

# Physics-Informed Deep Neural Network for Partially Observable Distribution Grid State Estimation

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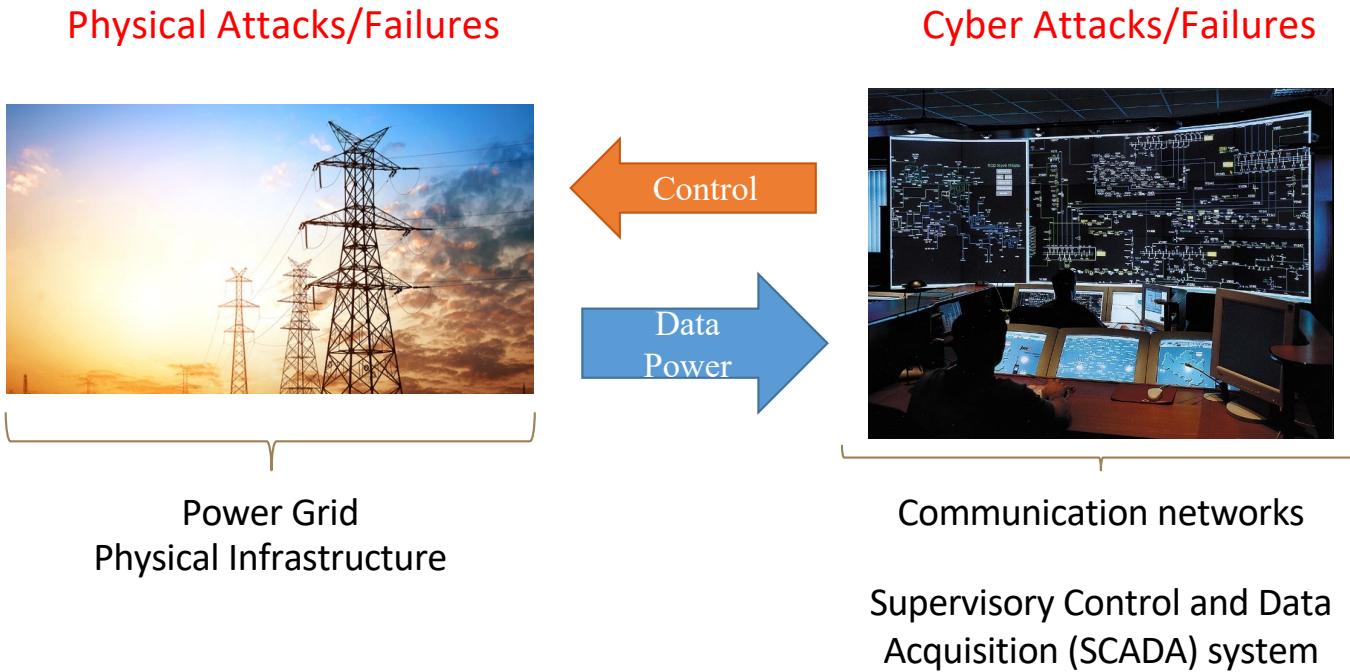
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*CCS 2021 - Data-based Diagnosis of Networked Dynamical Systems*

- What networks characteristics can be recovered from time-series measurements of its agents?
- How to identify and locate disturbances from time-series measurements?

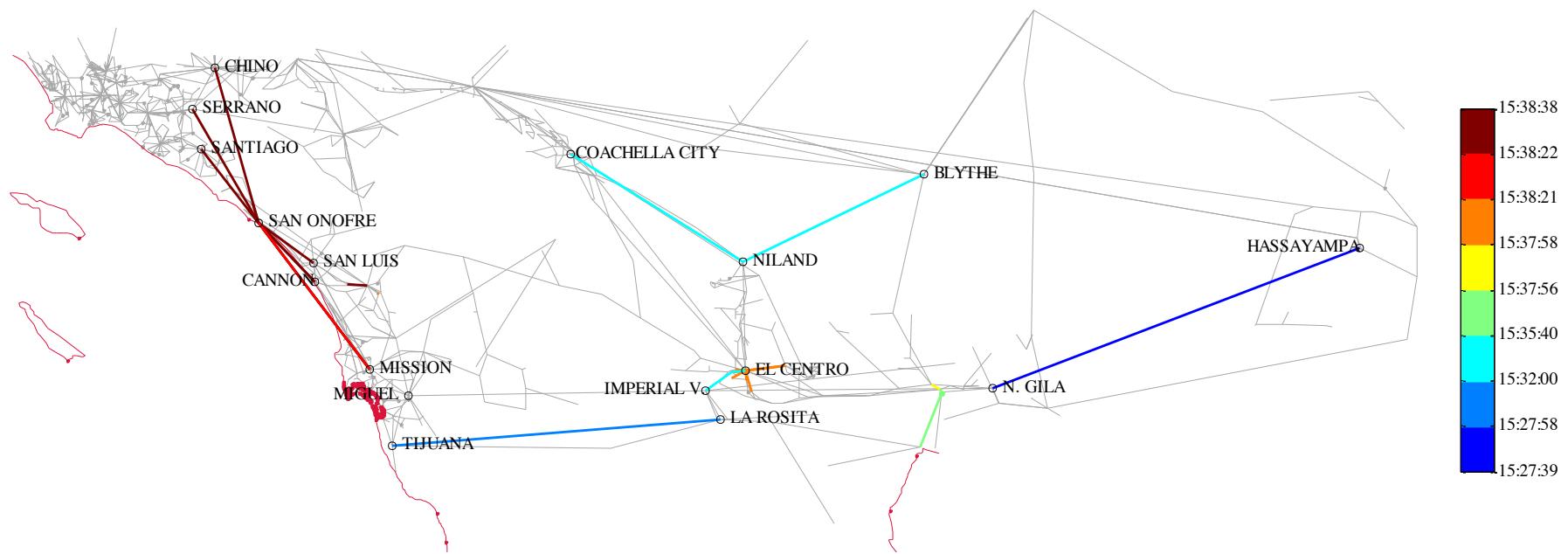


# Power Grid Resilience



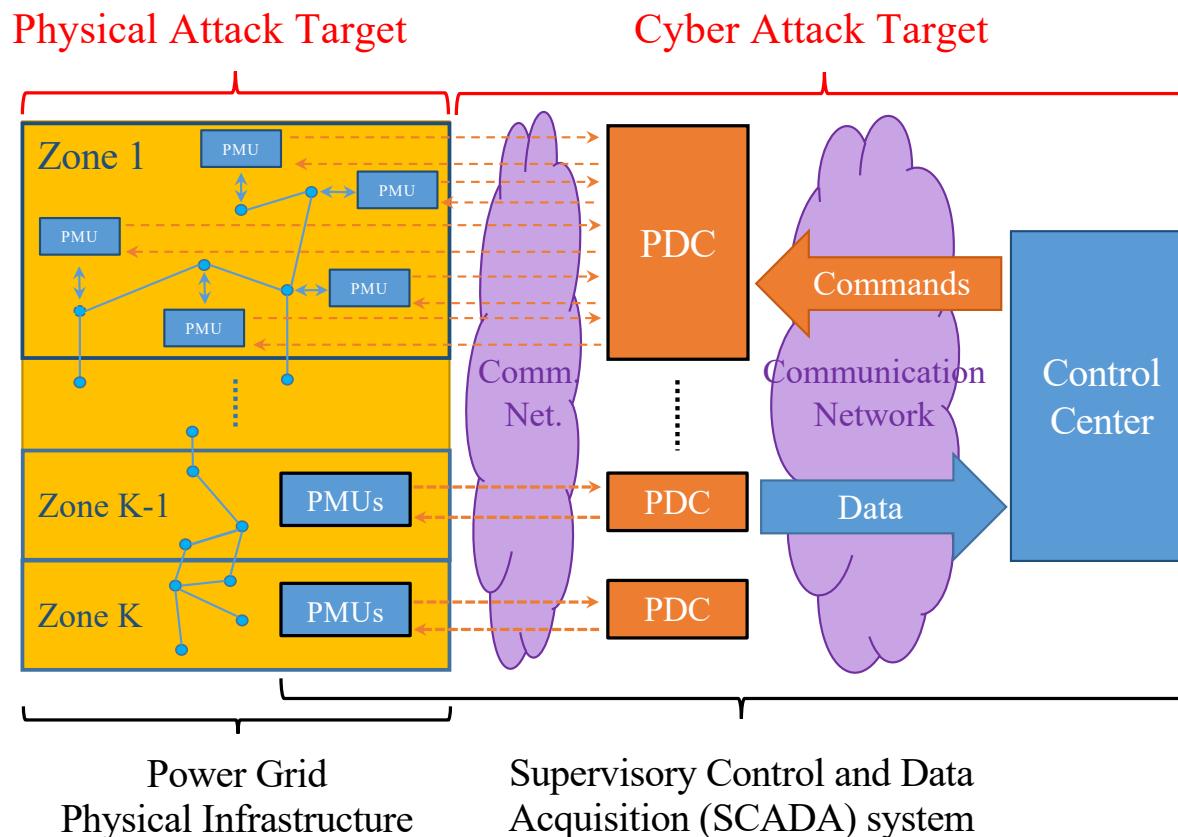
Due to the potential for cascading failures  
a clever cyber-attack can be amplified by the grid operators

# San Diego Blackout, Sept. 2011 – Human Error



“Ideally” a cyber attack would cause the operators to make a human error

# Simplistic view of a Power Grids



Power Grid  
Physical Infrastructure

Supervisory Control and Data  
Acquisition (SCADA) system

PMU: Phasor Measurement Unit

PDC: Phasor Data Concentrators

# Physical Attack in San Jose (Apr. 2014)

“A sniper attack in April 2014 that knocked out an electrical substation near San Jose, Calif., has raised fears that the country's power grid is vulnerable to terrorism.” –The Wall Street Journal



## Shots in the Dark

A look at the April 16 attack on PG&E's Metcalf Transmission Substation

<b>1</b> 12:58 a.m., 1:07 a.m. Attackers cut telephone cables	<b>2</b> 1:31 a.m. Attackers open fire on substation	<b>3</b> 1:41 a.m. First 911 call from power plant operator	<b>4</b> 1:45 a.m. Transformers all over the substation start crashing	<b>5</b> 1:50 a.m. Attack ends and gunmen leave	<b>6</b> 1:51 a.m. Police arrive but can't enter the locked substation	<b>7</b> 3:15 a.m. Utility electrician arrives
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Sources: PG&E; Santa Clara County Sheriff's Dept.; California Independent System Operator; California Public Utilities Commission; Google (image)  
The Wall Street Journal

## Cyber Attack in Ukraine (Dec. 2015)

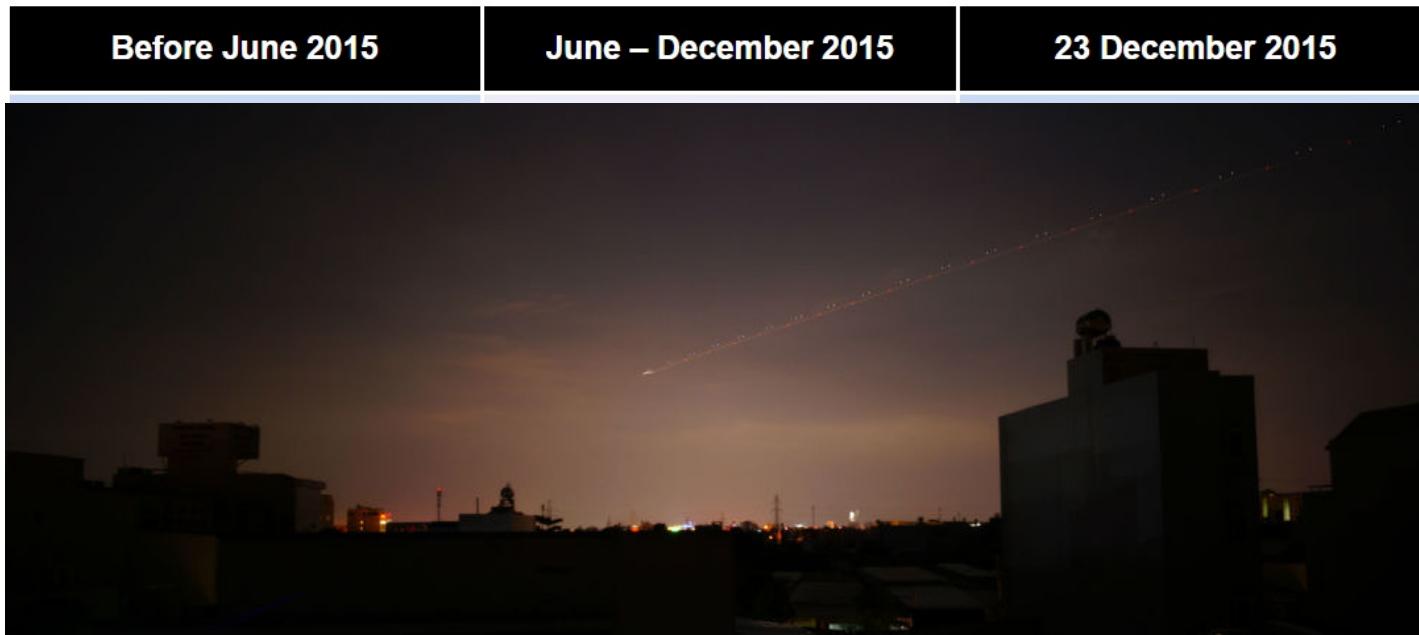
Unplugged 225,000 people from the Ukrainian electricity grid

Before June 2015	June – December 2015	23 December 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Extensive reconnaissance of distribution utilities' corporate networks</li><li>Spear phishing emails to executives to implant a variant of the Black Energy malware</li><li>Theft of credentials for accessing SCADA systems</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exploration of SCADA systems and attack planning</li><li>Development of malicious firmware for substation equipment</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Synchronized, remote operation of substation breakers causes blackout</li><li>Control-room backup power supplies are remotely disconnected</li><li>Phone jamming attack keeps operators unaware</li><li>Malware destroys data needed to operate equipment</li></ul>

Source: ICS-CERT, SANS Institute

## Cyber Attack in Ukraine (Dec. 2015)

Unplugged 225,000 people from the Ukrainian electricity grid



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# Transmission Grid - State Recovery after a Cyber-Physical Attack

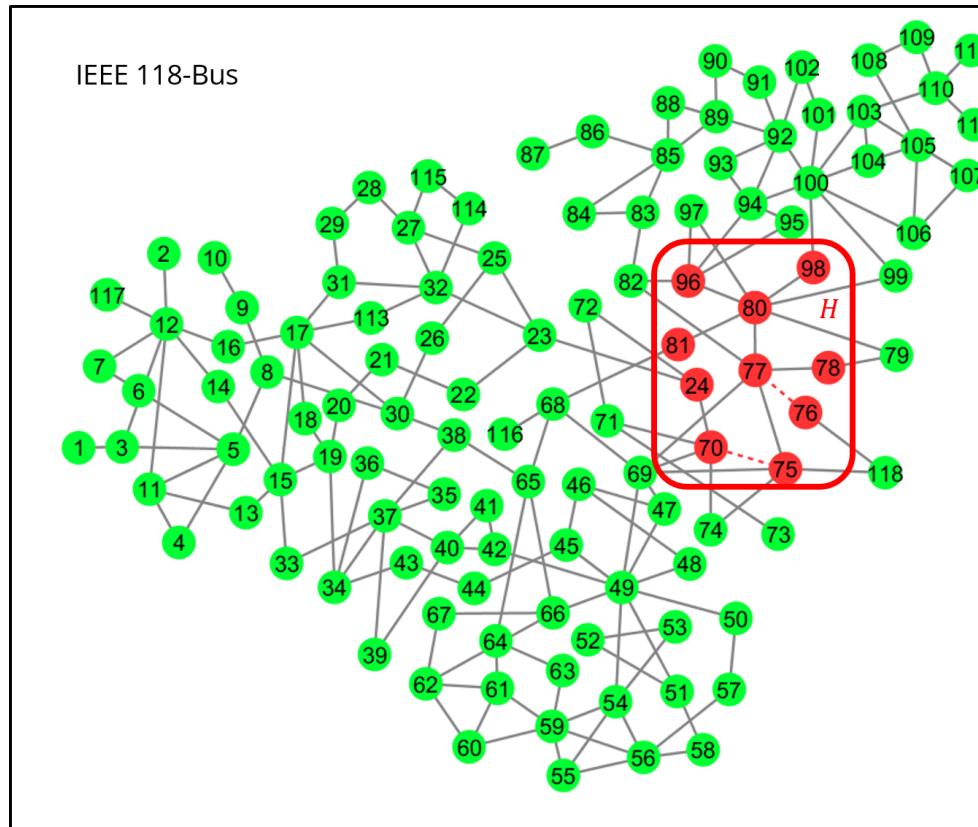
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- State recovery under the DC model
- State recovery in the presence of measurement noise and uncertainty
- State recovery under the AC model
- **Attack identification when the affected area is unknown**

- [1] Saleh Soltan, Mihalis Yannakakis, Gil Zussman, "REACT to Cyber Attacks on Power Grids," *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 459–473, Sept. 2019.
- [2] Saleh Soltan, Mihalis Yannakakis, Gil Zussman, "EXPOSE the Line Failures following a Cyber-Physical Attack on the Power Grid , " *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, vol. 6, no. 1, pp. 451–461, Mar. 2019.
- [3] Saleh Soltan and Gil Zussman, "Power Grid State Estimation after a Cyber-Physical Attack under the AC Power Flow Model," *Proc. IEEE PES-GM'17*, 2017.
- [4] Saleh Soltan, Mihalis Yannakakis, Gil Zussman, "Power grid state estimation following a joint cyber and physical attack," *IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 499–512, Mar. 2018.

## Attack Identification when the Affected Area is Unknown

Detect the **line failures** as well as **the attacked area  $H$**  after a cyber-physical attack



[1] S. Soltan, M. Yannakakis, and G. Zussman, "REACT to cyber attacks on power grids," *IEEE Transactions on Network Science and Engineering*, vol. 6, no. 3, pp. 459–473, Sept. 2019.

# Location Unknown - Cyber Attacks

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Physical attack - some lines in the area fail

Cyber attack:

- Data distortion
- **Data Replay**

$\vec{\theta}^*$  is the observed phase angles vector after the attack which is different from the actual  $\vec{\theta}'$

NP-Hard to detect the set of line failures (even if the attack area is known and even under the DC approximation)

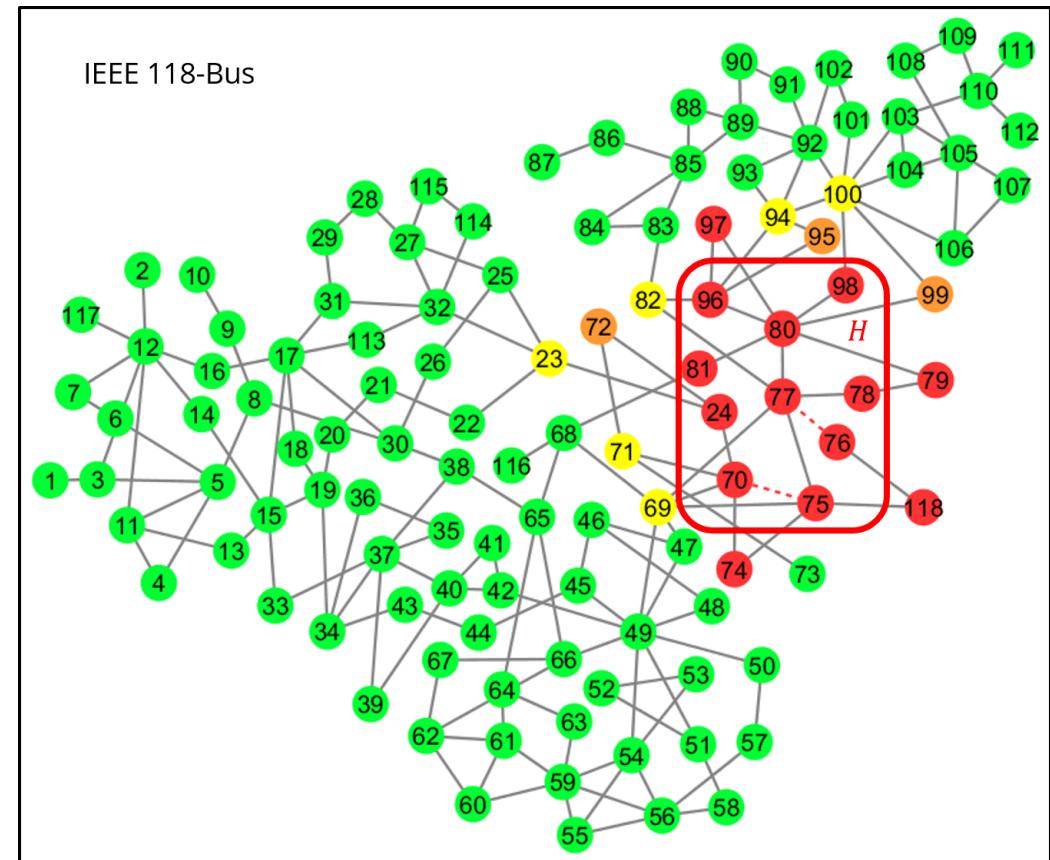


Approximate solutions

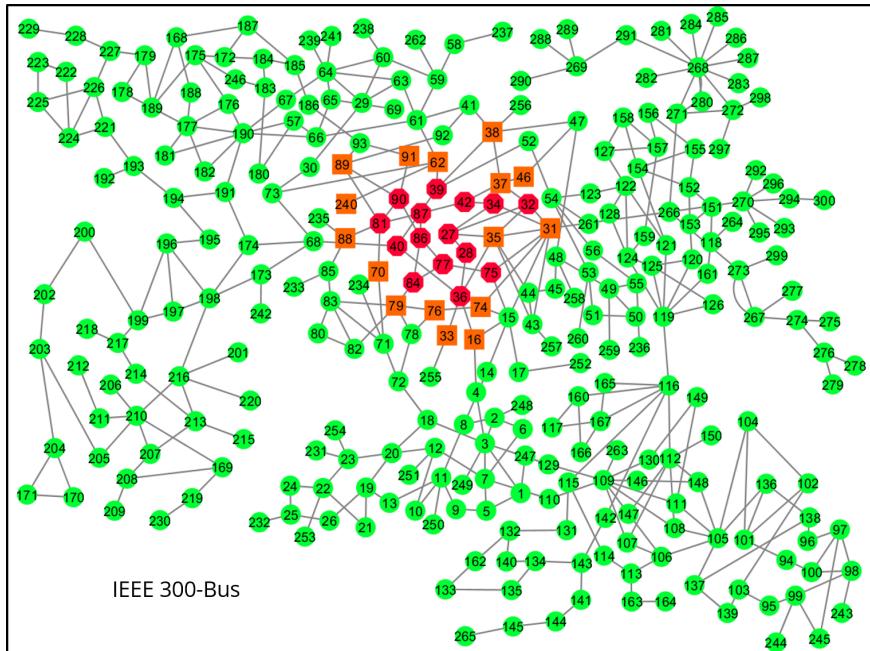
# Example

Approximately detect the attacked area in 3 steps

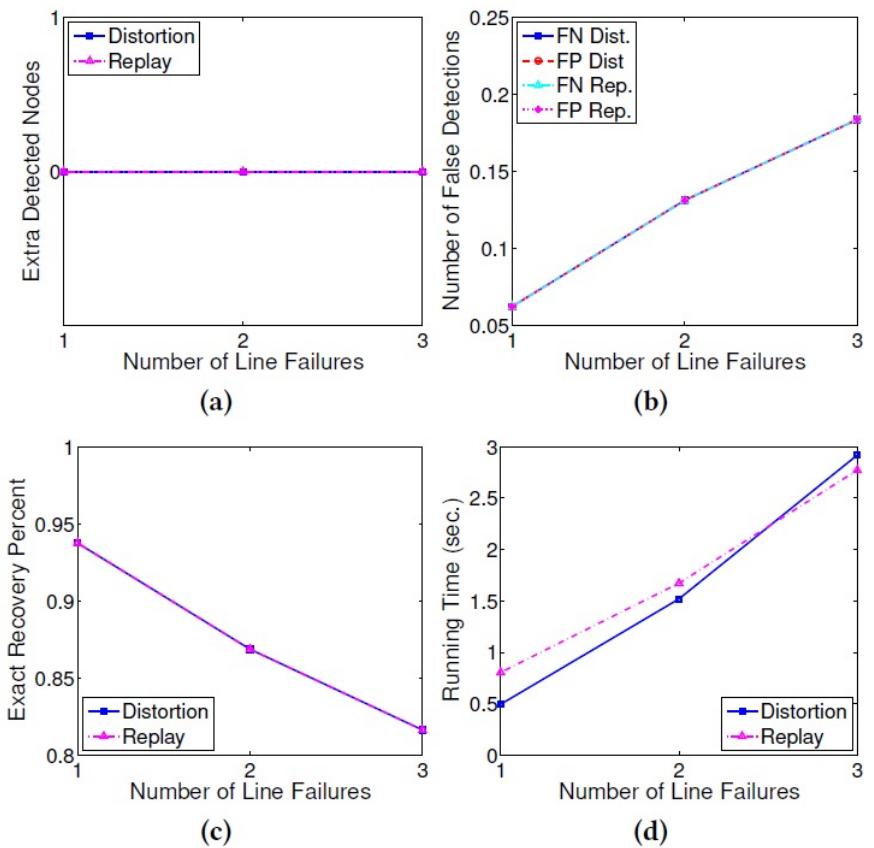
Identify line failures with some confidence



# Performance - Small Area (15 nodes)

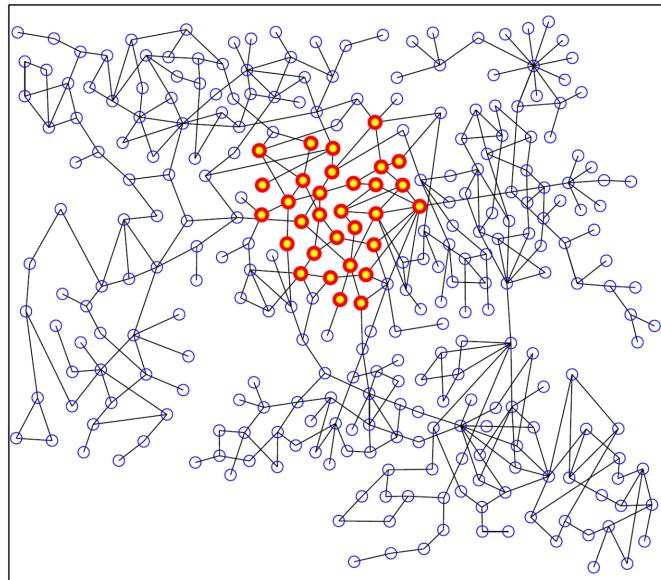


100 1,2,3-line failure samples

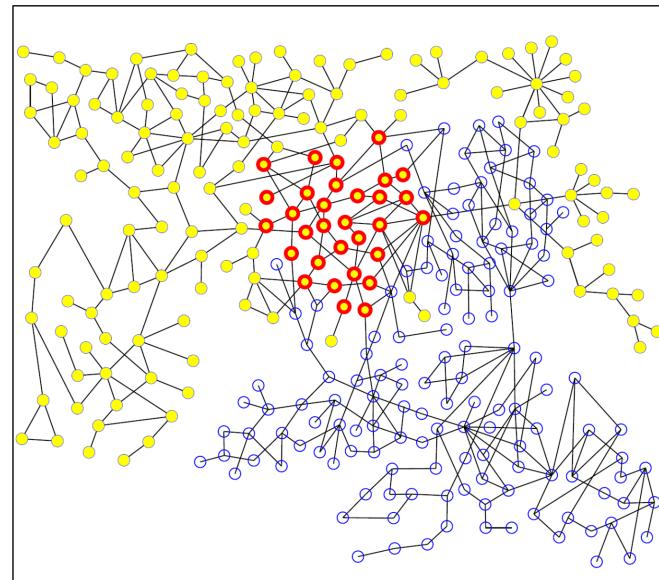


# Data Distortion vs. Data Replay

Difficulty in detecting the attacked area after a data replay attack



(a) Data Distortion Attack

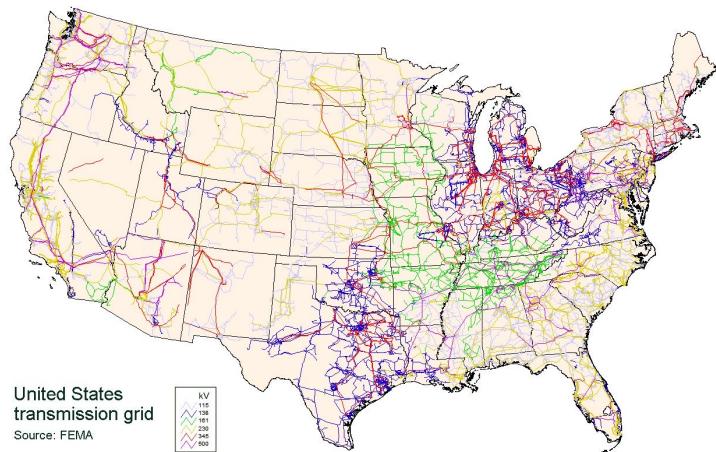


(b) Data Replay Attack

# From Transmission to Distribution

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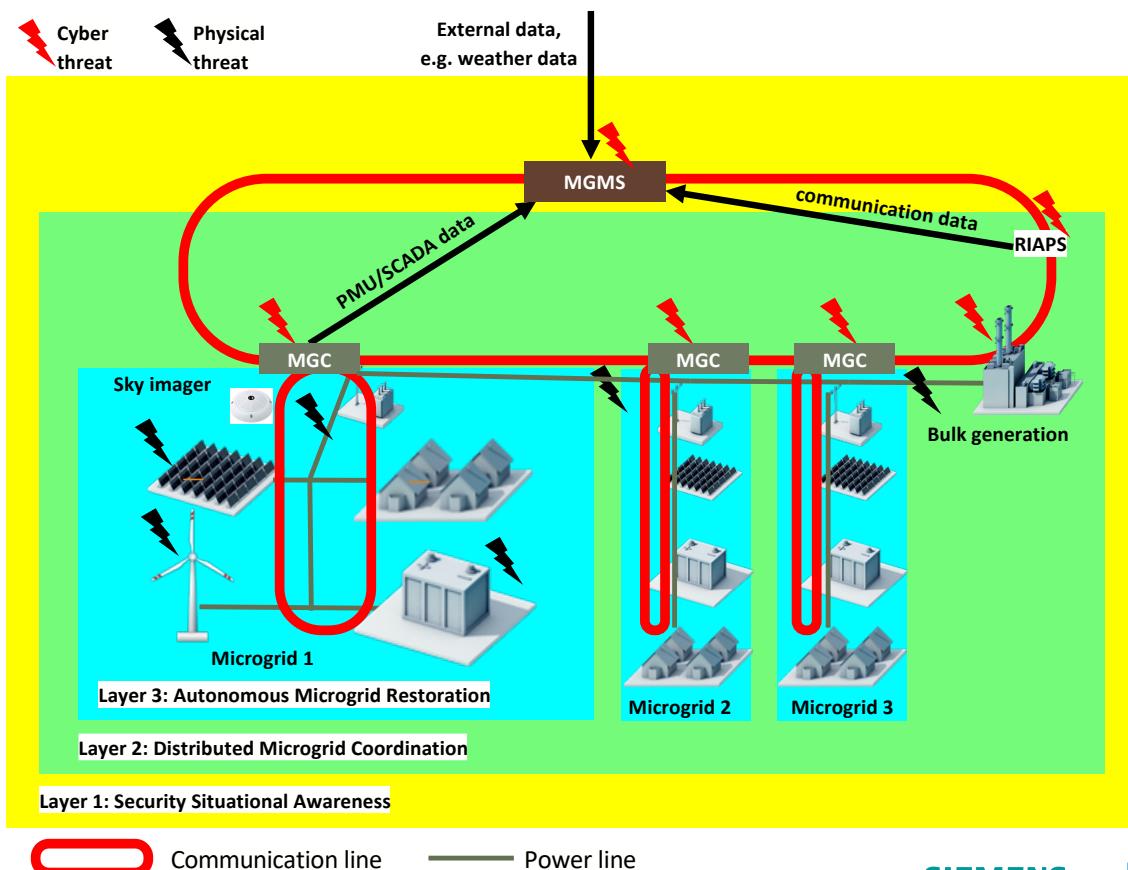
Most of the research in this field has focused on the Transmission grid



The Distribution grid, on the other hand, suffers from **under-observability** even when not attacked

# AURORA (AUtonomous and Resilient Operation of energy systems with RenewaAbles), PI: Ulrich Muenz (Siemens)

## Develop and demonstrate a 3-layer protection scheme against cyber and physical threats



### Project objectives

#### Layer 1: Security Situational Awareness

1. Assess and optimize resiliency against physical threats
2. Detect and localize cyber attacks

Global restoration

Loss of MGMS  
Loss of communication

#### Layer 2: Distributed Microgrid Coordination

3. Continuity of service after attack on control center or communication system

Local restoration

Blackout

#### Layer 3: Autonomous Microgrid Restoration

4. Fast restoration after blackouts
5. Robust parallel grid-forming inverters

MGMS: Microgrid Management System; MGC: Microgrid Controller; RIAPS: Resilient Information Architecture Platform for the Smart Grid

**SIEMENS**  
*Ingenuity for life*

**NREL**  
NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

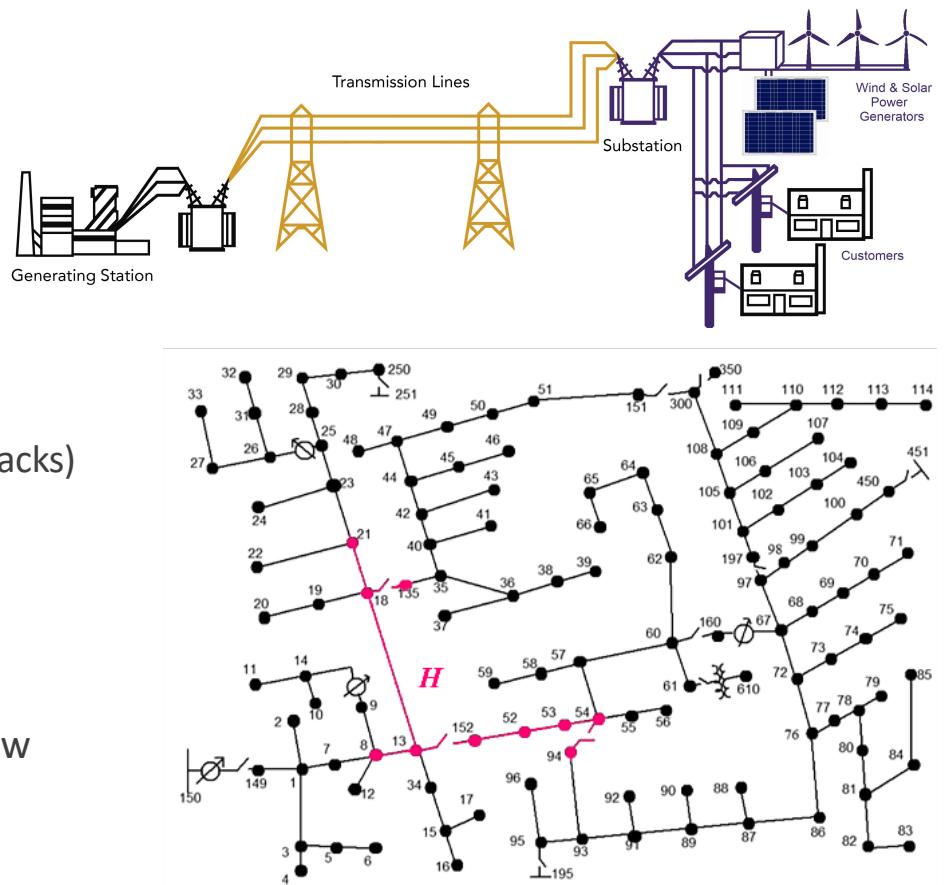
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK



**SOLAR ENERGY**  
TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE  
U.S. Department of Energy

# Distribution Grid – Partial Observability

- Distribution grid
  - Natural fluctuations
  - Limited observability
  - Sensors are becoming more pervasive but still “fragile”
  - DC approximation does not hold
- Given:
  - Historical data on voltage and power
  - Partial real-time power measurements (e.g., due to cyber attacks)
- Power-flow equations may be under-determined
  - Model-driven approach may fail
- Objective: **prediction of voltages**
- Method: Incorporate the physical model of the power-flow equations into the Deep Learning training
  - Hybrid **model and data driven approach**



# Objective and Assumptions

## Goal:

- Accurate estimation of the distribution grid state

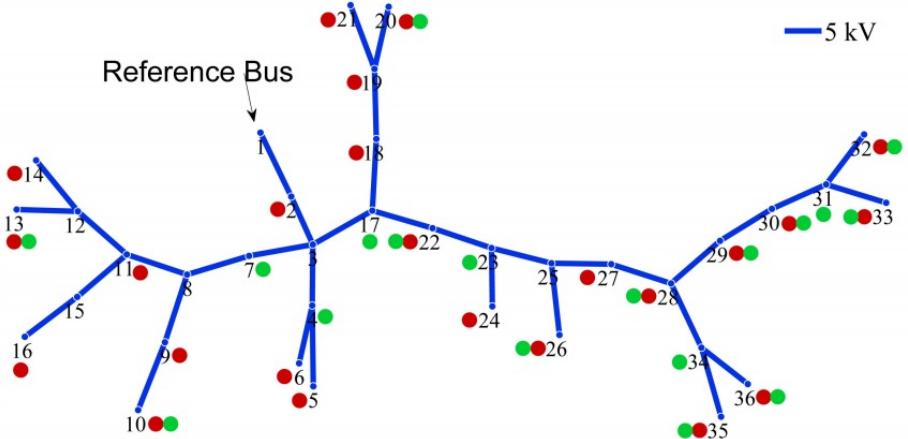
## Assumptions:

- The distribution grid is affected, and becomes under-observable
- The Power-Flow Equations cannot be solved

## Method:

Historical data:  
 $\{\hat{v}(\tau), \hat{s}(\tau)\}_{\tau=t-T-1}^{\tau=t-1}$

Real-time measurements:  
 $\hat{s}_j(t)$  for some  $j$



Deep Learning

Power-flow

Predict:  
 $\hat{v}_i(t)$  for all  $i$

## Evaluation: numerical

## Related Work

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- ◆ Distribution system state estimation [Chen et al. 2019], [Primadianto and Lu, 2017]
- ◆ Matrix completion techniques [Donti et al., 2018], [Genes et al., 2019], [Miao et al., 2019]
- ◆ Machine learning tools for distribution system state estimation [Bhela et al., 2018], [Jiang and Zhang, 2016]
- ◆ Physics-informed deep learning methods [Zamzam and Sidiropoulos, 2019], [Hu et al., 2020], [Singh et al., 2020], [Zhang et al., 2019]
- ◆ Hybrid machine learning models in other domains [Zhu et al., 2020]

# Sudden Failure State Estimation (SFSE)

## Problem formulation

**Specification 1.**  $SFSE(T, t, N_s(t), N_v(t))$

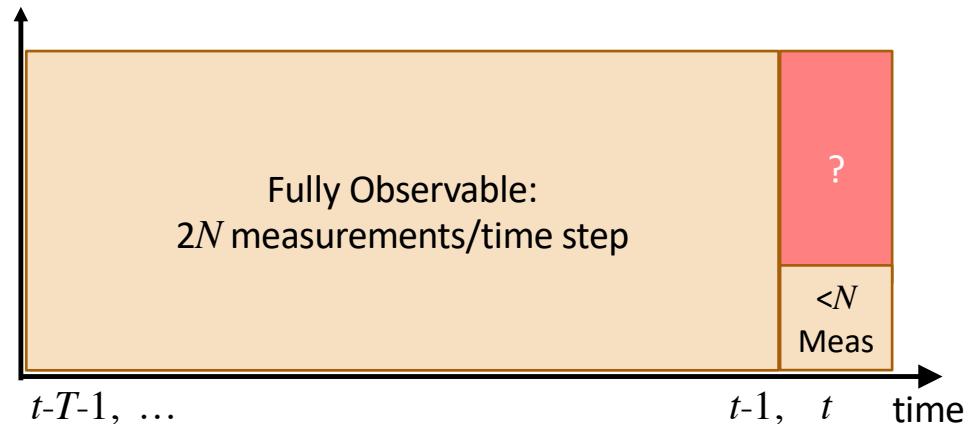
Inputs:

full history before time  $t$ :  $\{\underline{s}(\tau), \underline{v}(\tau)\}_{\tau=t-1-T}^{t-1}$   
 partial measurements set at time  $t$ :  
 $[s_1(t), \dots, s_{N_s(t)}(t)]; [v_1(t), \dots, v_{N_v(t)}(t)].$

Output:

voltage estimation at time  $t$ :  $\hat{v}(t).$

# measurements



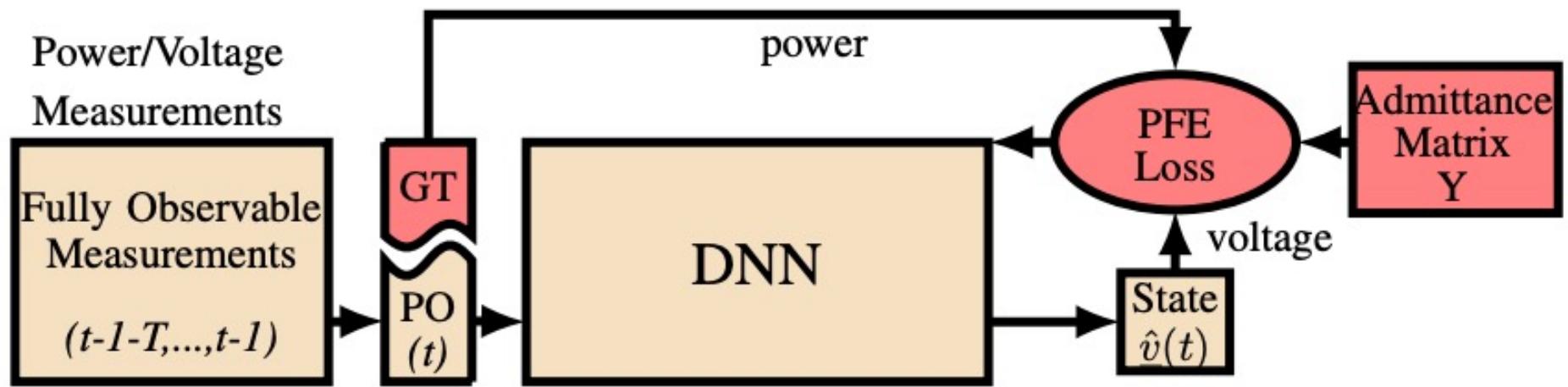
For different levels of Observability at time ( $t$ ), defined as  $\mathcal{O}(N_s(t), N_v(t))$  for a distribution network of  $N$  nodes:

For any  $N_s(t) \in \{0, \dots, N\}; N_v(t) \in \{0, \dots, N\}$ , let  $\mathcal{O}(N_s(t), N_v(t)) \triangleq \frac{N_s(t) + N_v(t)}{2N}$

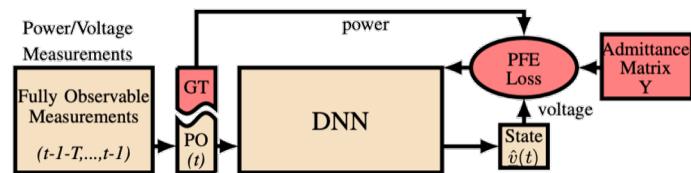
The Power-Flow Eqautions cannot be directly solved if the observability level drops below 50%

→  $\mathcal{O}(N_s(t), N_v(t)) < 50\%$  defines a low-observable, under-determined scenario

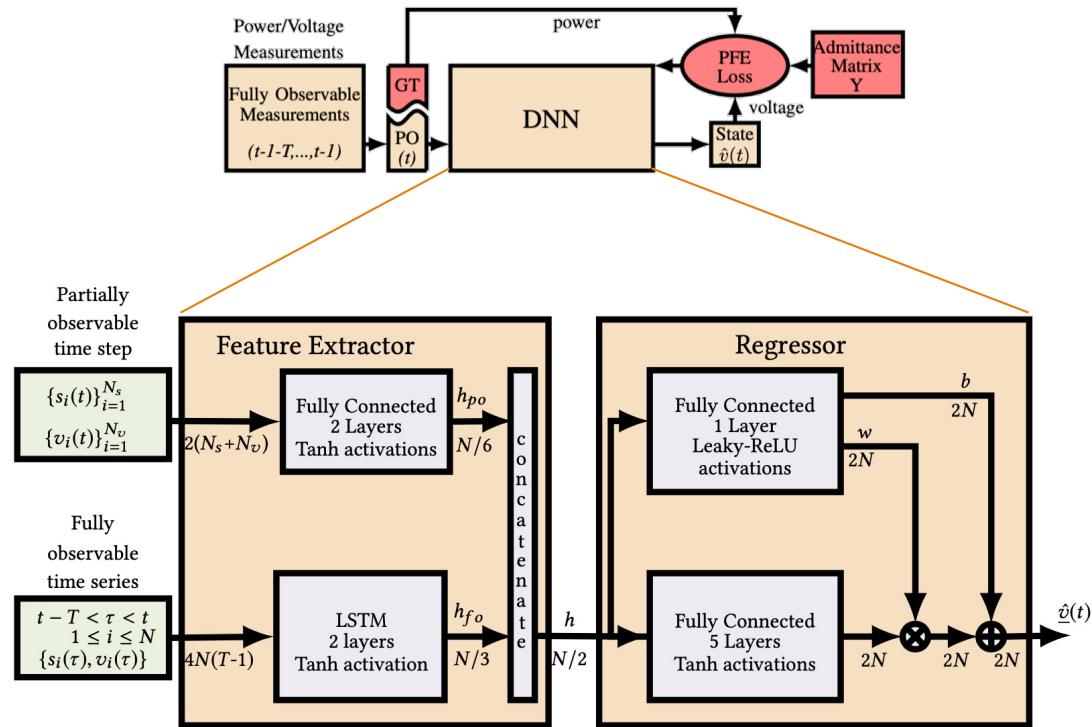
# Power Flow-informed Deep Neural Network (DNN)



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# Power Flow-informed Deep Neural Network (DNN)



$N$  – The number of nodes

$N_s$  – The number of nodes that report the complex power values

$N_v$  – The number of nodes that report the complex voltage values

Inputs:

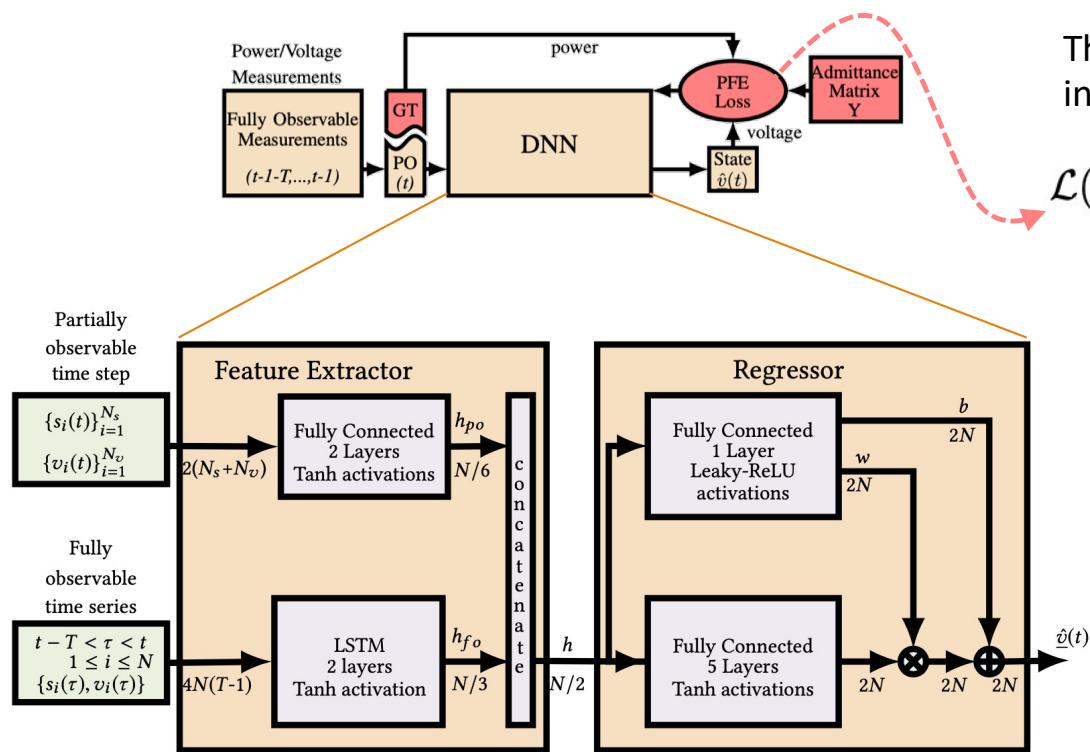
$N$  time-series  $[t-T, \dots, t-1]$  of the complex voltage values

$N$  time-series  $[t-T, \dots, t-1]$  of the complex power values

$N_s < N$  complex power values (for time index  $t$ )

$N_v < N$  complex power values (for time index  $t$ )

# Power Flow-informed Deep Neural Network (DNN)



The Loss function acts as a regularizer for the DNN, incorporating the AC Power-Flow Equations

$$\mathcal{L}(\underline{s}, \underline{v}, \hat{\underline{v}}, Y, \lambda) = \|\underline{v} - \hat{\underline{v}}\|^2 + \lambda \|\underline{s} - \text{diag}(\hat{\underline{v}})Y^*\hat{\underline{v}}^*\|^2$$

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Inputs:

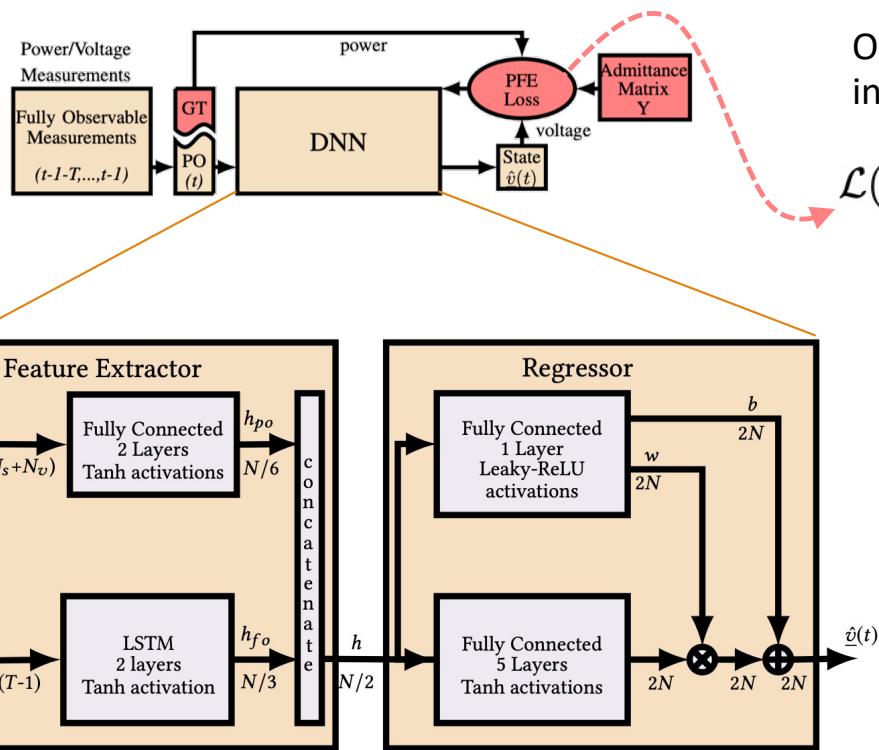
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# Power Flow-informed Deep Neural Network (DNN)

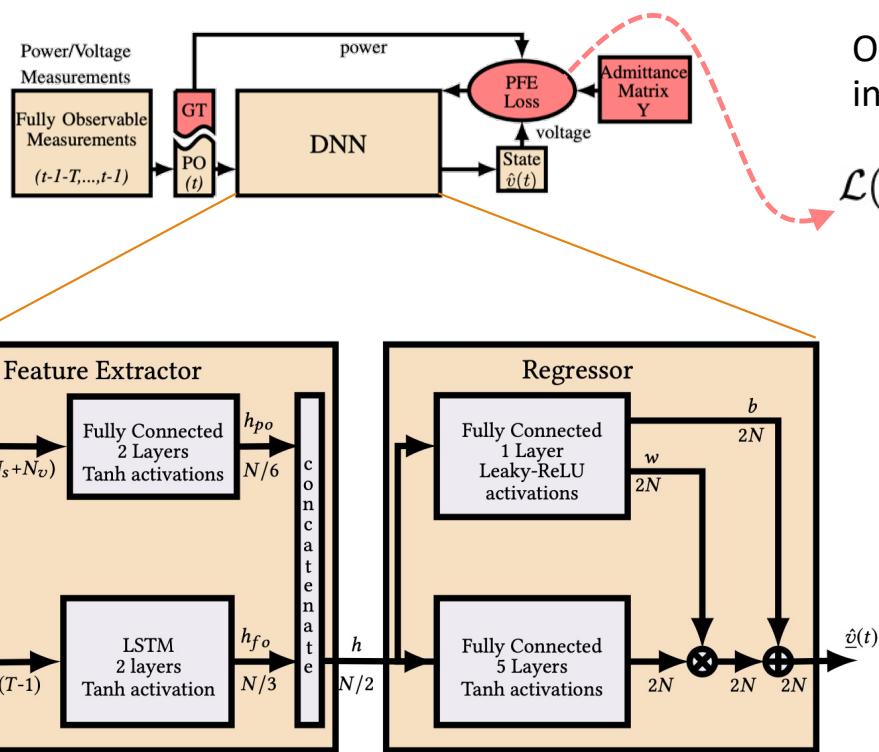


Our Loss function acts as a regularizer for the DNN, incorporating the AC Power-Flow Equations

$$\mathcal{L}(\underline{s}, \underline{v}, \hat{\underline{v}}, Y, \lambda) = \boxed{||\underline{v} - \hat{\underline{v}}||^2} + \lambda ||\underline{s} - \text{diag}(\hat{\underline{v}})Y^*\hat{\underline{v}}^*||^2$$

*MSE Term*

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MSE Term

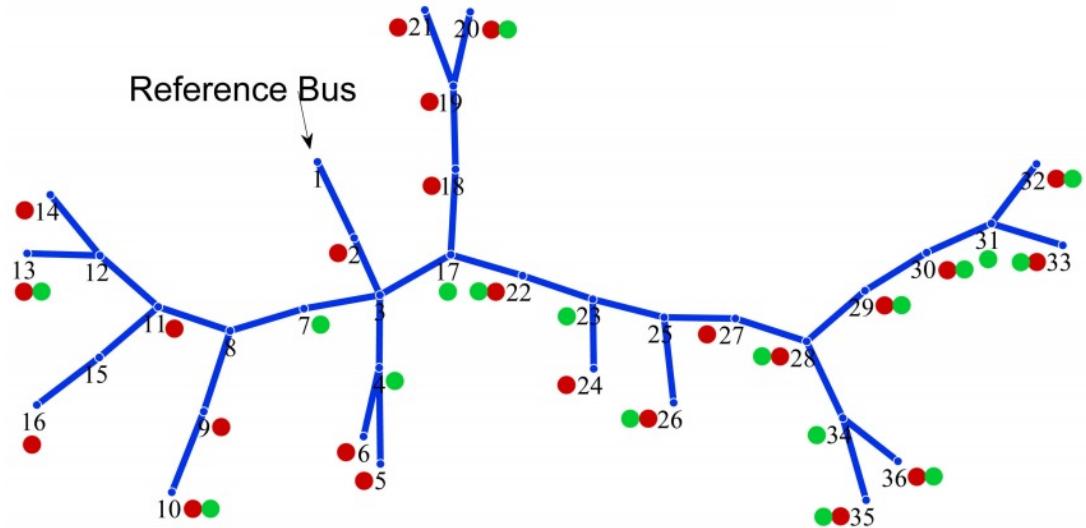
$$0 \leq \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

+ Penalize infeasible power flow

# Evaluation

Based on the IEEE-37 bus feeder

~50% of the buses inject power



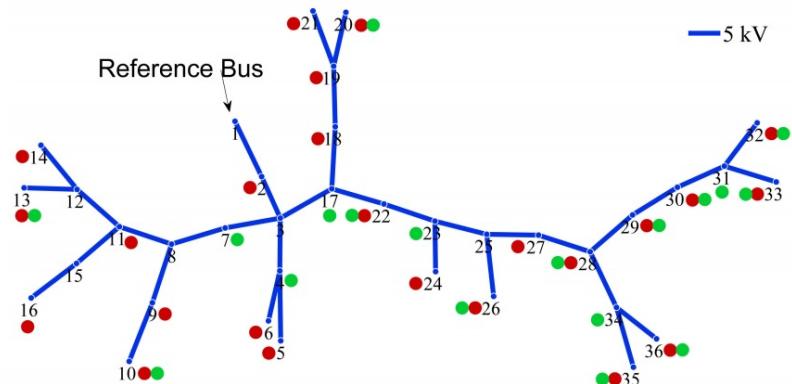
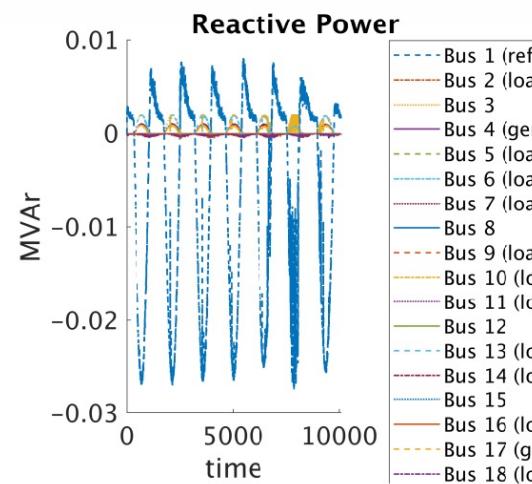
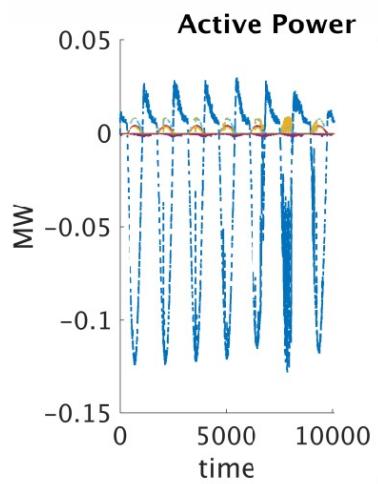
## Available Data

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- ◆ NREL Provided us with **real distribution grid data**:
  - One photovoltaic panel production (active power) – sampling rate of 1 Hz
  - Eight real usage of houses (active power) – sampling rate of 1 Hz
- ◆ Processing
  - Randomly allocated to buses
  - Generated corresponding reactive power
  - Smoothed the data, using a moving-average 60-second window, and down-sampled
  - Used MATPOWER to solve the Power Flow Equations (AC model) and obtain voltages
- ◆ Overall, acquired a full week of data (**~10,080 time-steps per time-series**)
  - 90% of the  $T$ -long sequences used for training
  - The rest used for validation

## Available Data - Power

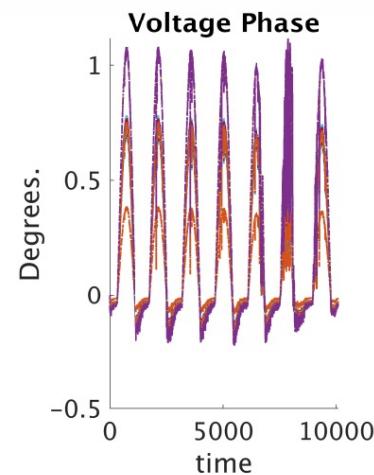
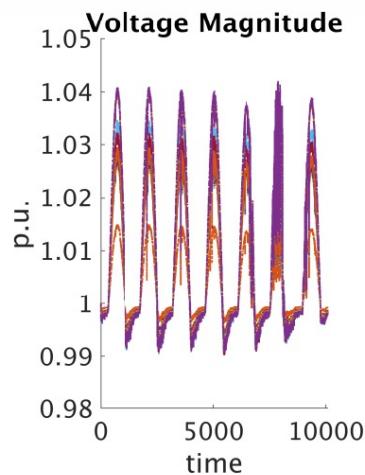
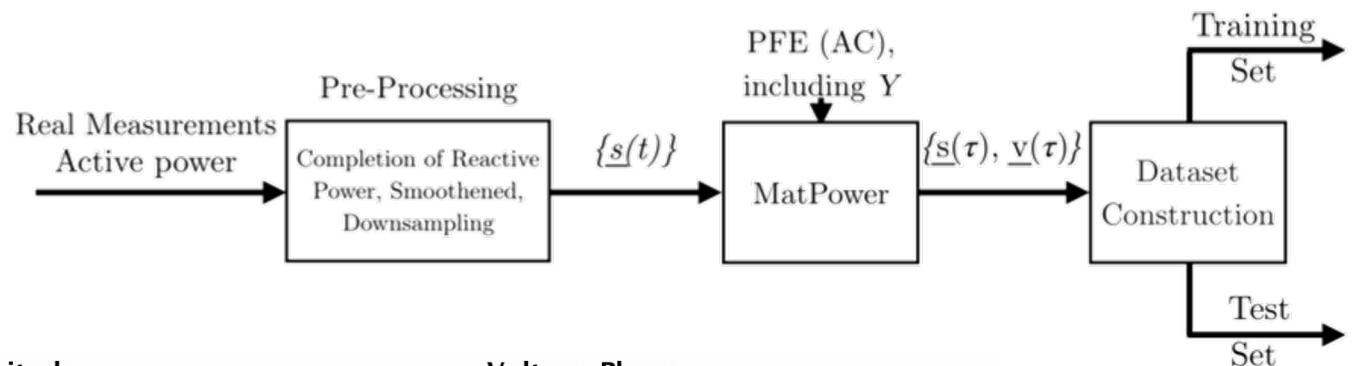
- ◆ Arbitrarily assigned different nodes with data based on the real-world measurements provided by NREL



IEEE 37-node test feeder distribution grid  
● represents a generator-node  
● represents a load-node

# Available Data

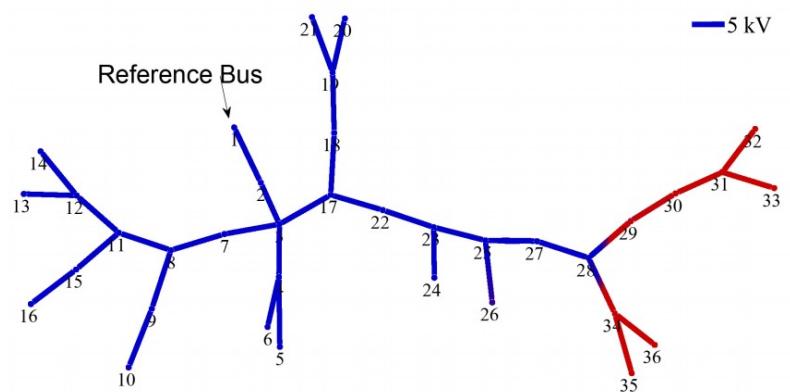
- Used MATPOWER to calculate the time-series of the complex voltages, which satisfies the Power-Flow Equations, to complete the dataset needed for training and validation



# Training

- We trained the setup for **different levels of observability**: 49%, 39%, 25%, 17%, and 8%
- This mimics actual **attacks/malfunctions**

$$O(N_s(t), N_v(t)) = \frac{N_s(t) + N_v(t)}{2N} = \frac{28 + 0}{36 \cdot 2} = 0.39$$

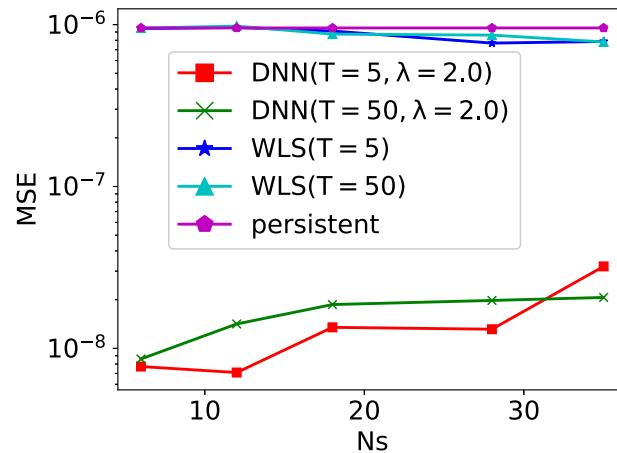


- 90% used for training
- 10% used for validation

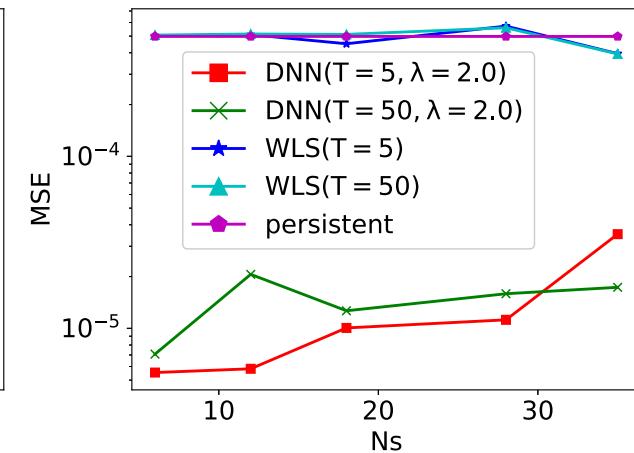
Example of an observability value of 39%:  
• 0/36 voltages are known at time ( $t$ ),  
• 28/36 power-values are known at time ( $t$ ).

\* We use 36 instead of 37 nodes since one of the nodes is behind a transformer.

# Numerical Results – Comparison with WLS and Sensitivity to $T$



(a) Magnitude{ $\underline{v}$ }



(b) Angle{ $\underline{v}$ }

The magnitude and the angle of the normalized Mean-Square-Error for the complex voltages time-series, compared with the Weighted Least Square Estimation

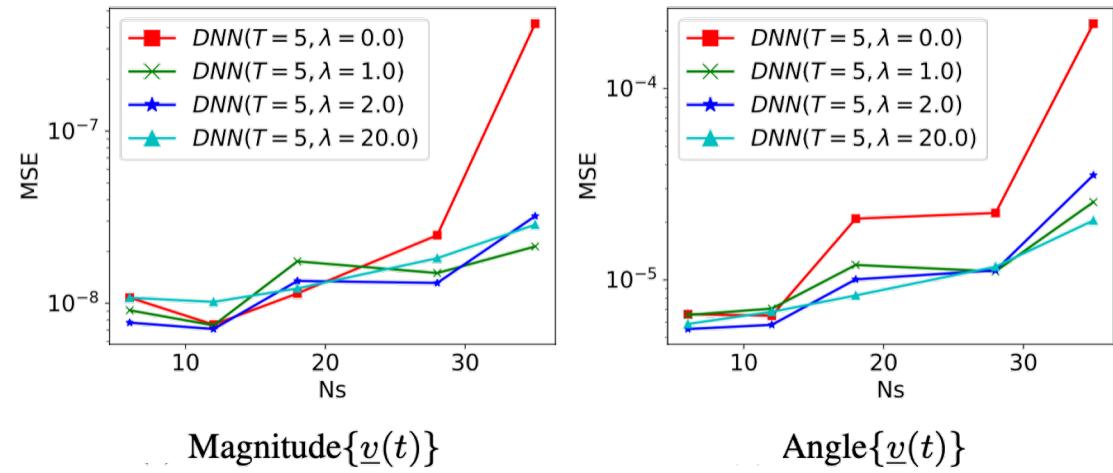
$$W_i \triangleq 1/\text{std}\left(\{s_i(\tau)\}_{\tau=t-1}^{t-1-T}\right)$$

$$f_{Y,\hat{s}}(\hat{\underline{v}}, i) \triangleq \hat{s}_i - \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{v}_i \cdot Y_{i,j} \cdot \hat{v}_j^*$$

$$\min_{\hat{\underline{v}}} F(\hat{\underline{v}}) := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N W_i (\Re\{f_{Y,\hat{s}}(\hat{\underline{v}}, i)\}^2 + \Im\{f_{Y,\hat{s}}(\hat{\underline{v}}, i)\}^2)$$

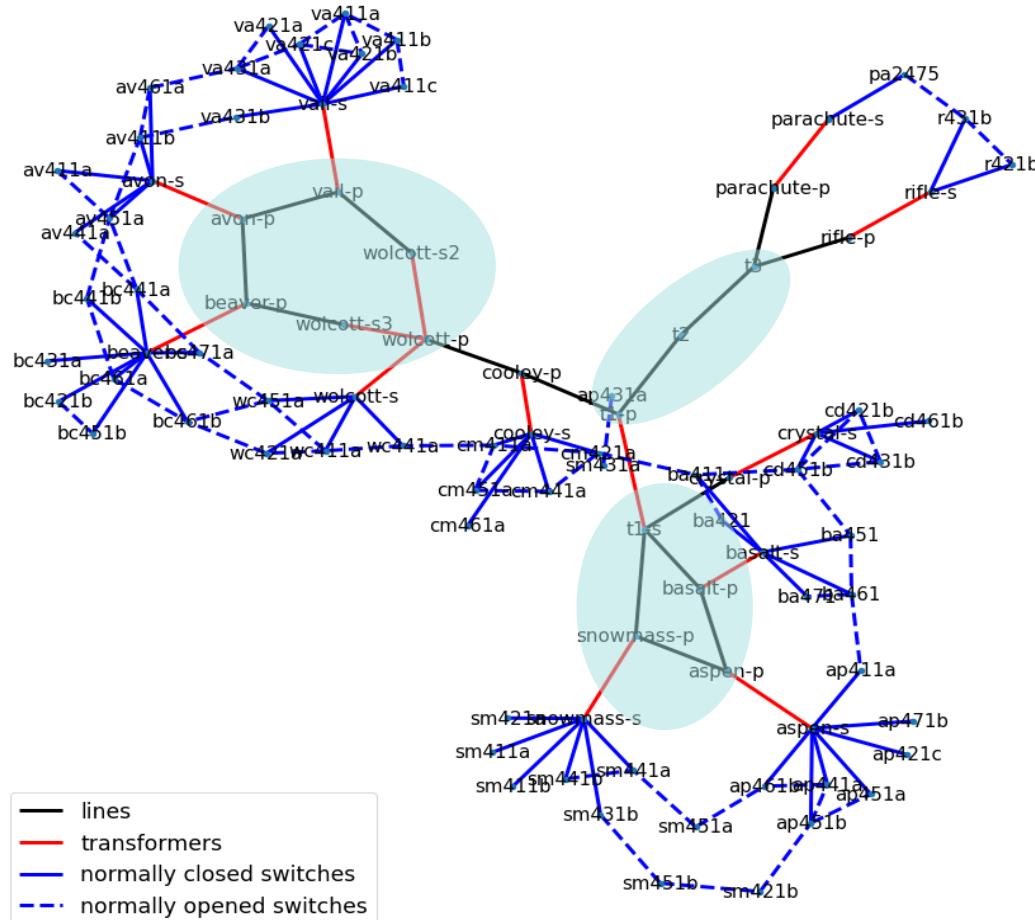
# Numerical Results – Sensitivity to $\lambda$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(\underline{s}, \underline{v}, \hat{\underline{v}}, Y, \lambda) &= \\ &= \underbrace{\|\underline{v} - \hat{\underline{v}}\|^2}_{\text{MSE term}} + \lambda \underbrace{\|\underline{s} - \text{diag}(\hat{\underline{v}})Y^*\hat{\underline{v}}^*\|^2}_{\text{Power-flow Equations regularizer term}} \end{aligned}$$



The magnitude and the angle of the normalized  
Mean-Square-Error for the complex voltages time-series

# Ongoing Work – Applying the Method to a Sub-transmission Network within the DOE AURORA Project



## Summary and Ongoing Work

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- Expanded previous work on transmission systems and static model to distribution system with streaming data
- Developed a **hybrid model and data driven approach** to recover missing data in distribution grid
- Has a “black box” nature but takes the power flow equations and system parameters into account
- Showed that it works well with real-world data
- Future/ongoing work:
  - Improve the DNN to accommodate a general training set, rather than a training set per scenario
  - Evaluate the method with the Holly Cross Energy distribution grid as part of the AURORA project
  - Extend to false data injection