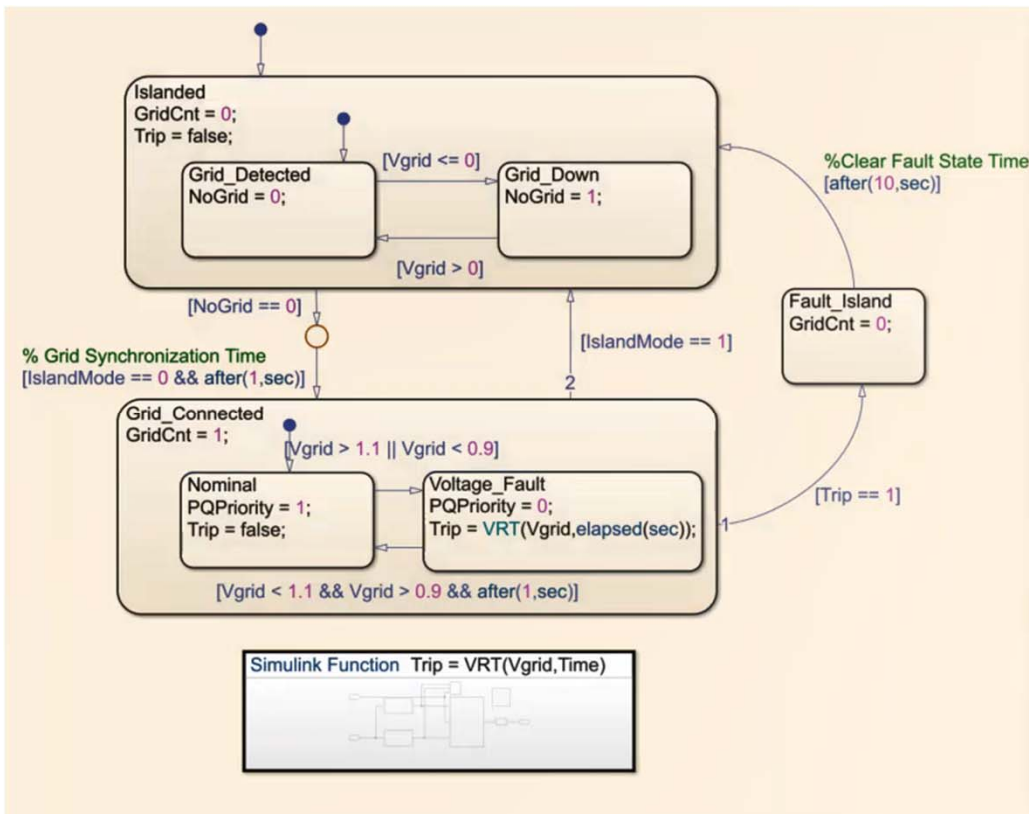


Frequency Grid Codes



## 2 Control Design - Designing Fault-Ride Through Algorithms

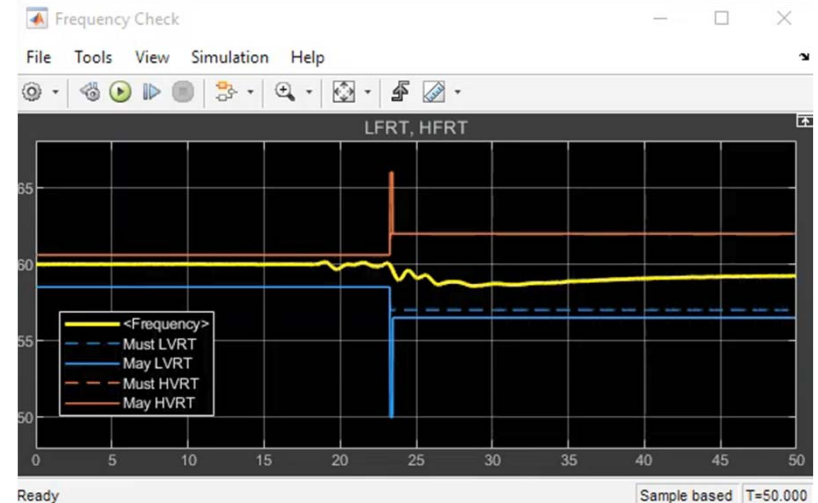
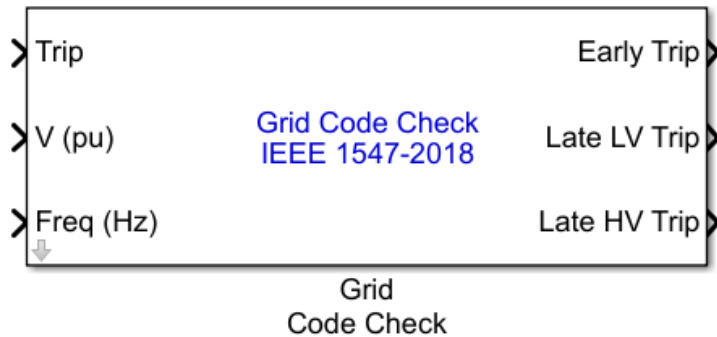
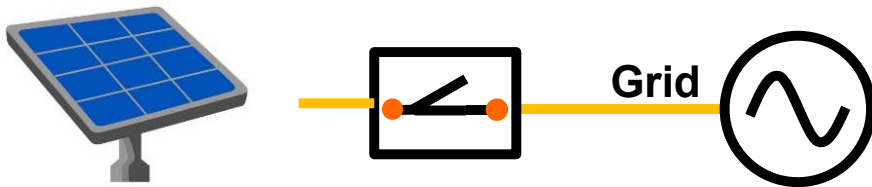
- Reactive power support during low voltage fault





## 2 Control Design - Fault-Ride Through

- Testing Fault-Ride Through against Grid Codes such as IEEE 1547-2018

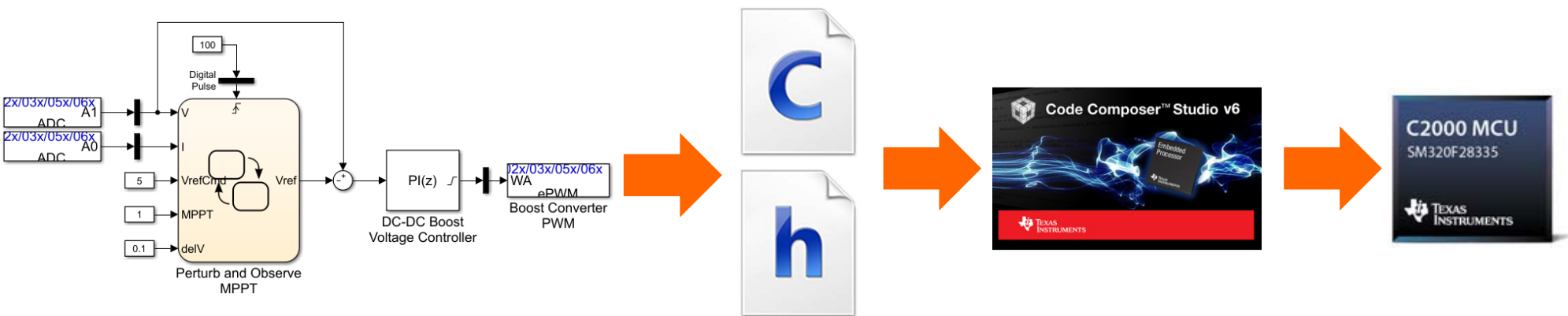


Learn more: Webinar on Renewable Grid Integration Studies

### 3 Automatic Code Generation Microcontroller



- Use Embedded Coder and C2000 hardware support package



### 3 Automatic Code Generation Speedgoat Real-Time Simulator

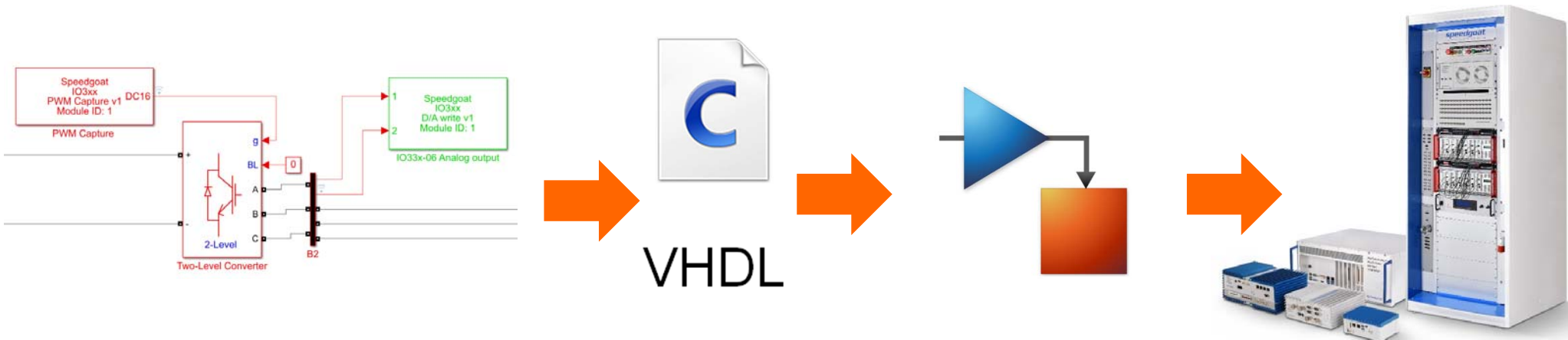
- Use Simulink Real-Time and HDL Coder for C and HDL code generation
- Deploy to multi-core CPUs or multiple FPGAs
- Wide range of I/O connectivity, communication protocols and I/O functionality

Combine Simulink Model with  
Speedgoat Driver Blocks

Auto-generate  
C code or  
HDL Code

Build using  
Simulink Real-  
Time

Operation with  
Speedgoat Target  
Computer



## 4 Hardware-in-the-Loop Testing

- **Reuse models at different levels of fidelity in CPUs and FPGAs**
- **Automatic code generation**
  - Multi-core CPUs using Simulink Real-Time
  - Simulink-programmable FPGAs using HDL Coder
- **Compatibility of Simulink, V&V tools and Speedgoat hardware**
- **HIL simulation with switching dynamics**
  - CPU workflow up to around 5 KHz switching
  - FPGA workflow up to around 100 kHz switching

# 4 Hardware-in-the-Loop Testing

The image displays a hardware-in-the-loop testing environment. On the left, the Simulink model 'gridSolar\_mppt\_srlt' is shown, featuring a 'Utility-scale Solar Array' with a SunPower SPR-415E-WHT-D inverter, a 'Grid Inverter' block, and various control and measurement blocks. The model is connected to a physical hardware setup shown in the bottom-left inset, which includes a real-time processor (Speedgoat) and a power inverter. On the right, the PicoScope 6 software displays three waveforms: a high-frequency switching signal (blue), a lower-frequency signal (red), and a 50 Hz sine wave (green). The sine wave is measured with the following parameters:

Channel	Name	Value	Min	Max	Average	$\sigma$	Capture Count	Span
A	Frequency	5.007 kHz	5.005 kHz	5.007 kHz	5.007 kHz	532.1 mHz	20	Whole trace
A	Duty Cycle	50.79 %	36.18 %	61.01 %	43.09 %	7.300 %	20	Whole trace

## Conclusion

- Simplify control development for power electronics using Simscape Electrical and Speedgoat hardware
- Automatically generate C and HDL code for plant simulations and production code from Simulink and Simscape Electrical
- Use hardware-in-the-loop to test normal operation and fault conditions like Fault-Ride Through

## Learn More

- [www.speedgoat.com](http://www.speedgoat.com) – Speedgoat real-time solutions
- [Developing Solar Inverter Control with Simulink](#) – video series
- [HIL for Power Electronics](#) - whitepaper
- [Detailed Model of 100 kW Grid-Connected PV Array](#) - example
- [MPPT Algorithm](#) - webpage







**NANYANG  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY**  
**SINGAPORE**

# Coordinated Control of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) in Microgrids

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Associate Professor | School of EEE  
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Chairman | IEEE PES Singapore Chapter  
Website: <https://eexuyan.github.io/soda/index.html>

# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

## 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

**1** REIDS Project

**2** DER Control {  
Islanded microgrid  
Grid-connected microgrid

## 0. Outline

### 1. REIDS Project

#### 2. Control

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- 2) Grid-tied mode

- *Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator – Singapore (REIDS)*



Energy Research Institute @ NTU

REIDS

Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator - Singapore



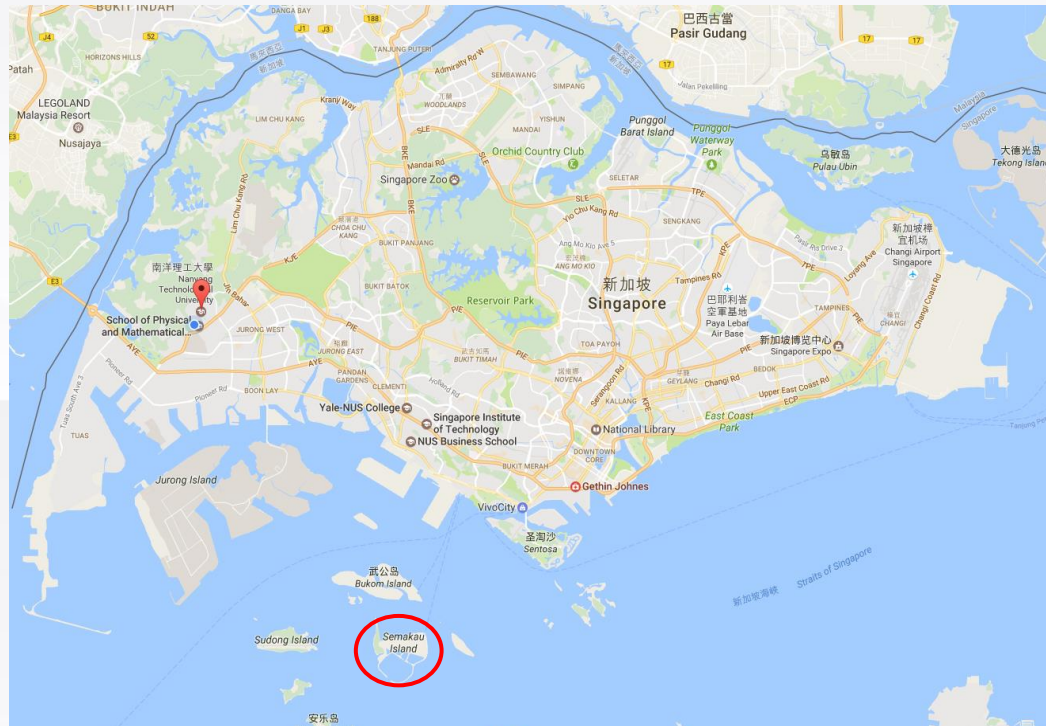
REIDS is a Singapore-based RD&D platform dedicated to designing, demonstrating and testing solutions for sustainable multi-activity off-grid communities in Southeast Asia

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### REIDS Partners



### Research Leader



### Supporting Agencies



# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

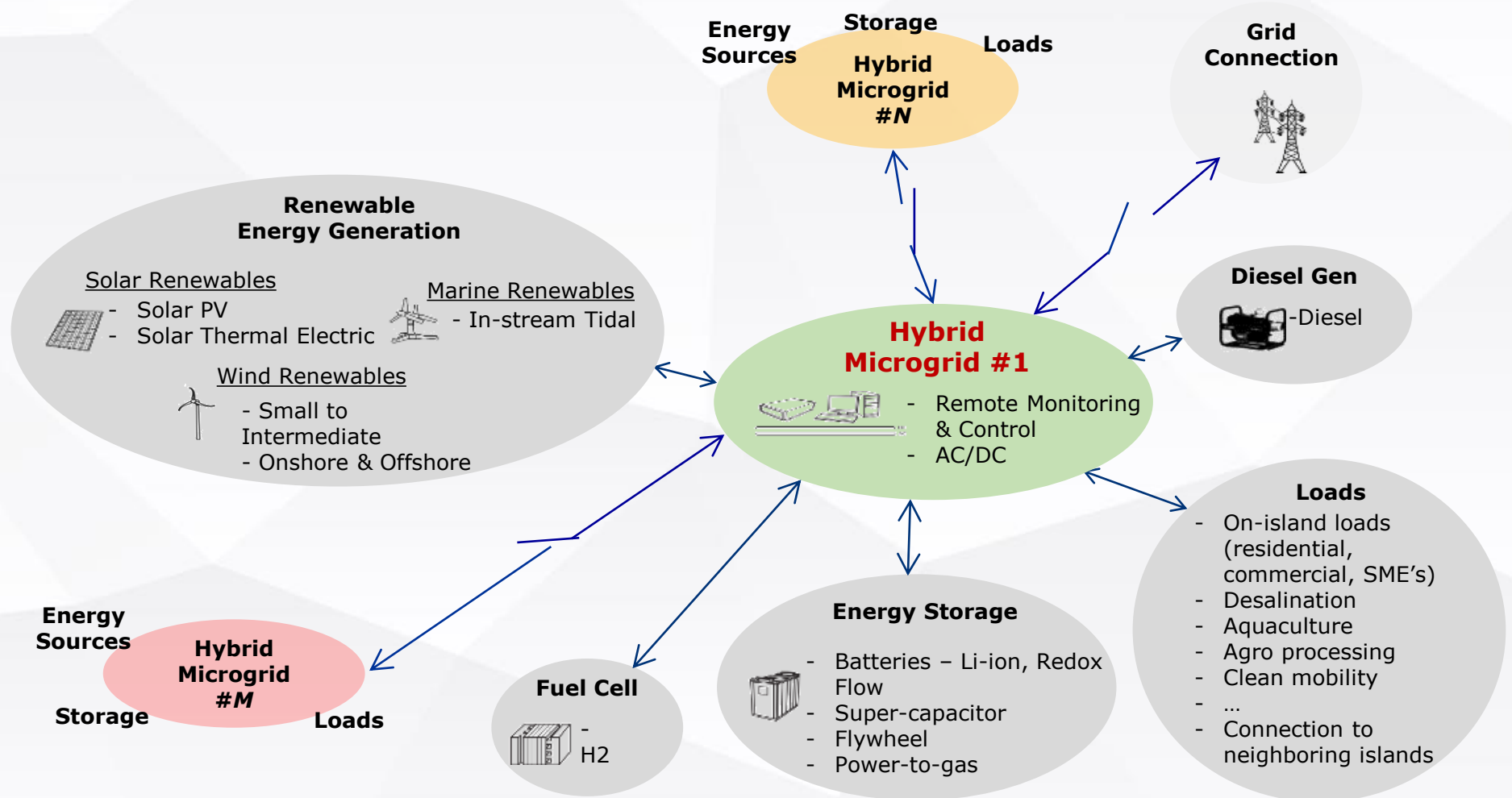
### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

### REIDS Roadmap and Framework

Phase I – 4 independent MGs (500kW-1MW each)

Phase II – 4 MGs in a cluster configuration (100kW-250kW each)



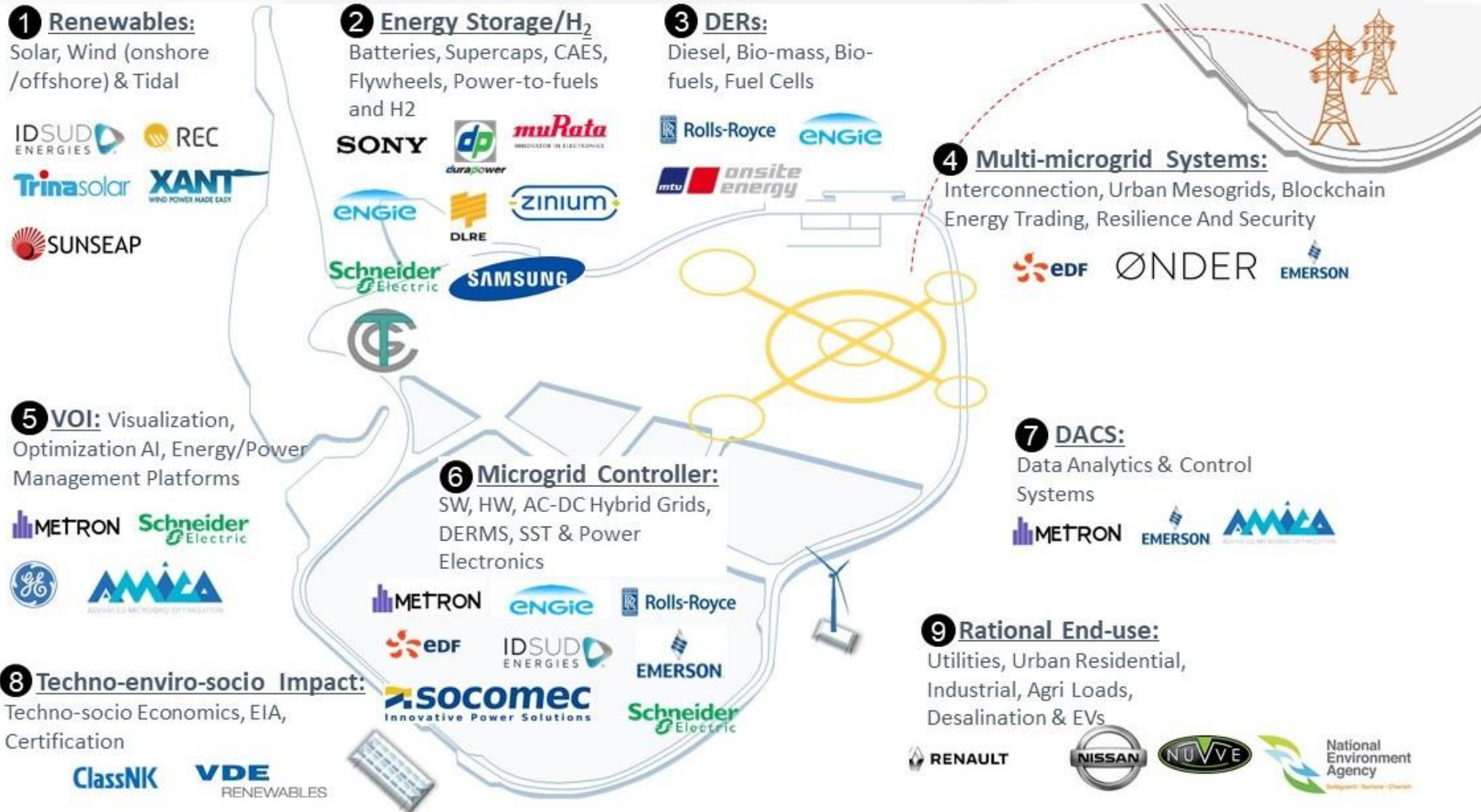
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### Onboard Industry Collaborators



<http://erian.ntu.edu.sg/REIDS/Pages/AboutREIDS.aspx>

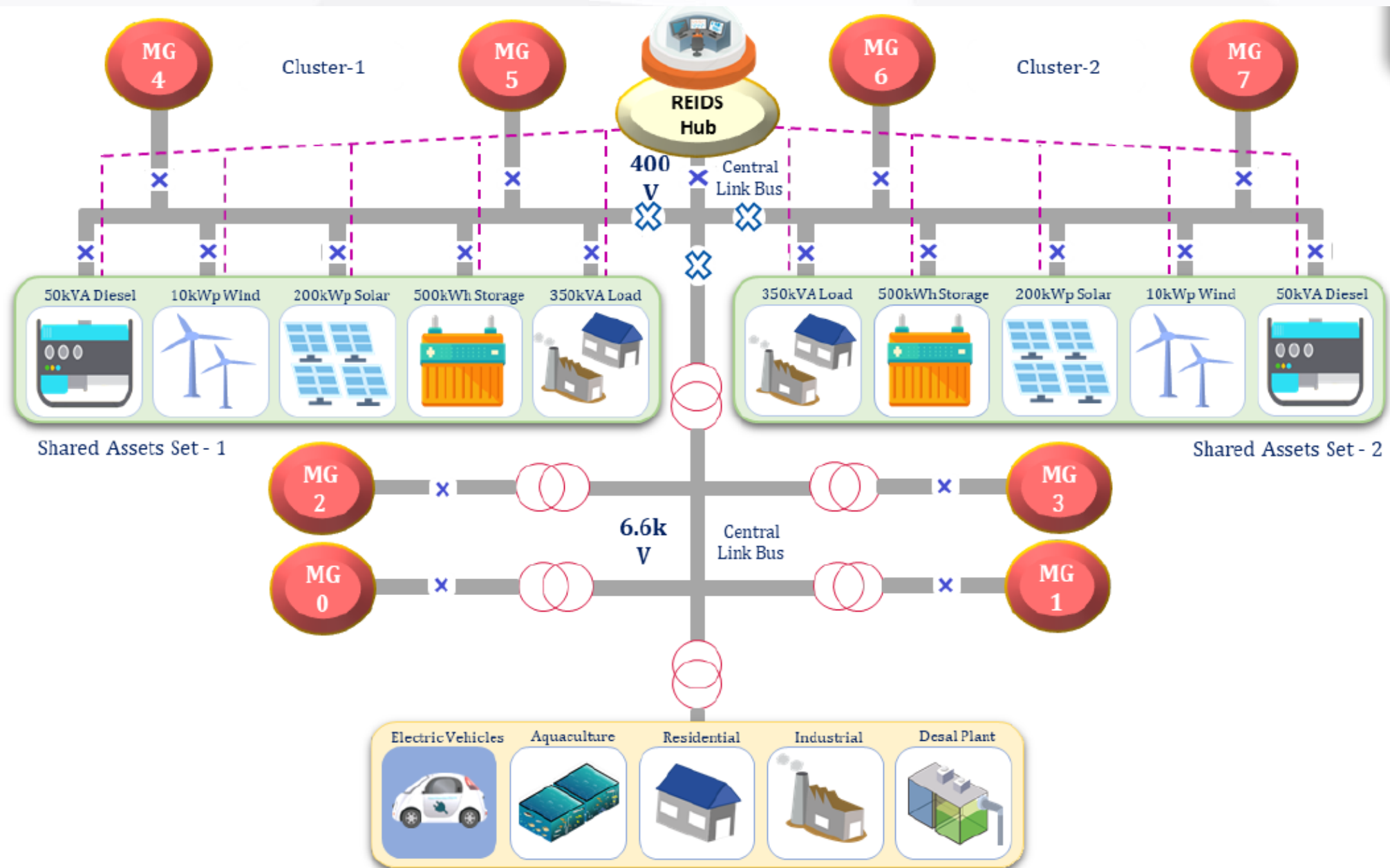
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### REIDS Electrical Structure



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- Onsite pictures





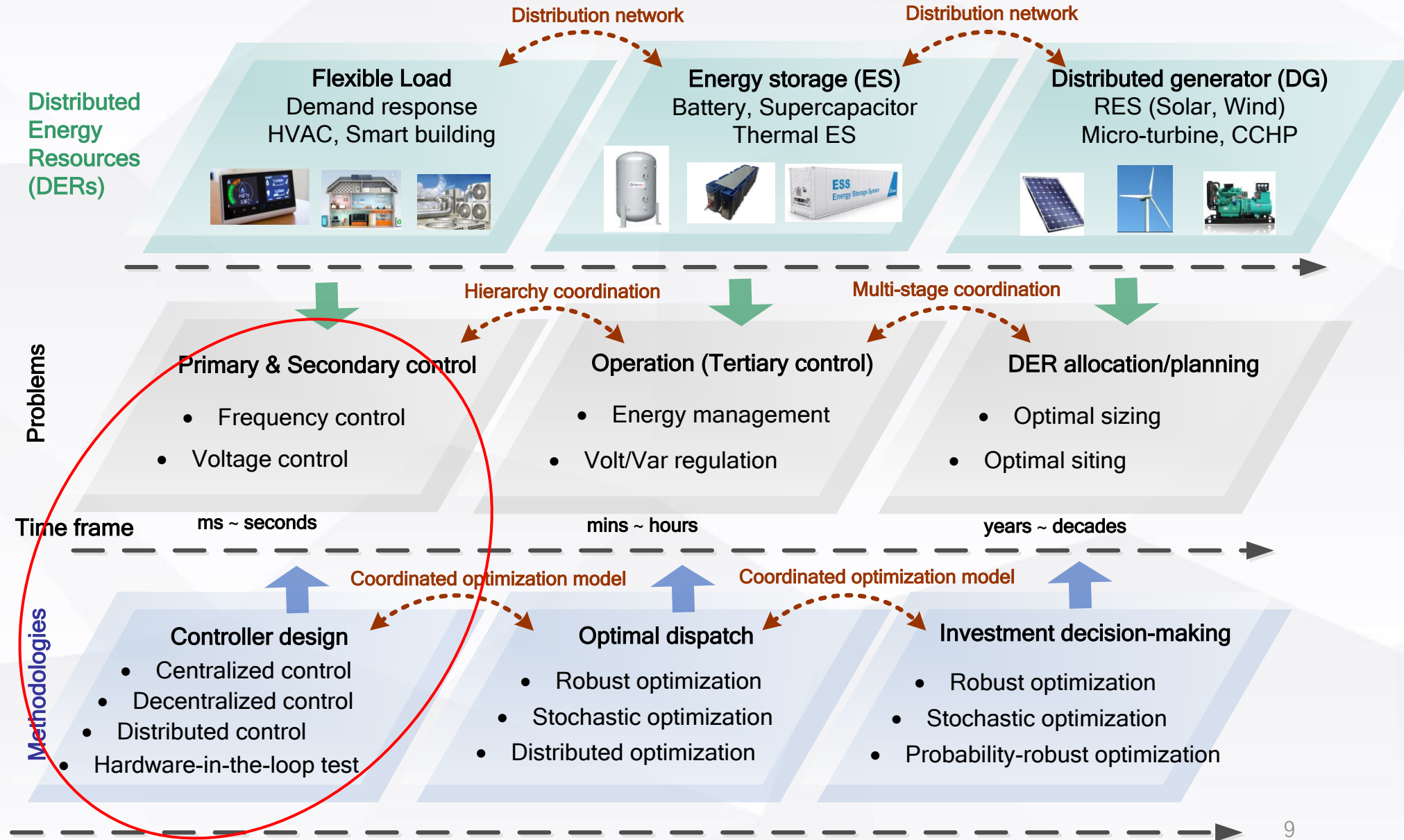
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#### Our research Framework: system-level coordination of DERs



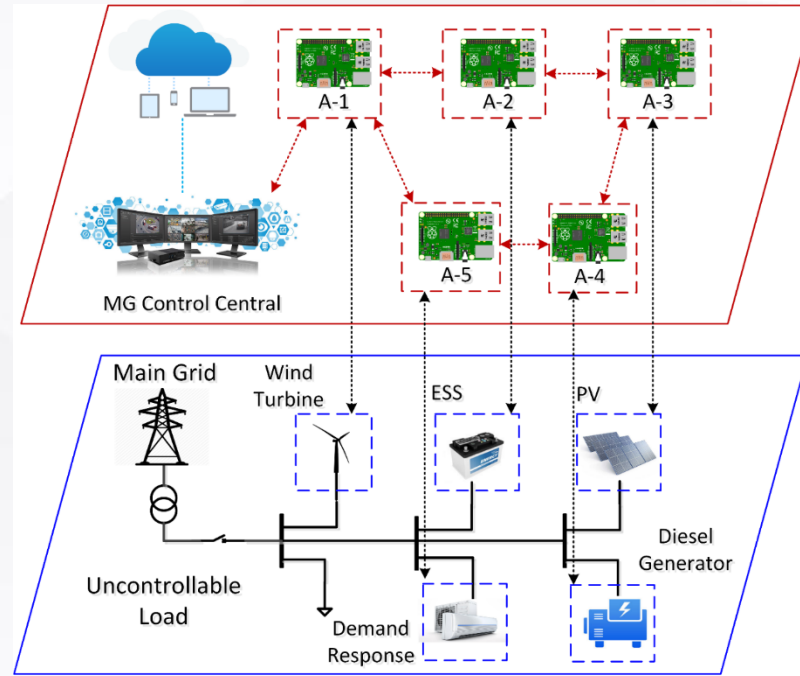
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#### Control of DERs in Microgrids

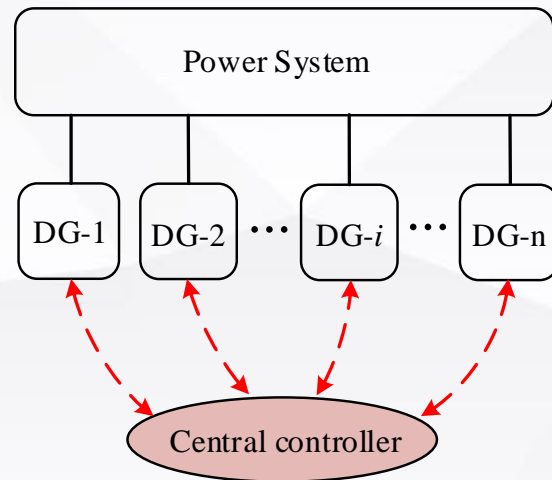


#### 1. Islanded mode:

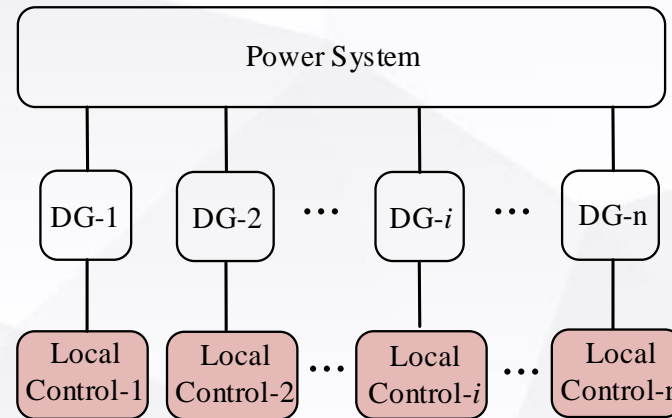
- Distributed control (event-triggered, finite-time)
- Hardware-in-the-Loop (Hil) validation

#### 2. Grid-connected mode:

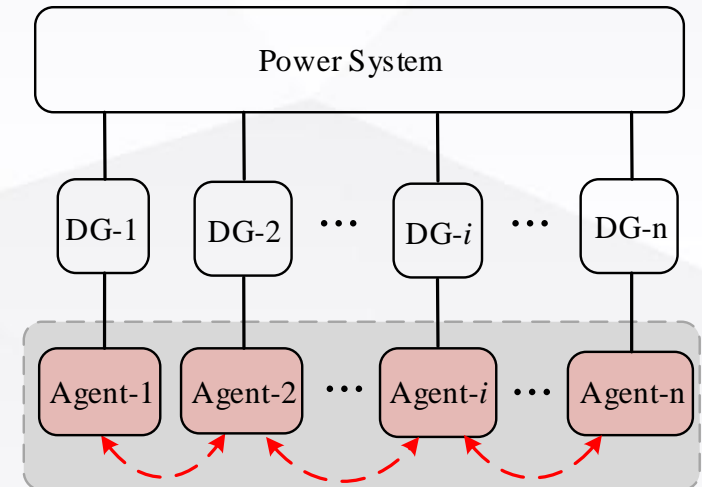
- DER for  $f$  support
- DER for  $V$  support



(a) Centralized control



(b) Decentralized control



(c) Distributed control

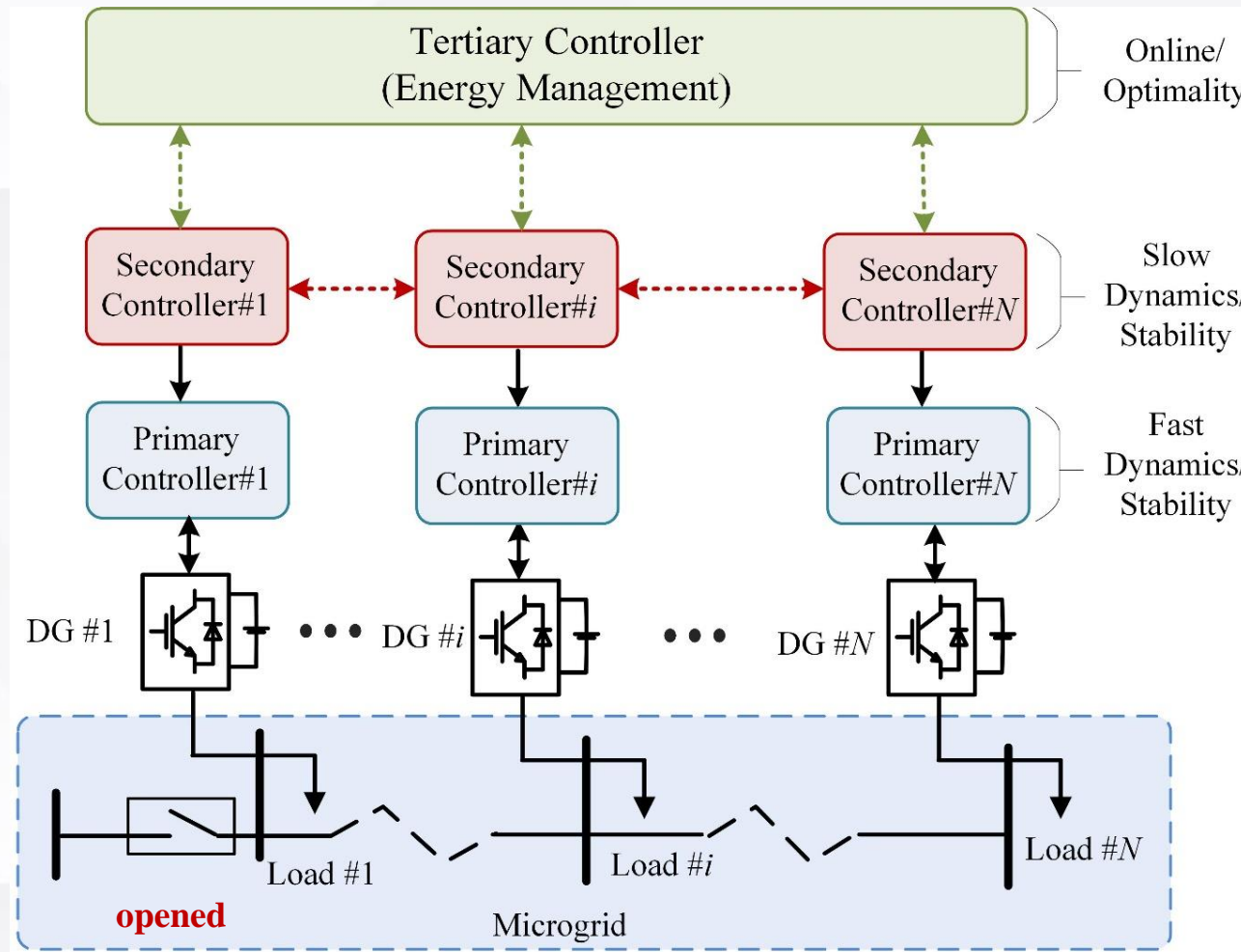
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#### ▪ Hierarchical control of an islanded microgrid



- **Tertiary control (centralized or distributed)**
  - Economic dispatch, optimal power flow.
- **Secondary control (centralized or distributed)**
  - V/f restoration and accurate power balancing
- **Primary control (decentralized)**
  - Inner control loops and droop control
  - Local V/f regulation and power sharing

**Hierarchical control framework of islanded microgrids**

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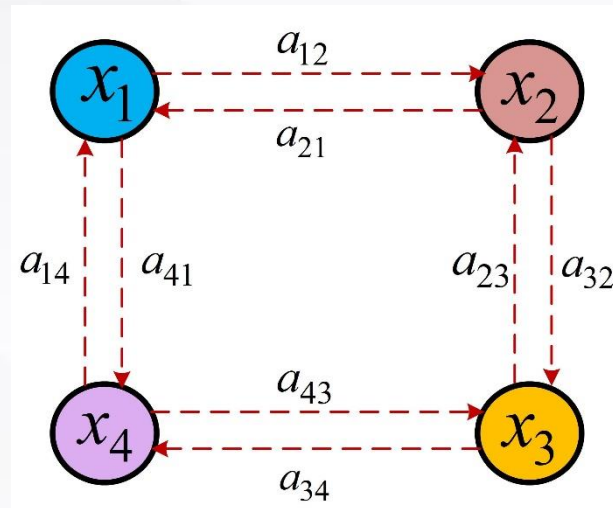
### 2. Control

#### 1) Islanded mode

#### 2) Grid-tied mode

- Distributed Control – Spatial Coordination of DERs
  - ✓ No need for a central controller
  - ✓ One node only communicates with neighbouring nodes
  - ✓ Share communication and computation burden among nodes
  - ✓ Higher resilience, plug-and-play, scalability, data privacy

Example of communication graph



Adjacent matrix of the graph

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & a_{12} & 0 & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & 0 & a_{23} & 0 \\ 0 & a_{32} & 0 & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & 0 & a_{43} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

a) Average consensus control

$$\dot{x}_i(t) = \sum_{j \in N_i} a_{ij}(t)(x_j(t) - x_i(t))$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x_i(t) - x_j(t)\| = 0$$

b) Leader-follower consensus control

$$\dot{x}_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}(t)(x_j(t) - x_i(t)) + g_i(x_0(t) - x_i(t)).$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \|x_i(t) - x_0(t)\| = 0$$

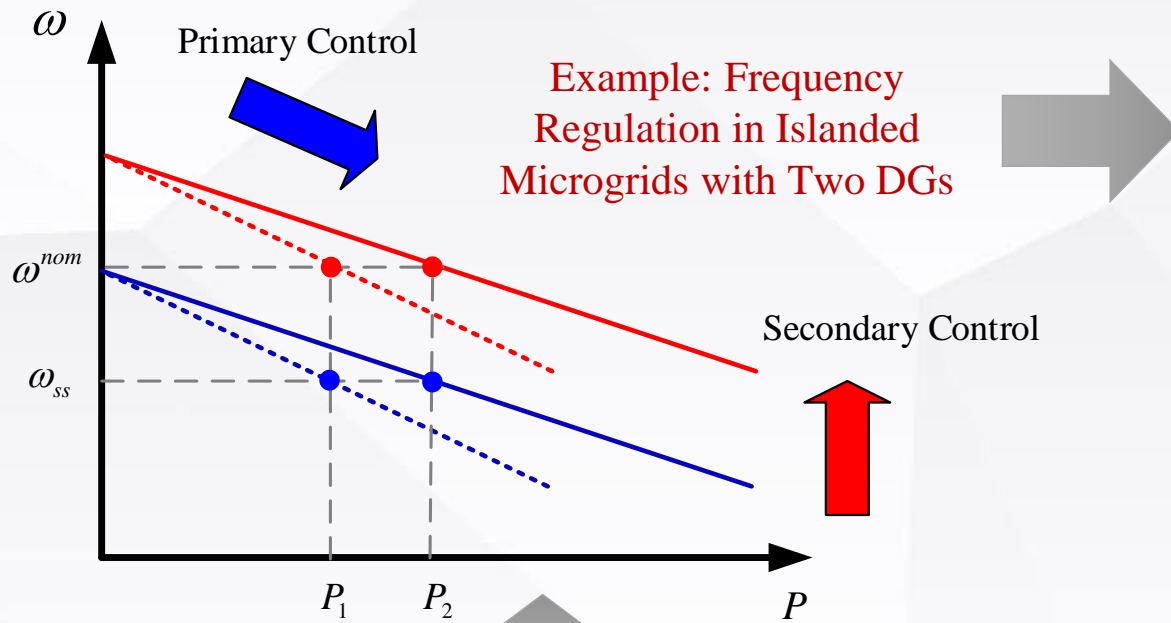
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#### Secondary Controller Design – Principle



#### Droop control

$$\omega_i = \omega_i^{\text{nom}} - m_i^P P_i$$

$$V_i = V_i^{\text{nom}} - m_i^Q Q_i$$

#### Taking Derivative

$$\dot{\omega}_i = \dot{\omega}_i^{\text{nom}} - m_i^P \dot{P}_i$$

$$\dot{V}_i = \dot{V}_i^{\text{nom}} - m_i^Q \dot{Q}_i$$

#### Problem formulation

$$\omega^{\text{nom}} = \int (\dot{\omega}_i + m_i^P \dot{P}_i) dt = \int (u_i^\omega + u_i^P) dt$$

$$V^{\text{nom}} = \int (\dot{V}_i + m_i^Q \dot{Q}_i) dt = \int (u_i^V + u_i^Q) dt$$

#### Apply consensus control rule

$$u_i^\omega = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} (\omega_j - \omega_i) + g_i (\omega^{\text{ref}} - \omega_i)$$

$$u_i^P = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} (m_j^P P_j - m_i^P P_i)$$

$$u_i^V = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} (V_j - V_i) + g_i (V^{\text{ref}} - V_i)$$

$$u_i^Q = \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} (m_j^Q Q_j - m_i^Q Q_i)$$

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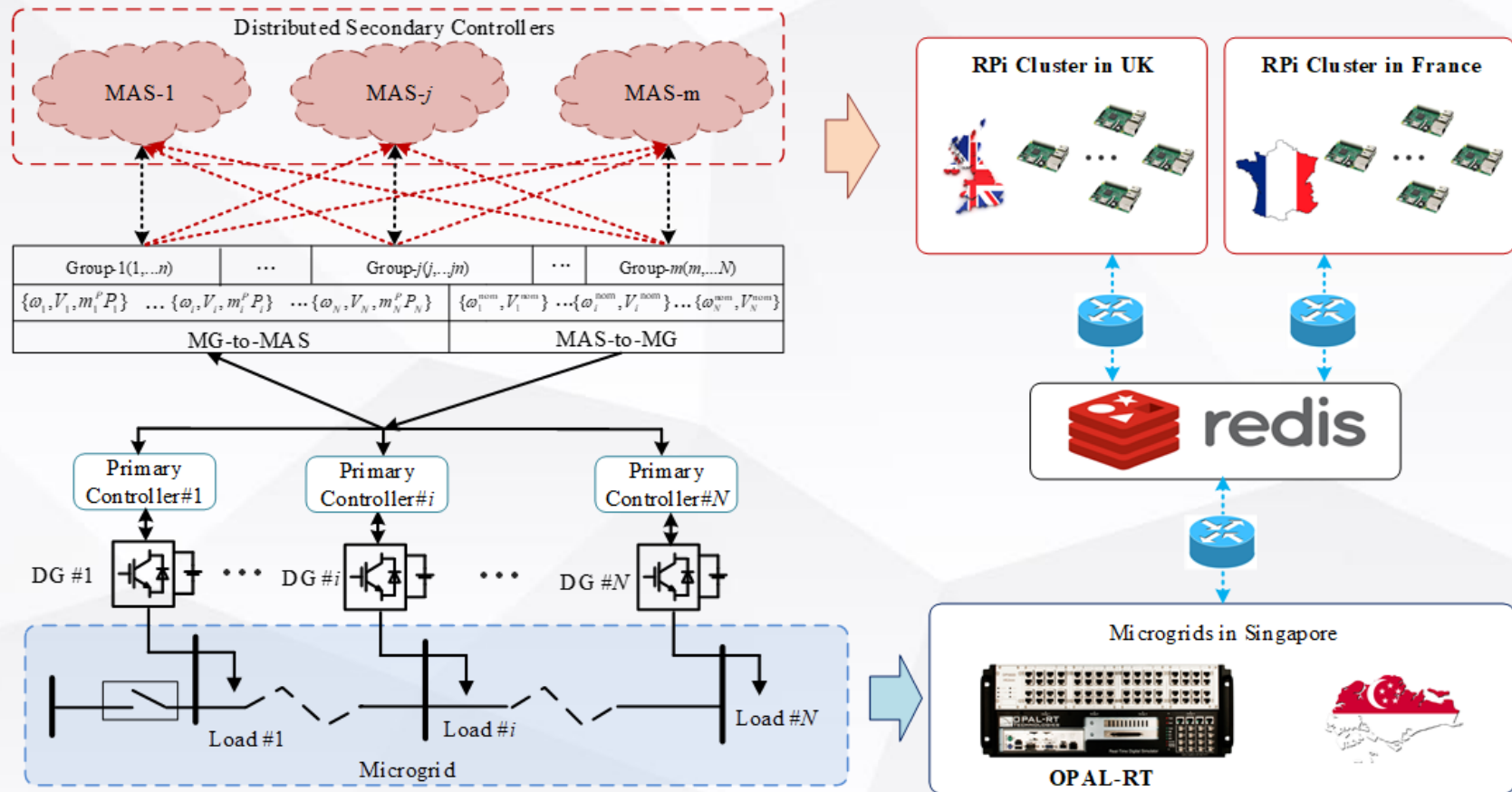
#### 1) Islanded mode

#### 2) Grid-tied mode

- Cross-national hardware-in-the-loop (HiL) testbed

**Jointly developed by NTU (Singapore), University of Strathclyde (UK), and G2E Lab (France)**

- Microgrids system with OPAL-RT in Singapore.
- Distributed controllers in Raspberry Pi in UK and France.
- Software environment based on gRPC and data exchange via Redis cloud server.



Y. Wang, T. L. Nguyen, M. H. Syed, **Y. Xu\***, et al "A Distributed Control Scheme of Microgrids in Energy Internet and Its Multi-Site Implementation." *IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics*, 2020. – **Web-of-Science Highly Cited Paper**

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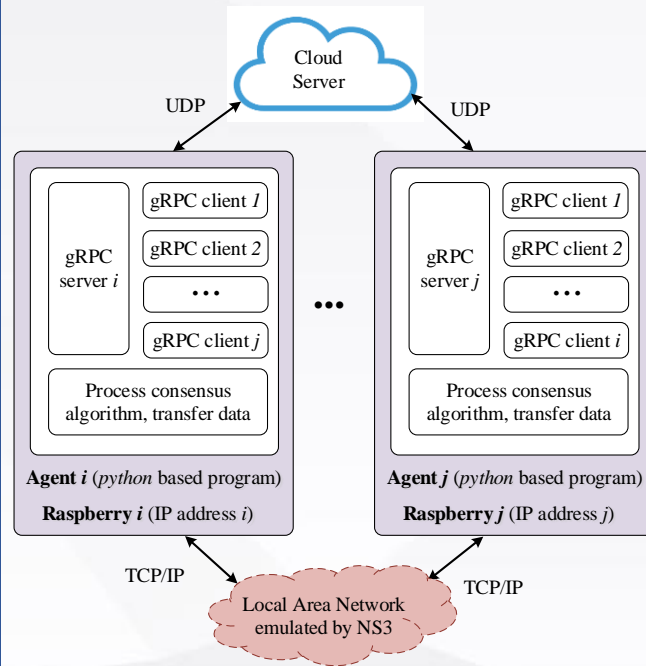
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2) Grid-tied mode

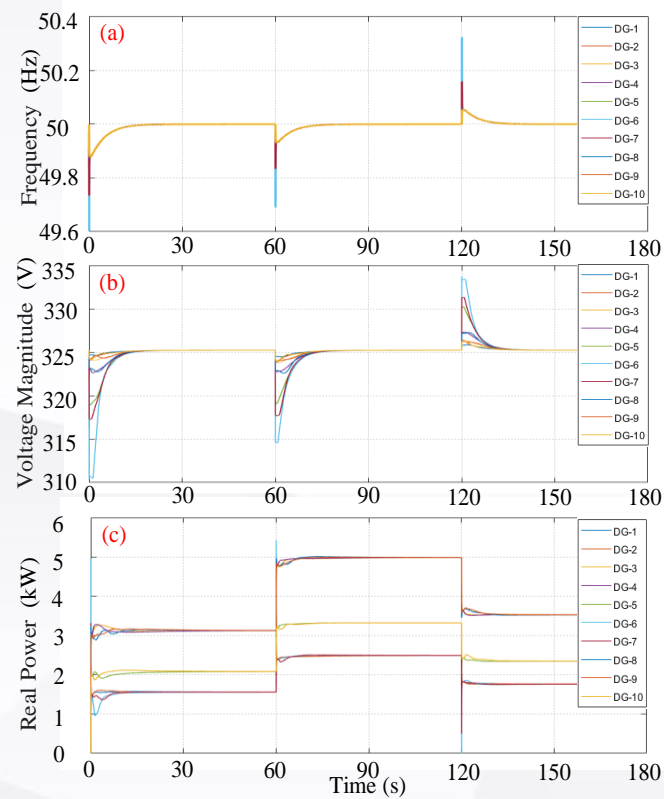
## HiL Validation Results – Controller performance

**Test system: 10-DG with two controller in UK and France  
(Each controller for 5 DGs)**

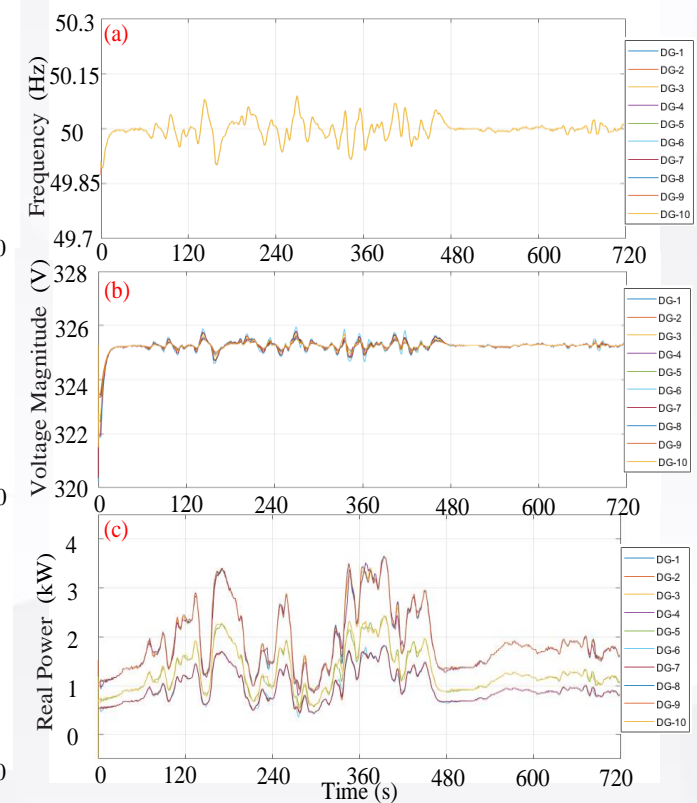
**Structure of each agent based on gRPC**



**a) step load change case**



**b) Real PV and load profile case**



# 0. Outline

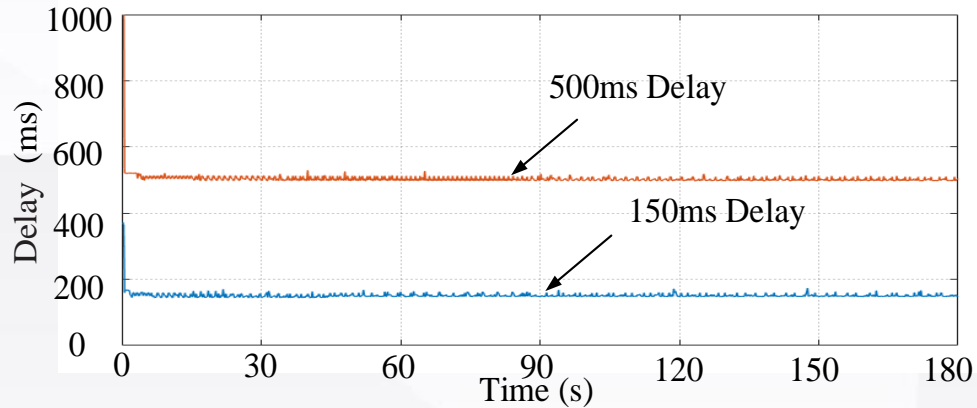
## 1. REIDS Project

### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

#### HiL Validation Results – Communication delay

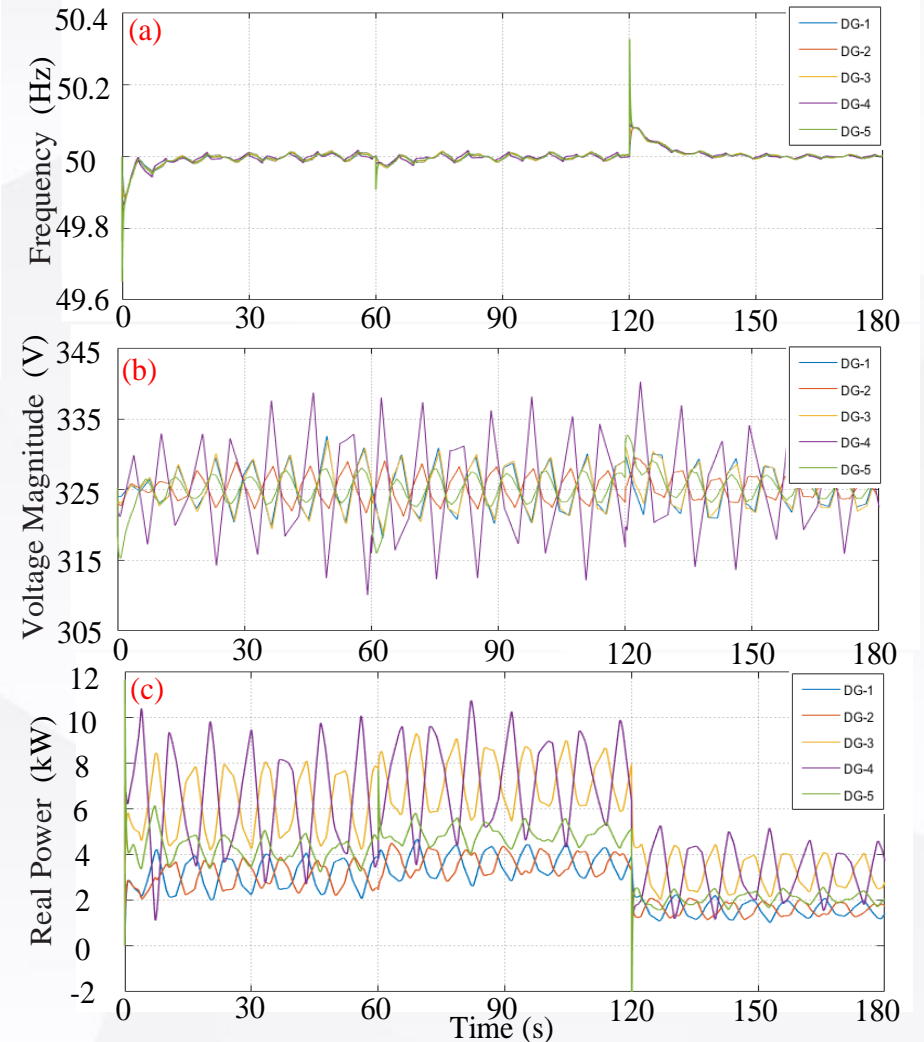
Communication delay emulated by NS3 simulation tools.



System oscillation under large delay, which can be mitigated by tuning the control gain.

- ✓ Larger control gain -> converge faster -> withstand smaller delay.
- ✓ Smaller control gain -> converge slower -> withstand larger delay

Test system: 5-DG MG with one MAS in UK





# 0. Outline

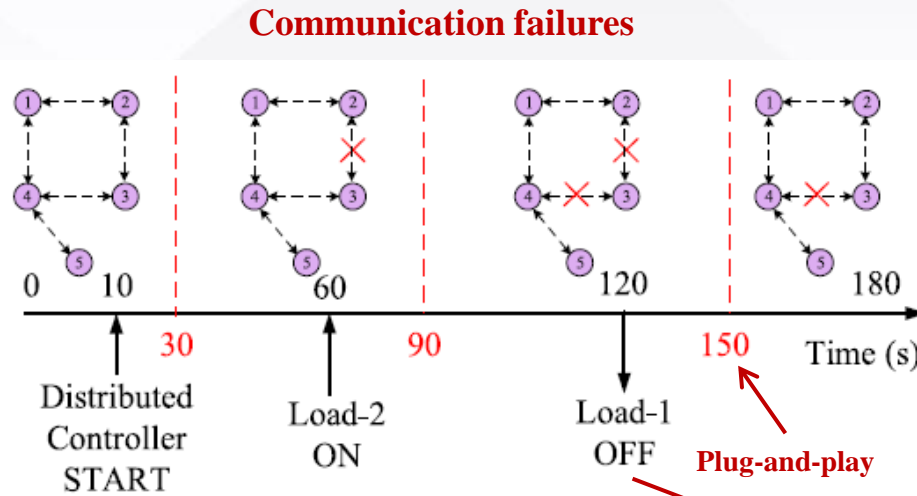
## 1. REIDS Project

## 2. Control

1) Islanded mode

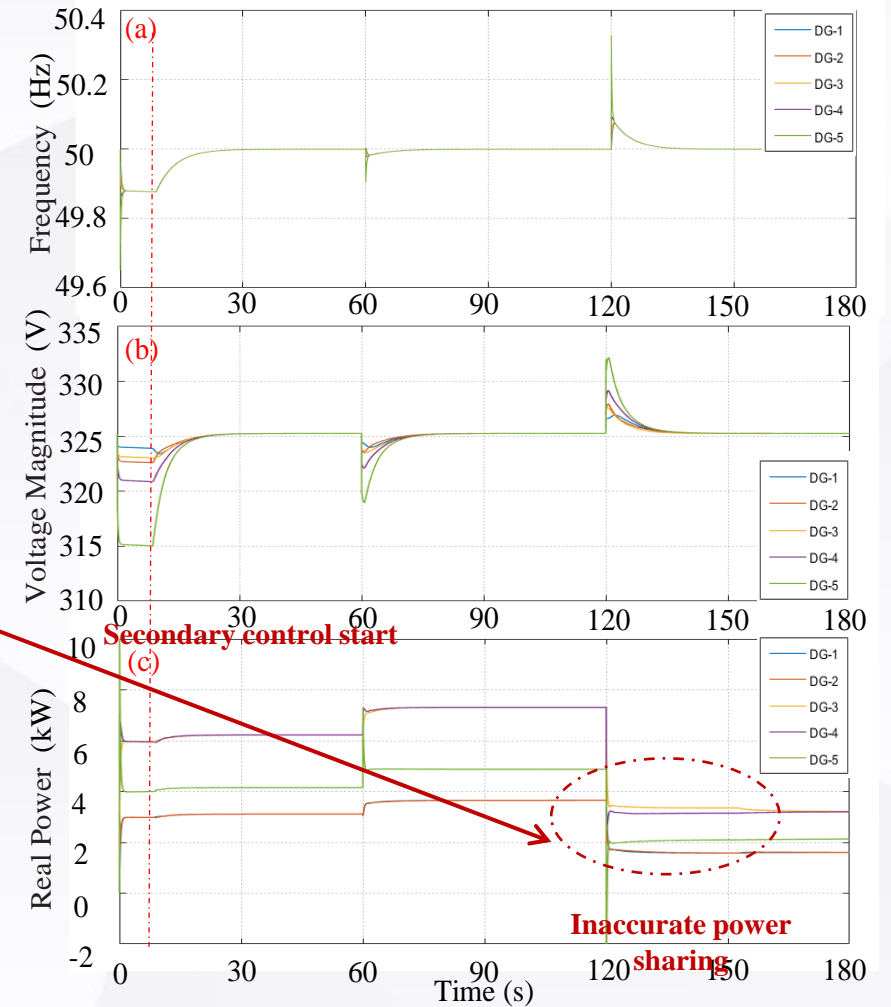
2) Grid-tied mode

### HiL Validation Results – Communication failures



- ✓ Failure of communication will affect the convergence speed
- ✓ Loss of communication will lead to inaccurate power sharing

### Test system: 5-DG MG with one controller in UK



# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

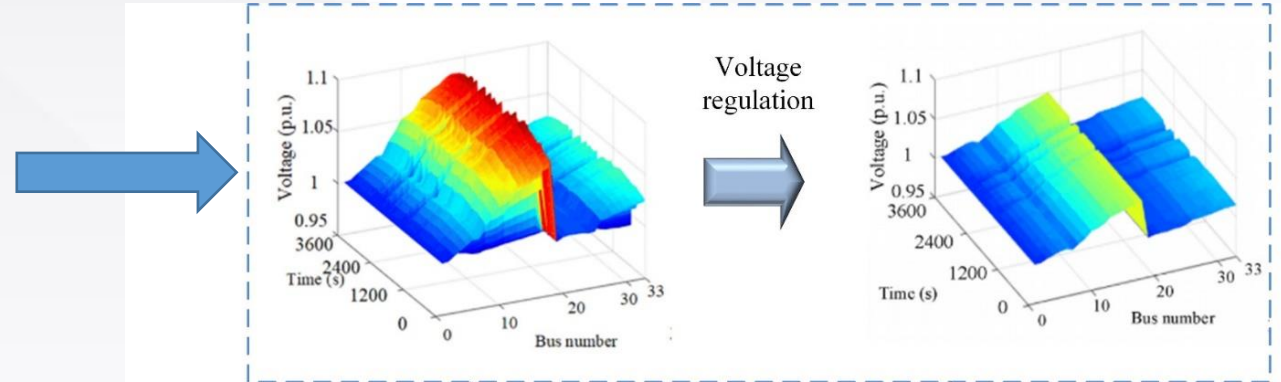
### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

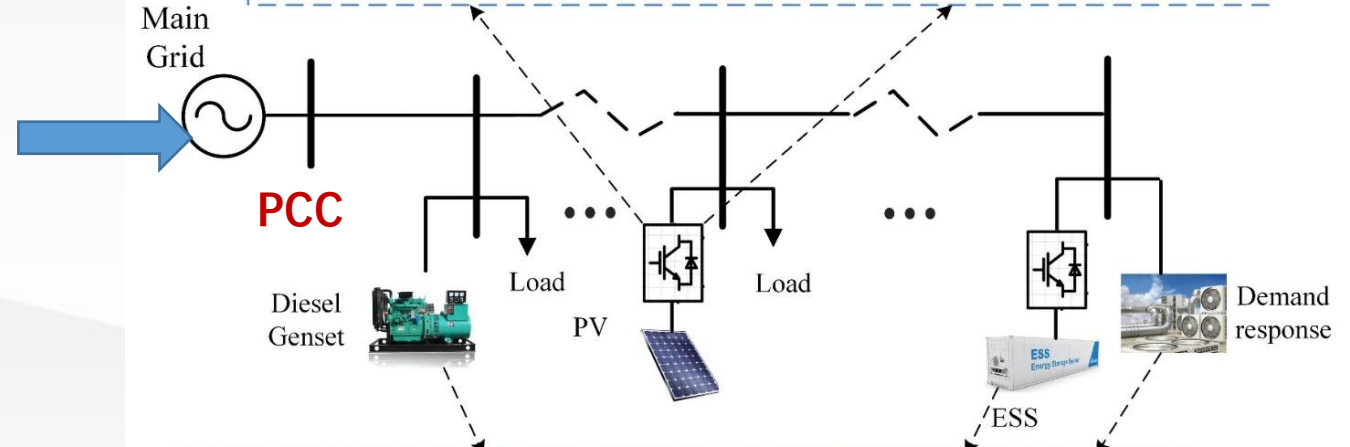
- Grid-connected mode of Microgrids (DER support)

#### Voltage control support:

mitigate voltage deviation  
(seconds to minutes)

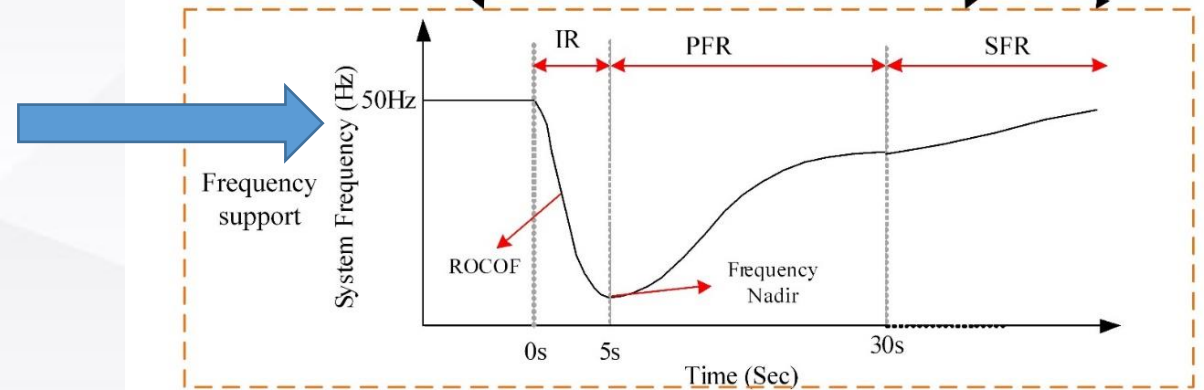


Frequency and voltage are dominated by the main grid through point of coupling connection (PCC).



#### Frequency control support:

mitigate frequency variation  
(ms to seconds)



# 0. Outline

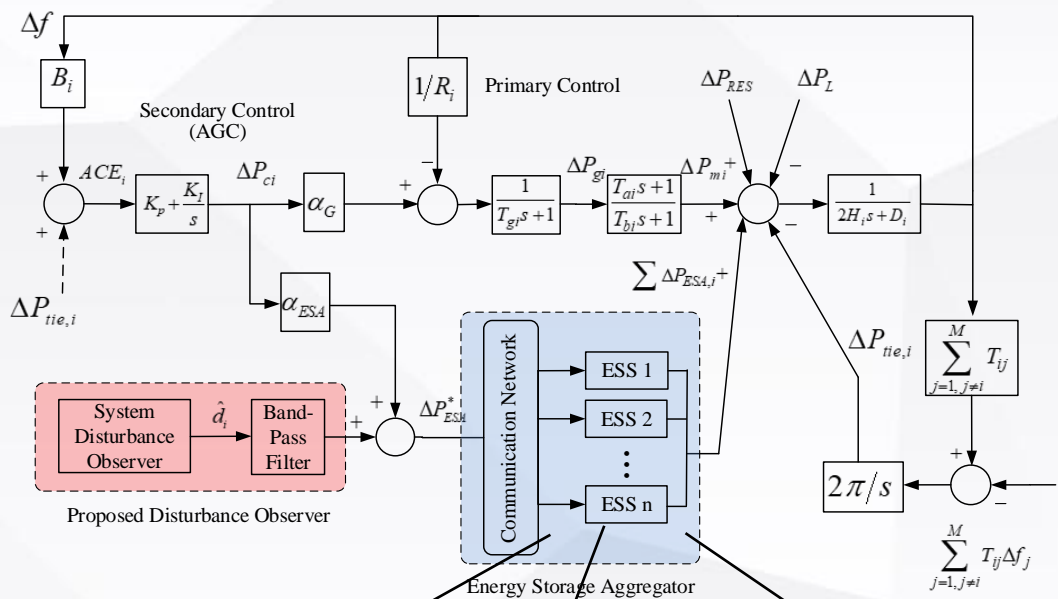
## 1. REIDS Project

## 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

- Frequency Support from Aggregated Energy Storage

### Proposed load frequency control (LFC) framework



$$\dot{\Delta f}_i(t) = -\frac{D_i}{2H_i} \Delta f_i(t) \quad \text{LFC with primary control}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2H_i} (\Delta P_{mi}(t) - \Delta P_{L,i}(t) + \Delta P_{RES,i}(t) - \Delta P_{tie,i}(t) + \Delta P_{ESA,i}(t))$$

$$\dot{\Delta P}_{mi}(t) = -\frac{1}{T_{bi}} \Delta P_{mi}(t) + \frac{1}{T_{bi}} \Delta P_{gi}(t) + \frac{T_{ai}}{T_{bi}} \dot{\Delta P}_{gi}(t)$$

$$\dot{\Delta P}_{gi}(t) = -\frac{1}{T_{gi}} \Delta P_{gi}(t) + \frac{1}{T_{gi}} \Delta P_{ci}(t) - \frac{1}{R_i T_{gi}} \Delta f_i(t)$$

$$\dot{\Delta P}_{tie,i}(t) = 2\pi \cdot \left[ \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^M T_{ij} (\Delta f_i(t) - \Delta f_j(t)) \right]$$

Tie-line power flow

$$ACE_i(t) = B_i \Delta f_i(t) + \Delta P_{tie,i}(t)$$

$$\Delta P_{ci}(t) = -K_p ACE_i(t) - K_I \int ACE_i(t)$$

Secondary control



Lead acid battery



Lithium ion battery

...



Vanadium redox battery

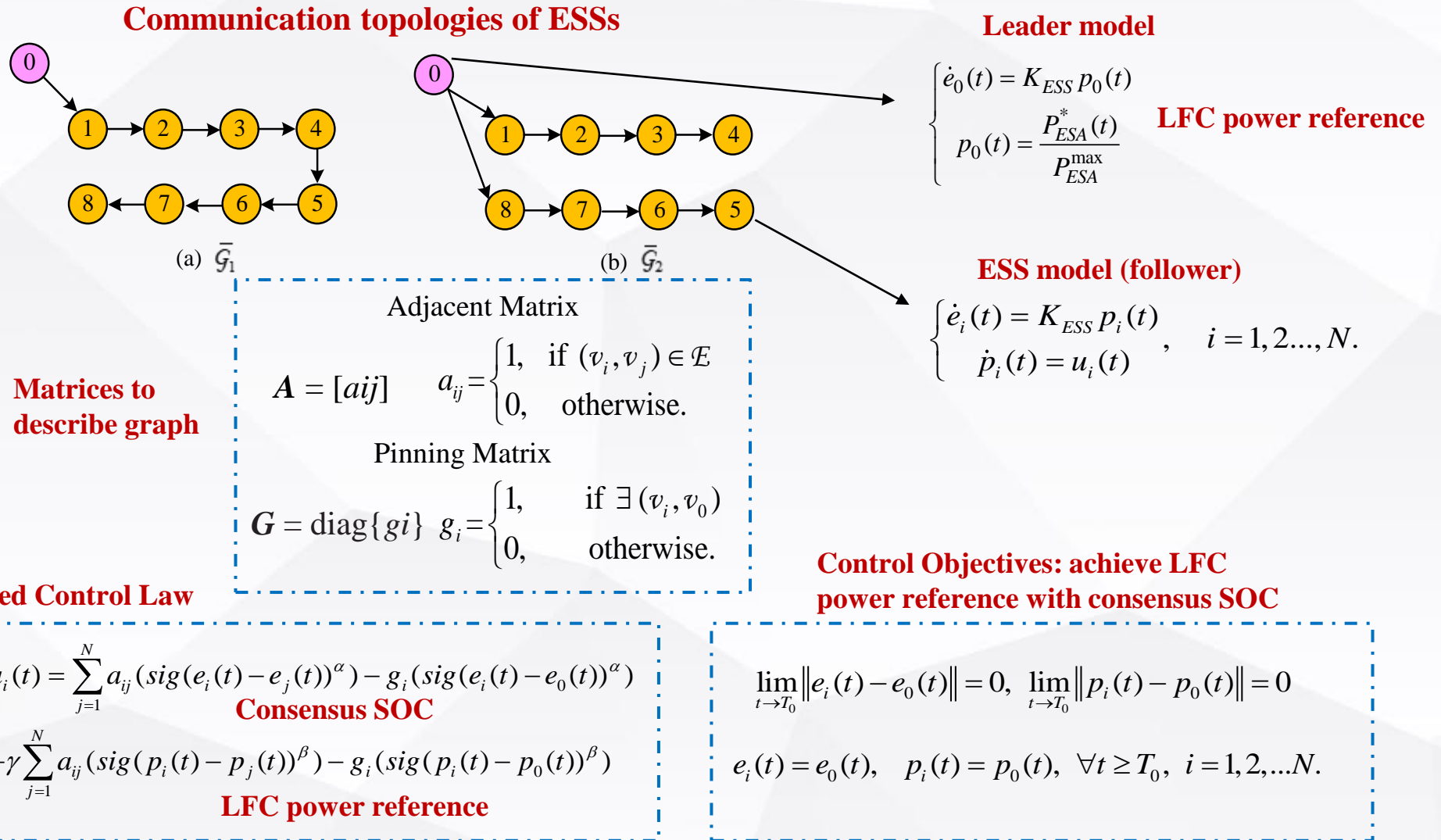
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

## Frequency Support from Aggregated Energy Storage



Y. Wang, **Y. Xu\***, Y. Tang, et al "Aggregated Energy Storage for Power System Frequency Control: A Finite-Time Consensus Approach," *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid*, May 2018,

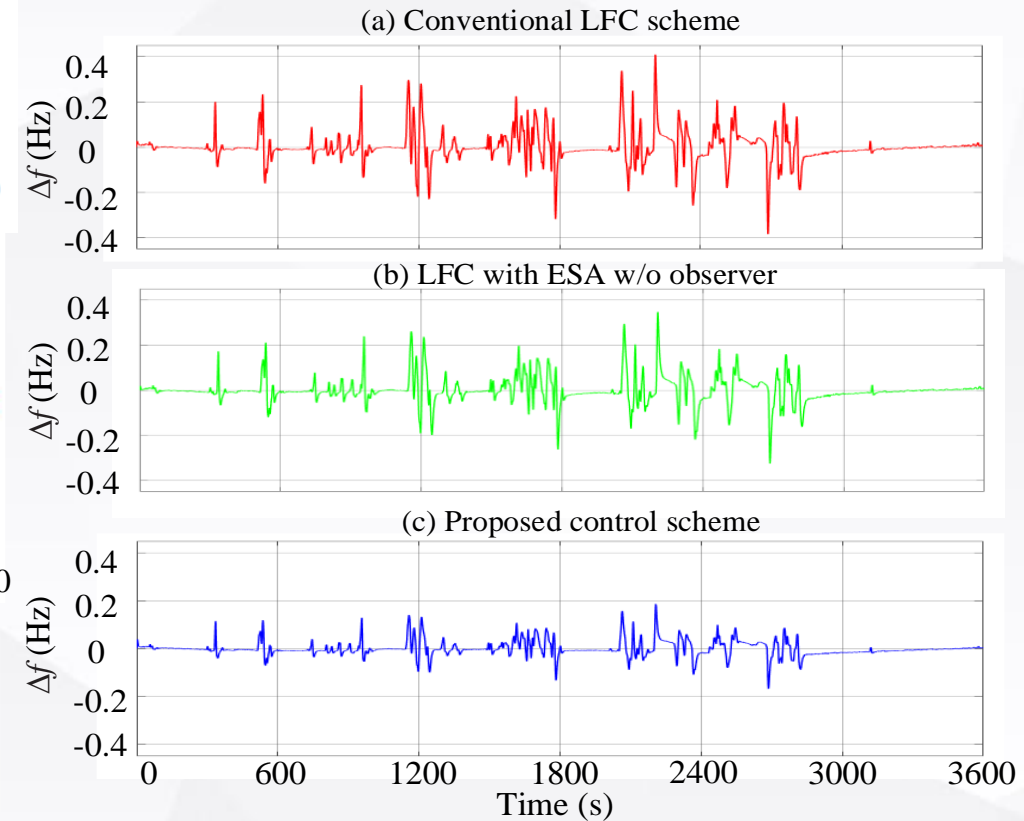
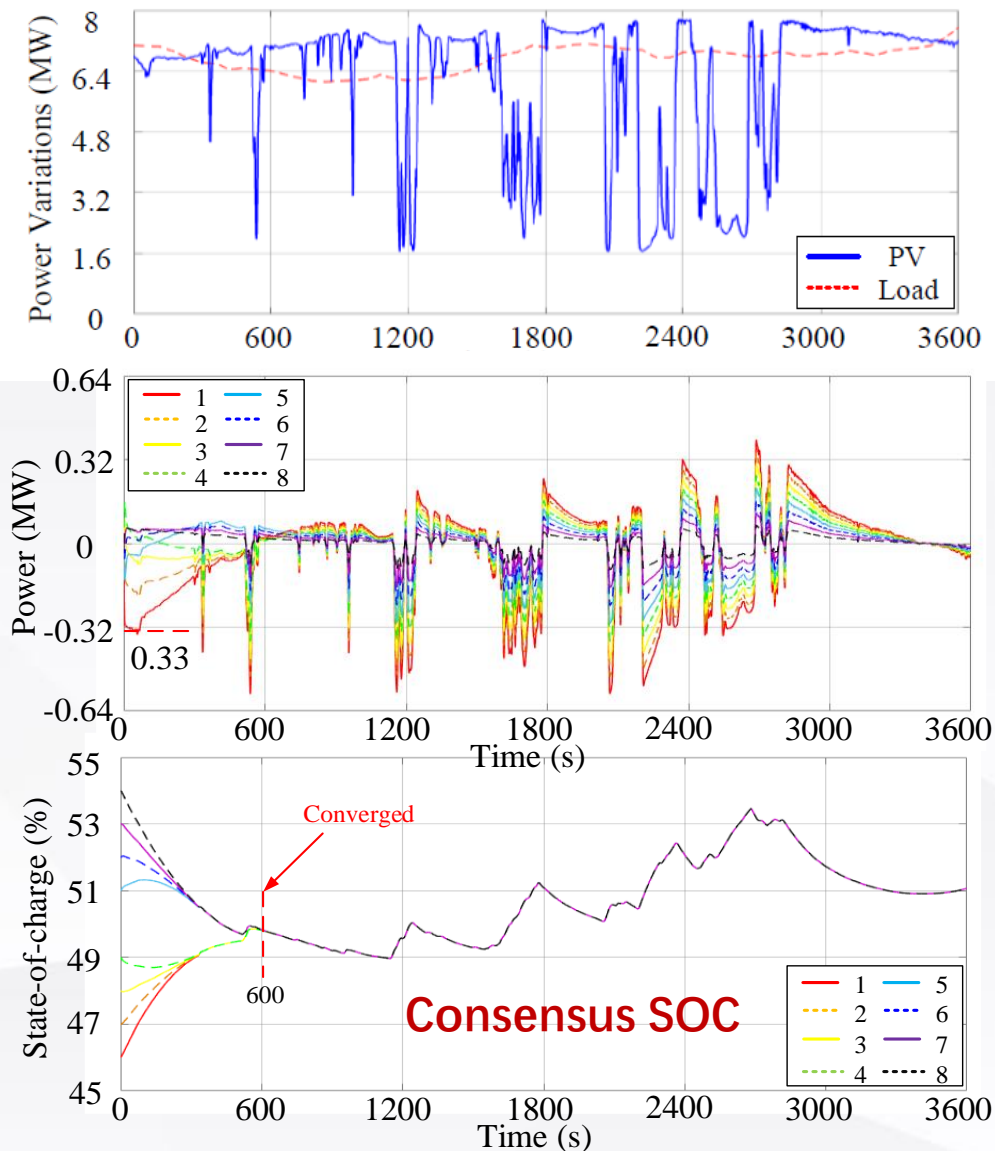
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

## 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

### Simulation Results



Y. Wang, Y. Xu\*, Y. Tang, et al "Aggregated Energy Storage for Power System Frequency Control: A Finite-Time Consensus Approach," *IEEE Trans. Smart Grid*, May 2018.

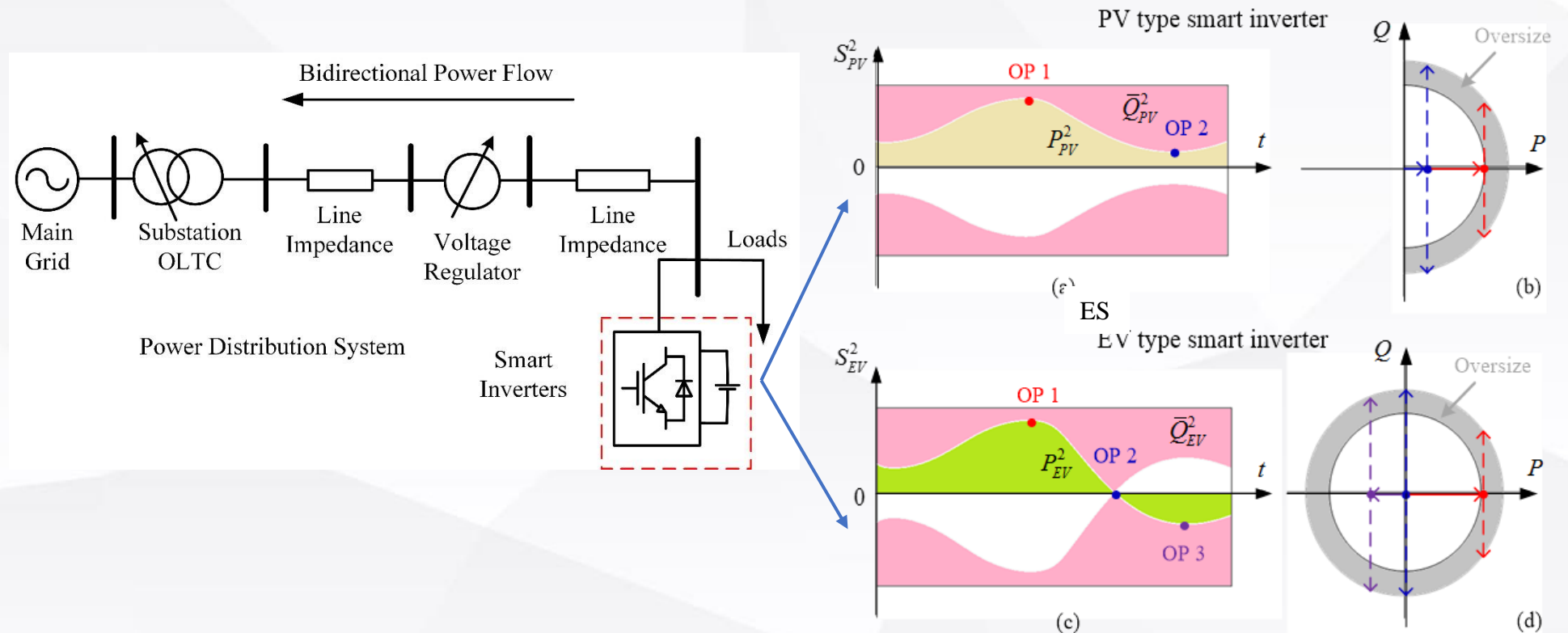
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

- Real-time Voltage/Var Control (VVC) Support from DERs
  - Existing Challenges: High PV penetration level, massive EV charging.
  - Voltage quality issues: Voltage rise, drop and fast fluctuations.
  - Potential solutions: inverter-assisted voltage/var support



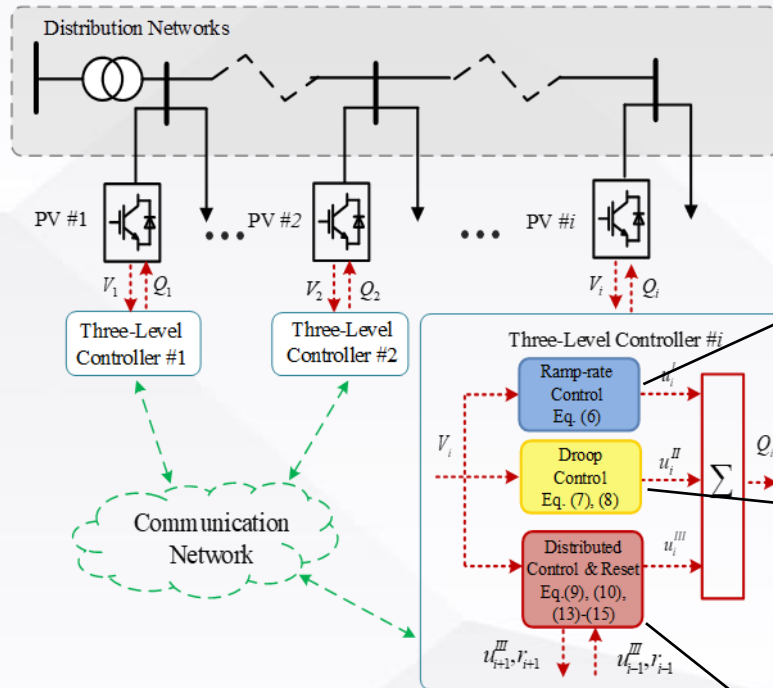
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
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## Real-Time Coordinated Voltage/Var Control Controller



### Controller design:

Level I: Ramp-rate Control -> smooth voltage fluctuation

$$u_i^I(t) = K_i^I \left[ V_i(t) - \frac{\sum_{j=t-\omega}^t V_i(j)}{T(t) - T(t-\omega)} \right]$$

Level II: Droop Control -> immediate voltage support

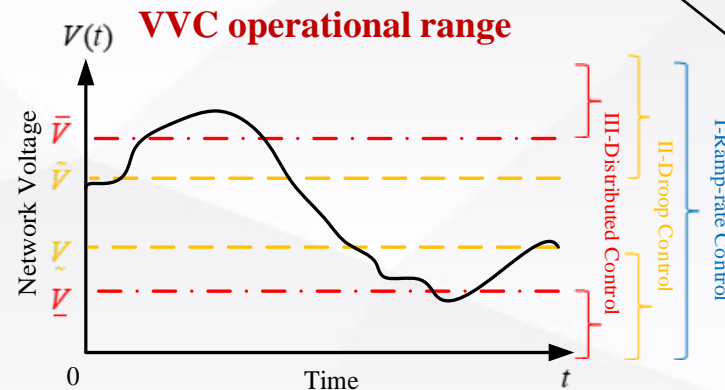
$$u_i^{II}(t) = \begin{cases} K_i^{II} (V_i(t) - \tilde{V}), & V_i(t) > \tilde{V} \\ 0, & \underline{V} \leq V_i(t) \leq \tilde{V} \\ K_i^{II} (V_i(t) - \underline{V}), & V_i(t) < \underline{V} \end{cases}$$

Level III: Distributed Control -> voltage regulation to acceptable range

$$\dot{u}_i^{III}(t) = G_i^{III} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} (u_j^{III}(t) - u_i^{III}(t)) \right] + e(t)$$

$$e(t) = \begin{cases} K_i^{III} (V_i(t) - \bar{V}), & V_i > \bar{V} \\ 0, & \underline{V} \leq V_i \leq \bar{V} \\ K_i^{III} (V_i(t) - \underline{V}), & V_i < \underline{V} \end{cases}$$

Dynamic consensus



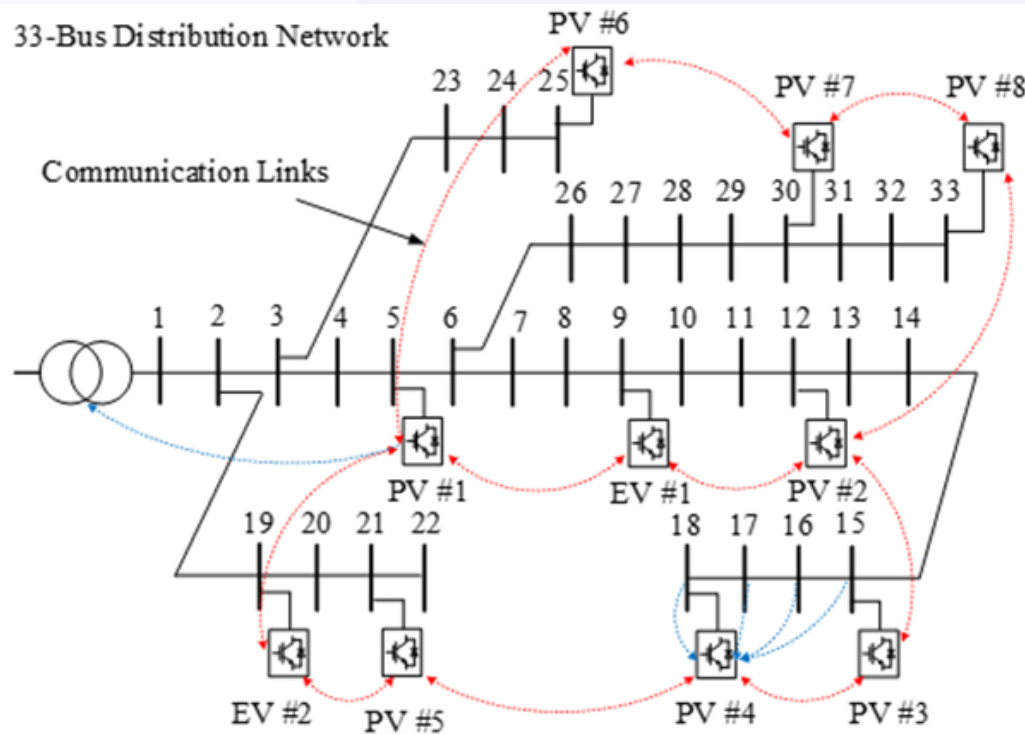
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

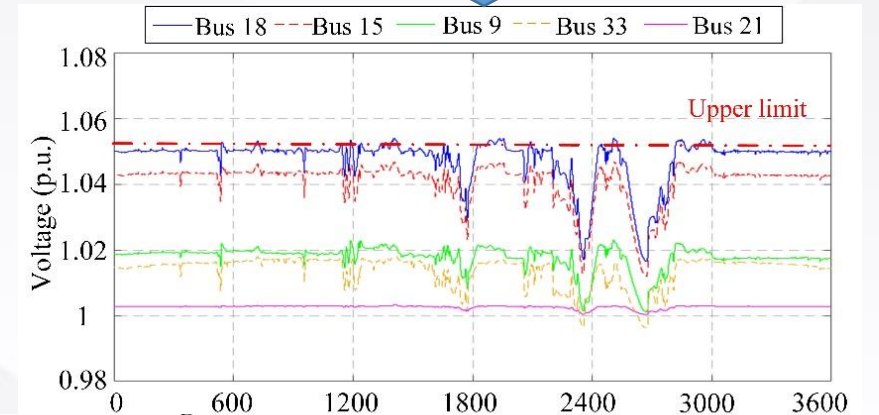
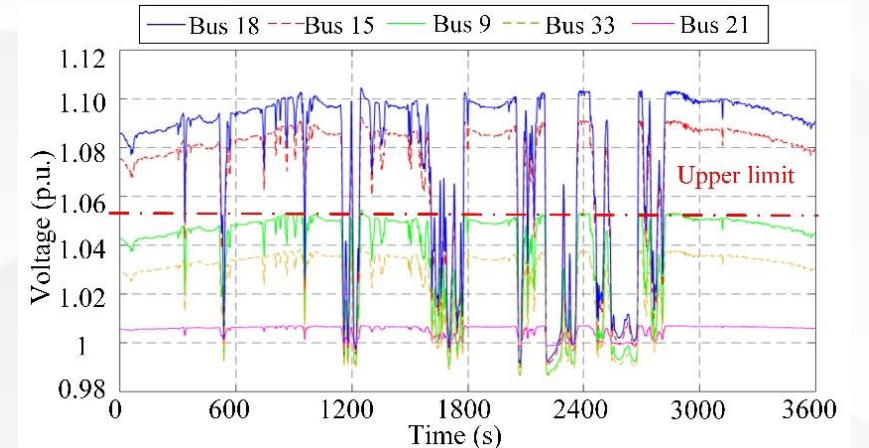
### 2. Control

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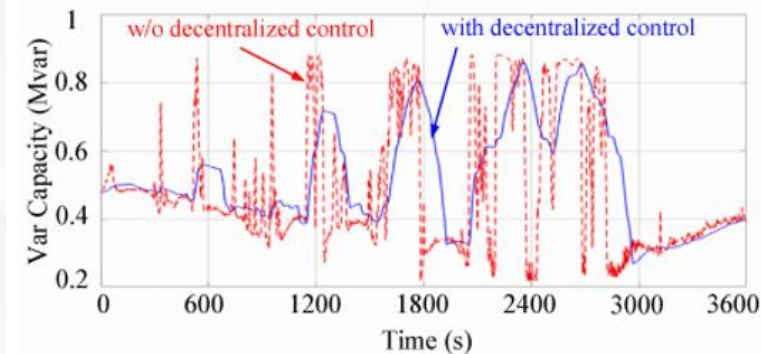
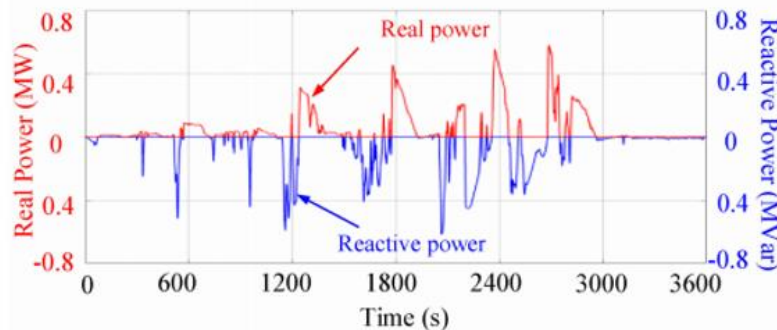
### Simulation Tests



### Real-time voltage/var control from inverters



### Effectiveness of ramp-rate control





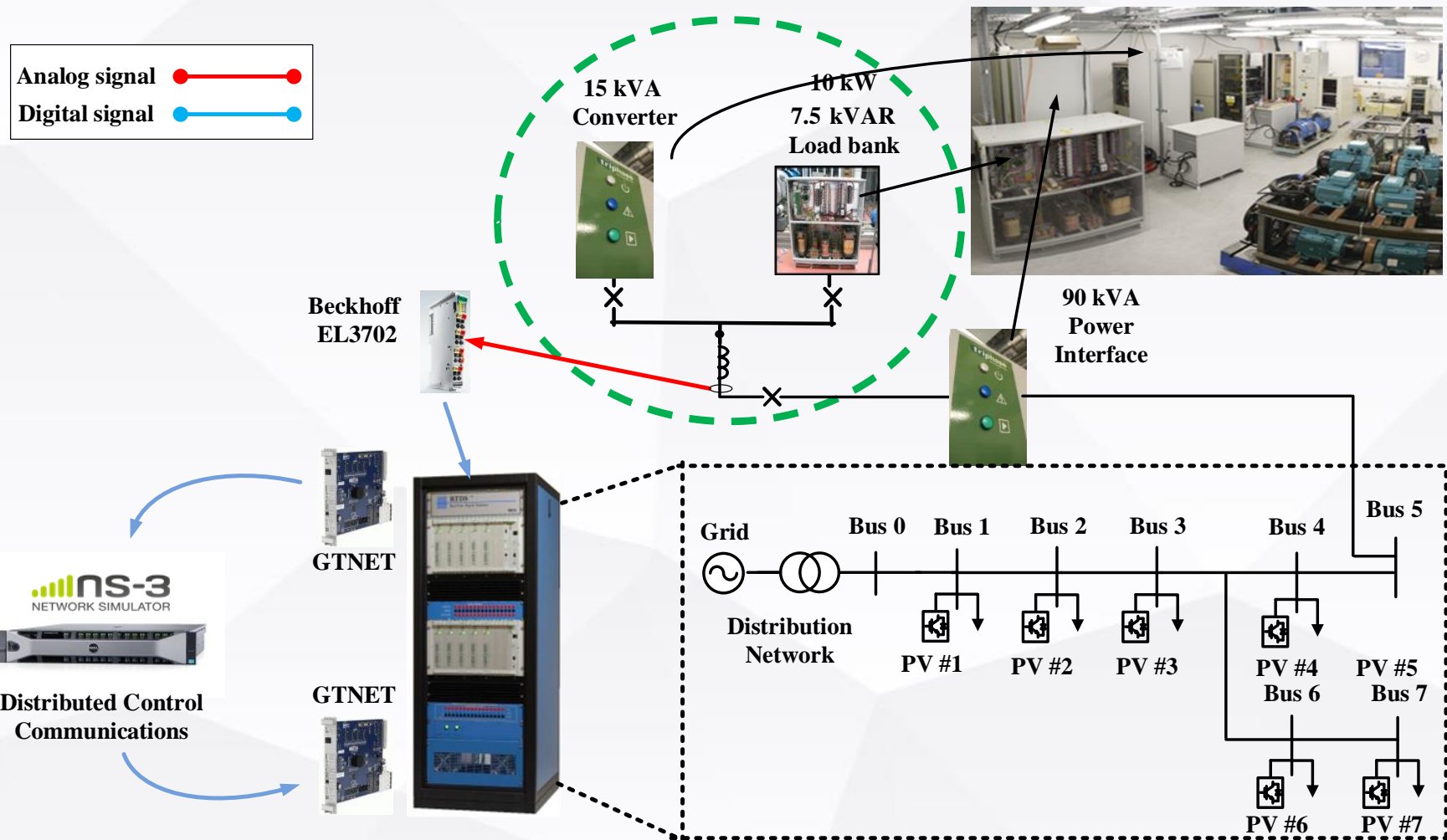
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

### 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

### Power Hardware-in-the-Loop (PHiL) Test



Y. Wang, M. H. Syed, E. Guillo-Sansano, Y. Xu\*, and G. Burt "Inverter-Based Voltage Control of Distribution Networks: A Three-Level Coordinated Method and Power Hardware-in-the-Loop Validation," *IEEE Transactions on Sustainable Energy*, 2019.

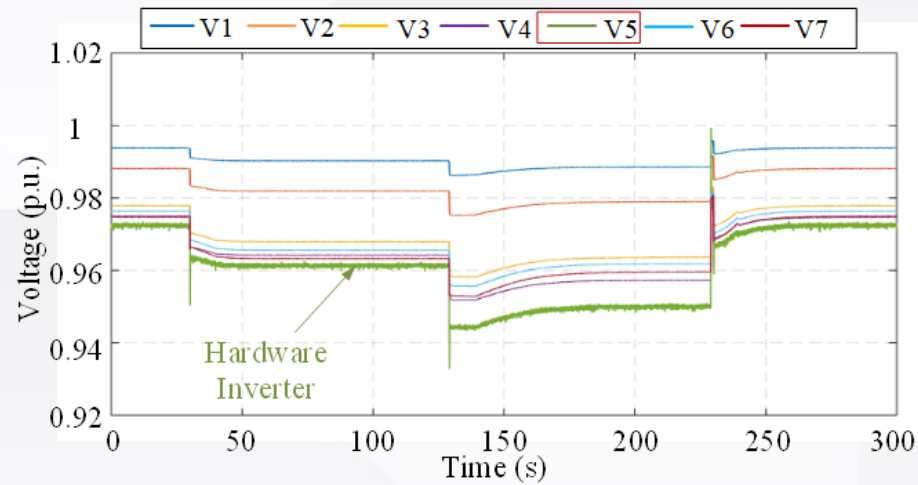
# 0. Outline

## 1. REIDS Project

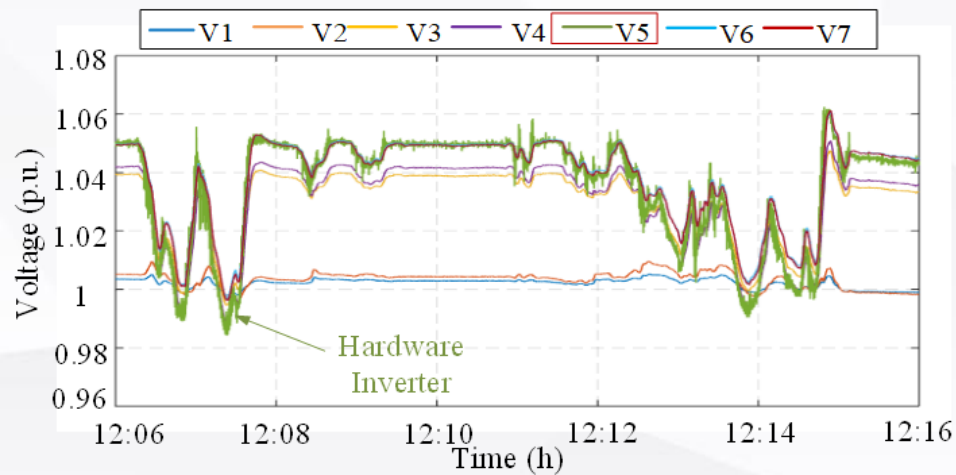
## 2. Control

- 1) Islanded mode
- 2) Grid-tied mode

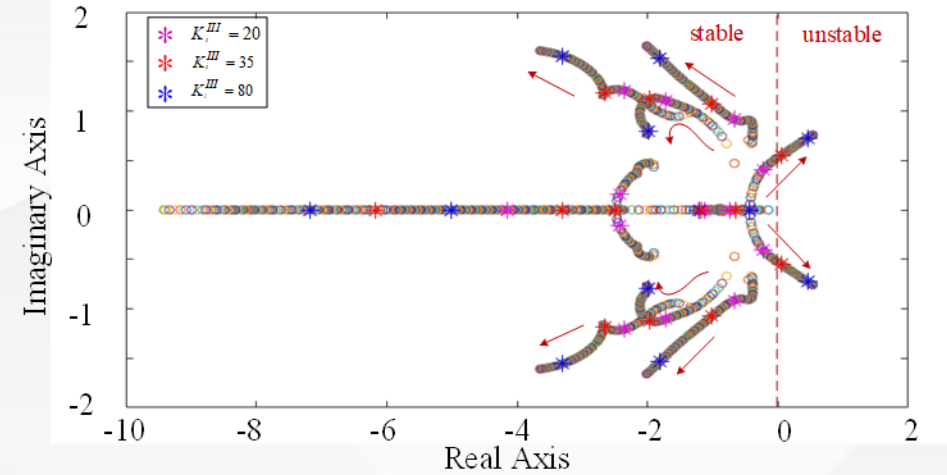
### Power HiL Results and Eigenvalues



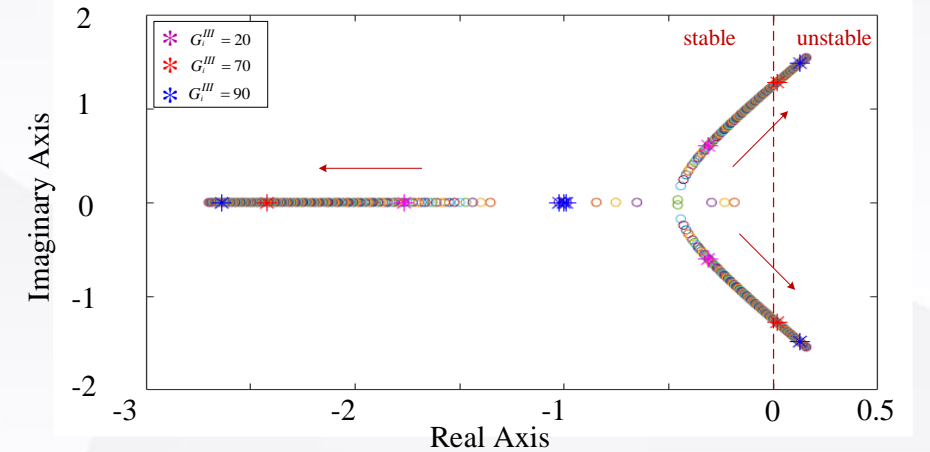
Voltage profiles under step load changes



Voltage profiles under real PV and load data



Trace of eigenvalues under different control gains





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***Thank You!***

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```
hTarget = dhdl.Target('Xilinx', ...  
    'Interface', 'Ethernet');  
Nw = dhdl.workflow('Network', snet, ...  
    'bitstream', 'sc706_single', ...  
    'Target', hTarget);  
dh = Nw.compile;  
Nw.deploy;
```



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