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# 1 Background

OpenDSS is a distribution system simulator that is generally comparable to GridLAB-D, although each program has advantages and disadvantages over the other [1]. It was developed with EPRI funding as a Windows-only application, using commercial Windows-only tools. This memo summarizes the build process of a console-mode, cross-platform version using GCC, FPC and Lazarus. Tested platforms include Windows 10, Ubuntu 18.04 and Mac OS X High Sierra.

OpenDSS was written in Delphi (a Windows-specific version of Pascal), and it requires the KLUSolve sparse matrix solver, which was written in C/C++. After compiling KLUSolve with a C/C++ compiler, it's then possible to build OpenDSS with Free Pascal (FPC) 3.2 on Windows, Linux and Mac OS X. Modern versions of Pascal are object-oriented, but simpler than C++ and Java. There are syntax differences, but a developer who is already comfortable with C++ or Java can be productive in Pascal, too. See <a href="http://wiki.freepascal.org/Lazarus\_Documentation#Lazarus\_and\_Pascal\_Tutorials">http://wiki.freepascal.org/Lazarus\_Documentation#Lazarus\_and\_Pascal\_Tutorials</a>. There is a Free Pascal IDE and cross-platform GUI toolkit called Lazarus, but this is not required for OpenDSS.

With a common code base, there can still be differences between the native and cross-platform versions. For example, EPRI has implemented a Windows-only parallelization scheme, and continues to develop Windows-only automation interfaces. NREL uses a shared-library version of OpenDSS called by Python and/or Julia. On the other hand, PNNL implemented native FNCS [2] and HELICS [3] interfaces, and command-line history only for the cross-platform version. In addition, the cross-platform version has the most up-to-date support for Common Information Model (CIM) export [4]. However, both versions maintain the same core modeling and analysis functions.

Install the appropriate version from <a href="https://sourceforge.net/projects/electricdss/files/OpenDSSCmd/">https://sourceforge.net/projects/electricdss/files/OpenDSSCmd/</a>. This includes a selection of documentation, examples and tech notes on non-graphical features.

### To run the program:

- 1. Enter "opendsscmd" from a command prompt
  - a. The program's >> prompt will appear. Enter any OpenDSS command(s) from this prompt
  - b. Up and down arrows navigate through the command history
  - c. Enter "help" from the >> prompt for the built-in help
  - d. Enter "exit", "q" or an empty line from >> to exit
- 2. You can enter "opendsscmd filename.dss" from a command prompt. This runs the OpenDSS commands in filename.dss, and then exits immediately.
- 3. You can enter "opendsscmd –f" from a command prompt; this enters a FNCS time step loop.
- 4. You can enter "opendsscmd –f filename.dss" from a command prompt. This runs the OpenDSS commands in filename.dss, and then enters a FNCS time step loop.

# 2 Streamlined Build Instructions

These instructions were tested on Mac OS X Mojave, Ubuntu 18.04 and Windows 10. The streamlined build includes OpenDSSCmd, FNCS and HELICS. On Linux and Mac OS X, the build uses the GNU C/C++ compiler, gcc/g++ version 7 or later. On Windows, the build uses Microsoft Visual Studio Build Tools 2019 or later, such that MSYS2 is no longer necessary. On all platforms, FPC, CMAKE, Git and an SVN client are required. All build steps can be done from a command prompt or terminal window. The Lazarus IDE is optional for those actively developing for OpenDSS, as described later.

These instructions no longer assume that GridLAB-D is built first on the target computer. You can install or build packages that include both OpenDSSCmd and GridLAB-D, with FNCS and HELICS interfaces, from the Transactive Energy Simulation Platform (<a href="https://github.com/pnnl/tesp/tree/develop">https://github.com/gridAPPSD</a>). GridLAB-D itself can be installed alongside OpenDSS from this link: <a href="https://sourceforge.net/projects/gridlab-d/">https://sourceforge.net/projects/gridlab-d/</a>, but without FNCS and HELICS interfaces.

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# 2.1 Linux Build Environment

On Ubuntu, use the package manager to install several packages:

```
sudo apt-get -y install git
sudo apt-get -y install git-lfs
sudo apt-get -y install build-essential
sudo apt-get -y install subversion
sudo apt-get -y install cmake
sudo apt-get -y install libzmq5-dev
sudo apt-get -y install libczmq-dev
sudo apt-get -y install fpc
```

On Centos (version 8 tested):

```
sudo dnf clean all
sudo dnf update -y
sudo dnf install zeromq-devel -y
sudo dnf install czmq-devel -y
sudo dnf install fpc -y
```

The CMAKE version must be at least 3.18. If not, update with installer script (tested Ubuntu 18.04):

- sudo apt-get remove cmake
- install the latest version from https://cmake.org/download/ and add to your PATH

Or build the latest CMAKE from source (tested Centos 8):

```
sudo dnf remove cmake
sudo dnf install openssl
sudo dnf install openssl-devel
cd ~/src
wget https://github.com/Kitware/CMake/releases/download/v3.19.2/cmake-3.19.2.tar.gz
tar -zxvf cmake-3.19.2.tar.gz
cd cmake-3.19.2
./bootstrap
make
sudo make install
cmake --version
```

The FPC version must be at least 3.2.0. If not (tested Ubuntu 18.04; Centos 8 already installs 3.2.0):

- sudo apt-get remove fpc
- from <a href="https://sourceforge.net/projects/freepascal/files/Linux/3.2.0/">https://sourceforge.net/projects/freepascal/files/Linux/3.2.0/</a>, download, unzip and install <a href="fpc-3.2.0-x86\_64-linux.tar">fpc-3.2.0-x86\_64-linux.tar</a>

## 2.2 Mac OS X Build Environment

Use Xcode and HomeBrew to install several packages:

```
xcode-select --install
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install.sh)"
brew install subversion
brew install gdb
brew install cmake
brew install zmq
brew install czmq
brew install fpc
```

These package versions are currently up to date for OpenDSSCmd. If not, please see <a href="http://gridlab-d.shoutwiki.com/wiki/Mac\_OSX/Setup">https://wiki.freepascal.org/Installing\_Lazarus\_on\_macOS</a> for more information. See <a href="https://sourceforge.net/projects/freepascal/files/Mac%20OS%20X/3.2.0/">https://sourceforge.net/projects/freepascal/files/Mac%20OS%20X/3.2.0/</a> for the latest intel-macosx.dmg installer.

## 2.3 Windows Build Environment

- Install C/C++ compiler and Cmake from: <a href="https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/downloads/">https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/downloads/</a> (find Build Tools for Visual Studio 2019)
- 2. If you don't have an SVN client, install from <a href="https://tortoisesvn.net/">https://tortoisesvn.net/</a>. On the "Custom Setup" page, select "Command Line Tools" for inclusion.

- 3. If you don't have a Git client, install from <a href="https://www.sourcetreeapp.com/">https://www.sourcetreeapp.com/</a>. To use the command line Git from SourceTree on Windows, you may use the "Actions/Open in Terminal" menu command. You may alternatively install the command line Git from <a href="https://git-scm.com/downloads">https://git-scm.com/downloads</a>
- 4. Install FPC 3.2 from <a href="https://sourceforge.net/projects/freepascal/files/Win32/3.2.0/">https://sourceforge.net/projects/freepascal/files/Win32/3.2.0/</a>. You must install the base win32 compiler for i386 first, and then the x86 64 cross-compiler.

# 2.4 Supporting Code Repositories

It's assumed that all repositories will be cloned under a common location, such as ~/src or c:\src. From a terminal window in that directory, use these commands to pull the correct branches:

```
git clone -b feature/opendss https://github.com/FNCS/fncs.git git clone https://github.com/GMLC-TDC/HELICS-src.git git clone https://github.com/pnnl/linenoise-ng.git svn checkout https://svn.code.sf.net/p/klusolve/code
```

#### On Windows only:

```
git clone https://github.com/zeromq/libzmq.git
git clone https://github.com/zeromq/czmq.git
```

# 2.5 OpenDSS Repository

Because EPRI keeps large build products, Windows-only artifacts and copy-paste code branches in the same repository, two different strategies are provided. Both start in ~/src or c:\src.

Strategy 1, "grab everything" for building the executable and everything else in the installer:

```
svn checkout https://svn.code.sf.net/p/electricdss/code/trunk
```

Strategy 2, "selective retrieval" for building the executable only, not the full set of examples and documents. The grayed-out steps are optional, i.e., not necessary for the executable.

```
mkdir OpenDSS or md OpenDSS
cd OpenDSS
svn checkout --depth immediates https://svn.code.sf.net/p/electricdss/code/trunk/Version7 .
svn update --set-depth infinity Doc
svn update --set-depth infinity Test
svn update --set-depth infinity Distrib/Doc
svn update --set-depth infinity Distrib/EPRITestCircuits
svn update --set-depth infinity Distrib/IEEETestCases
svn update --set-depth infinity Distrib/Examples
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/Common
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/CMD
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/DDLL
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/Controls
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/Executive
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/epiktimer
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/General
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/Meters
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/Shared
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/Parser
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/PCElements
svn update --set-depth infinity Source/PDElements
```

A third strategy uses git for a "full retrieval except for binaries", ignoring part of the revision history that was corrupted on SourceForge. See <a href="https://github.com/dss-extensions/electricdss-tst">https://github.com/dss-extensions/electricdss-tst</a> for an example.

## 2.6 Linux and Mac OS X Builds

Build FNCS (library, broker, player and tracer only, with CMake):

```
cd ~/src/fncs
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Release ..
make
sudo make install
```

## **Build HELICS:**

```
cd ~/src/HELICS-src
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -DBUILD_SHARED_LIBS=ON -DHELICS_DISABLE_BOOST=ON -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Release ..
git submodule update --init
make -j4
sudo make install
helics_broker --version # should return a version number for "pip3 install helics==version"
```

#### Build linenoise-ng for OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd ~/src/linenoise-ng
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Release ..
make
sudo make install
```

### Build KLUSolve for OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd ~/src/KLUSolve
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Release ..
make
sudo make install
```

# Setup Libraries (Linux):

You may need to add /usr/local/lib to the path for shared libraries (\*.so). If that's the case, add a file called *opendsscmd.conf* with contents /usr/local/lib to the /etc/ld.conf.d directory. Either way: sudo ldconfig

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# Symbolic links may be required, based on the contents of /usr/lib. For example:

## Build OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd ~/src/OpenDSS/Source/CMD
mkdir units
chmod +x *.sh # only required once
./build.sh
```

#### Test OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd test chmod +x *.sh # only required once
```

See if the command history works. Type "q" or ctrl-C to exit.

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```
./opendsscmd
Solve a 13-bus circuit, exit, and open a text editor on the voltage results.
./opendsscmd IEEE13Nodeckt.dss
If FNCS is installed, test that connection. Look for results in *.log and tracer.out.
./test fncs.sh
```

# 2.7 Windows Builds

Be sure to open the **x64 Native Tools** Command Prompt for VS 2019. (The default is 32-bit, if you open directly from the Microsoft installer). Libraries will be installed into **c:\cmdtools**, but this can be changed in the following scripts.

• Add c:\cmdtools\bin to the path for testing purposes

## Build libzmq for FNCS and HELICS:

#### Build czmq for FNCS:

#### **Build FNCS:**

```
cd c:\src\FNCS
md build
cd build
cmake .. -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX=C:\cmdtools
cmake --build . --config Release --target install
```

#### **Build HELICS:**

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#### Build linenoise-ng for OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd c:\src\linenoise-ng
md build
cd build
cmake .. -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX=C:\cmdtools
cmake --build . --config Release --target install
```

## Build KLUSolve for OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd c:\src\KLUSolve
md build
cd build
cmake .. -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX=C:\cmdtools
```

```
cmake --build . --config Release --target install
```

#### Build OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd c:\src\OpenDSS\Version7\Source\CMD
md units
build.bat
```

### Test OpenDSSCmd:

```
cd test
```

See if the command history works. Type "q" or ctrl-C to exit.

opendsscmd

Solve a 13-bus circuit, exit, and open a text editor on the voltage results.

opendsscmd IEEE13Nodeckt.dss

If FNCS is installed, test that connection. Look for results in \*.log and tracer.out.

test\_fncs.bat

Copy this executable to the path.

copy opendsscmd.exe c:\cmdtools\bin

libgcc\_s\_seh-1.dll might not be found on Windows. In that case, unzip https://github.com/pnnl/tesp/blob/master/install/Windows/MinGWredist.zip\_into\_c:\opendsscmd

#### 2.8 Installer Builds

The Bitrock Installer has been acquired by VMWare. It runs on Linux, Mac OS X and Windows; it can then build the installers for all three platforms. On a checkout of the full repository, the installer project file will be found at ~/src/OpenDSS/Distrib/BitrockInstaller/OpenDSSCmd.xml, with supporting scripts in the same directory. Upload to https://sourceforge.net/projects/electricdss/files/OpenDSSCmd/

- If building in a TESP-like environment, use \$TESP INSTALL=/usr/local for FNCS and HELICS
- To sync the Python interface, use *pip install helics==2.6.1*, where 2.6.1 is the result of *helics broker --version*

# 3 FNCS and HELICS Examples

Input files for this example may be found under *Version7/Source/CMD/Test* of the repository. With reference to Figure 1, a 285-kW solar generator has been added to bus 634, and then a cloudy day is simulated at 1-second time steps. At mid-day, the normally-closed switch from 671 to 692 opens, which drops part of the load. The total feeder load is plotted to the right of Figure 1, and it shows the effect of both PV generation during daylight hours, and the load shedding at mid-day. Otherwise, the feeder load would have been constant at about 3600 kW.

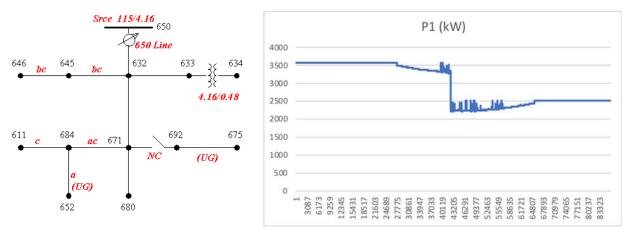


Figure 1: Daily simulation of IEEE 13-bus system at 1-second time steps. This feeder's peak load is about 3600 kW. Here, 285 kW of solar PV generation has been added to bus 634. The normally closed (NC) switch opens at about noon.

The bash script that runs this example on Mac or Linux follows (a similar batch file is under development for Windows), as *test\_fncspv.sh*. The three federates are OpenDSS, a FNCS player to pipe scripted commands into OpenDSS, and a FNCS tracer to log publications from OpenDSS.

```
(exec fncs_broker 3 &> brokerpv.log &)
(exec fncs_player 25h opendss.playerpv &> playerpv.log &)
(export FNCS_CONFIG_FILE=tracer.yaml && exec fncs_tracer 25h tracerpv.out &> tracerpv.log &)
(export FNCS_CONFIG_FILE=opendss.yaml && exec ./opendsscmd -f 25h &> opendsspv.log &)
```

The FNCS configuration file for OpenDSS, *opendss.yaml*, is show below.

```
name: opendss
time_delta: 1s
broker: tcp://localhost:5570
values:
    command:
        topic: player/command
    default: 0
    list: true
```

For now, OpenDSS only subscribes to scripted text commands, which is enough for the GridAPPS-D and TESP use cases. The only likely changes are highlighted in red, for the FNCS port and the federate that's going to be issuing commands to OpenDSS.

The scripted commands are found in *opendss.playerpv*, reproduced below. The commands from 0 to 9 ns set up the simulation according to OpenDSS syntax. See the documentation that comes with OpenDSS for more details on the syntax and features. The command at 10 ns requests the start of an 86400s simulation, which actually begins at 1s or 1e9 ns.

```
#time topic value
0 command redirect IEEE13Base.dss
1 command new loadshape.pvshape npts=86401 sinterval=1 mult=(file=pvshape.dat) action=normalize
2 command new pvsystem.pv1 bus1=634 phases=3 kV=0.48 irradiance=1 pmpp=285 kVA=300 daily=pvshape
3 command new monitor.pv1v element=pvsystem.pv1 terminal=1 mode=96
4 command new monitor.pv1pq element=pvsystem.pv1 terminal=1 mode=65 PPolar=NO
5 command new monitor.fdrpq element=line.650632 terminal=1 mode=65 PPolar=NO
6 command solve
7 command export summary pvsnap_summary.csv
8 command set controlmode=static
9 command set maxcontroliter=1000
10 command solve mode=daily stepsize=1s number=86400
42401500000000 command open Line.671692 1
```

```
86401000000000 command export monitors pvlv
86401000000000 command export monitors pvlpq
86401000000000 command export monitors fdrpq
86401000000000 command quit
```

At the end of each time step, which is 1s, a function called **TSolutionObj.Increment\_time** calls back to another function that issues **fncs\_time\_request**. For nearly all of the time steps, the callback function returns immediately and allows OpenDSS to just take the next time step. However, at 42402s, the command "open Line.671692 1" has been received from FNCS. The time request is granted, but before returning control to the time step loop, the callback function executes that command to open a switch. We see the effect of this plotted in Figure 1.

The last four scripted commands will execute just after the time step looping has completed. These export the monitor data to CSV files, and then quit OpenDSS. This happens before the 25 hours specified in *test\_fncspv.sh*, but the broker and each federate complete an orderly shutdown.

Other examples (TODO):

- FNCS communication between OpenDSS feeder and GridLAB-D houses
- HELICS version of the PV example
- HELICS version of the house example
- Description of the Nantucket Island FNCS example includes weather and a transactive rationing agent (Figure 2 from IEEE Greentech submission)

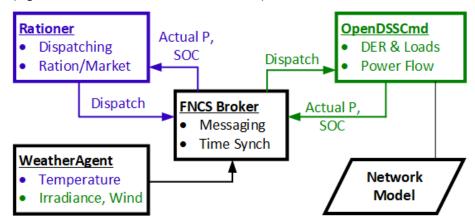


Figure 2: Simulation of transactive rationing with network model and weather

# 4 Developer Notes for OpenDSSCmd

#### 4.1 Source Code Directories

The main files of interest for work done to date are:

- Source/CMD/CmdForms.pas non-graphical alternatives to the GUI components that are sprinkled throughout other source files
- Source/CMD/FNCS.pas loads and uses the FNCS shared library, i.e., dll, dylib or so file.

- Source/CMD/opendsscmd.lpr main source file for the opendsscmd application
- Source/Common/Solution.pas the Increment\_time function is here

OpenDSS is primarily a power flow program. A top-level roadmap to the source code sub-directories follows. Please consider any other source directories you may see to be orphaned, or otherwise deprecated.

- Source/CMD the Lazarus/FPC version
- Source/Common circuits, buses and solutions. The CIM export code is here.
- Source/Controls regulator, capacitor, inverter, switch and other controls. The controls themselves do not carry power
- Source/DDLL a direct-DLL interface, which we are partly implementing in FNCS and HELICS
- Source/DLL a Windows COM interface, which we are partly implementing in FNCS and HELICS
- Source/epiktimer a cross-platform implementation and wrapper of QueryPerformance
- Source/EXE a Windows standalone application
- Source/Executive executes the scripted commands, contains the on-line help text
- Source/Forms GUI components, to be avoided in the Lazarus/FPC version
- Source/generics.collections will be removed in favor of support now built in to fpc 3.2
- Source/General elements that support PC and PD elements, including line codes, wires, spacings, transformer codes, loadshapes, curves, etc.
- Source/IndMach012a a dynamic induction machine model that we are not using, but it does
  provide an example of interfacing a new component to OpenDSS as a DLL
- Source/Meters sensors, monitors and energy meters (these are not billing meters as in GridLAB-D)
- Source/Parser parses text input
- Source/PCElements power conversion (PC) elements like load, generation, PV, storage
- Source/PDElements power delivery (PD) elements like transformers and lines, also capacitors.
- Source/Plot plots the circuit layouts and output values; not supported in Lazarus/FPC version
- Source/Shared supporting complex numbers, hash lists, registry access, etc.
- Source/TCP IP counterpart of the GridLAB-D server mode; which we are not using
- Source/TPerlRegEx supports the batchedit command
- Source/x64 and Source/x86 contains build products; <u>PNNL does not use this</u> but we have been unable to talk EPRI out of archiving build products.

# 4.2 Work in Progress for FNCS Publications

We need to have a text file of attributes to publish over FNCS, which is how GridLAB-D handles both subscriptions and publications. With OpenDSS, the differences are:

- FNCS.pas should read the publications file, then build maps to objects within OpenDSS for each publication, where it makes sense for efficiency. If the network topology changes, it may be necessary to rebuild this map (OpenDSS will trigger on topology changes).
- There is no conception of "commit" or other stages of a time step. At *Increment\_time* and a few other points, OpenDSS should publish the following types of value:

- Bus voltages
- Branch currents
- EnergyMeter registers
- Sensor registers
- Switch statuses

- CapControl on/off statuses
- o Tap changer positions
- The COM interface implementations in the Source/DLL directory provide some examples of how to get the specific values to publish over FNCS.
- We need to give some thought on data structures to efficiently publish many values.

# 4.3 Open Issues

- 1. The regular expressions for the batchedit command, which are implemented in ExecHelper.pas, have become case-sensitive. They need to be made case-insensitive.
- Use CMake to build OpenDSSCmd itself. CMake does not come with Pascal support, but a thirdparty developer has implemented it https://github.com/hedgewars/hw/tree/master/cmake\_modules

# 4.4 Using Lazarus instead of FPC from the Command Line

Instead of the build scripts, you will open the project file ~/src/OpenDSS/Source/CMD/opendsscmd.lpi from the Lazarus IDE. The IDE provides more convenient management of project files, builds and error messages. To install the IDE on Ubuntu, *sudo apt-get install lazarus* works. On Windows and Mac, you can download a combined package of Lazarus 2.0 and FPC 3.2 from <a href="http://www.lazarus-ide.org/">http://www.lazarus-ide.org/</a>

On the Mac, pay close attention to <a href="http://wiki.freepascal.org/Installing Lazarus">http://wiki.freepascal.org/Installing Lazarus</a> on <a href="MacOS X">MacOS X</a> for setting up gdb. When you start the Lazarus IDE for the first time; it should find the debugger (gdb) and possibly two compilers. <a href="Choose the fpc compiler">Choose the fpc compiler</a>, not the default ppc386 compiler. Otherwise, you can only make 32-bit executables from Lazarus. If necessary, you can fix this later from the IDE Tools / Options menu. However, the Lazarus IDE on Mac does not fully support Carbon, meaning that it can practically only create 32-bit GUI applications. This is a significant barrier to the possible cross-platform GUI for OpenDSS, at least one based on free development tools.

# 4.5 Other OpenDSS Development Branches

EPRI's parallelization in Version 8, which is Windows only and requires Delphi.

https://sourceforge.net/p/electricdss/code/HEAD/tree/trunk/Version8/

A collection of unofficial OpenDSS extensions, including a C API, Python, Julia and other interfaces:

https://github.com/dss-extensions/

# 5 References

- [1] R. C. Dugan and T. E. McDermott, "An open source platform for collaborating on smart grid research," in *Power and Energy Society General Meeting, 2011 IEEE*, 24-29 July 2011 2011, pp. 1-7, doi: 10.1109/PES.2011.6039829.
- [2] S. Ciraci, J. Daily, J. Fuller, A. Fisher, L. Marinovici, and K. Agarwal, "FNCS: A Framework for Power System and Communication Networks Co-Simulation," in *Symposium on Theory of Modeling and Simulation*, San Diego, CA USA, 2014: ACM.
- [3] B. Palmintier, D. Krishnamurthy, P. Top, S. Smith, J. Daily, and J. Fuller, "Design of the HELICS high-performance transmission-distribution-communication-market co-simulation framework," in 2017 Workshop on Modeling and Simulation of Cyber-Physical Energy Systems (MSCPES), 21-21 April 2017 2017, pp. 1-6, doi: 10.1109/MSCPES.2017.8064542.
- [4] R. B. Melton *et al.*, "Leveraging Standards to Create an Open Platform for the Development of Advanced Distribution Applications," *IEEE Access*, vol. 6, pp. 37361-37370, 2018, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2018.2851186.