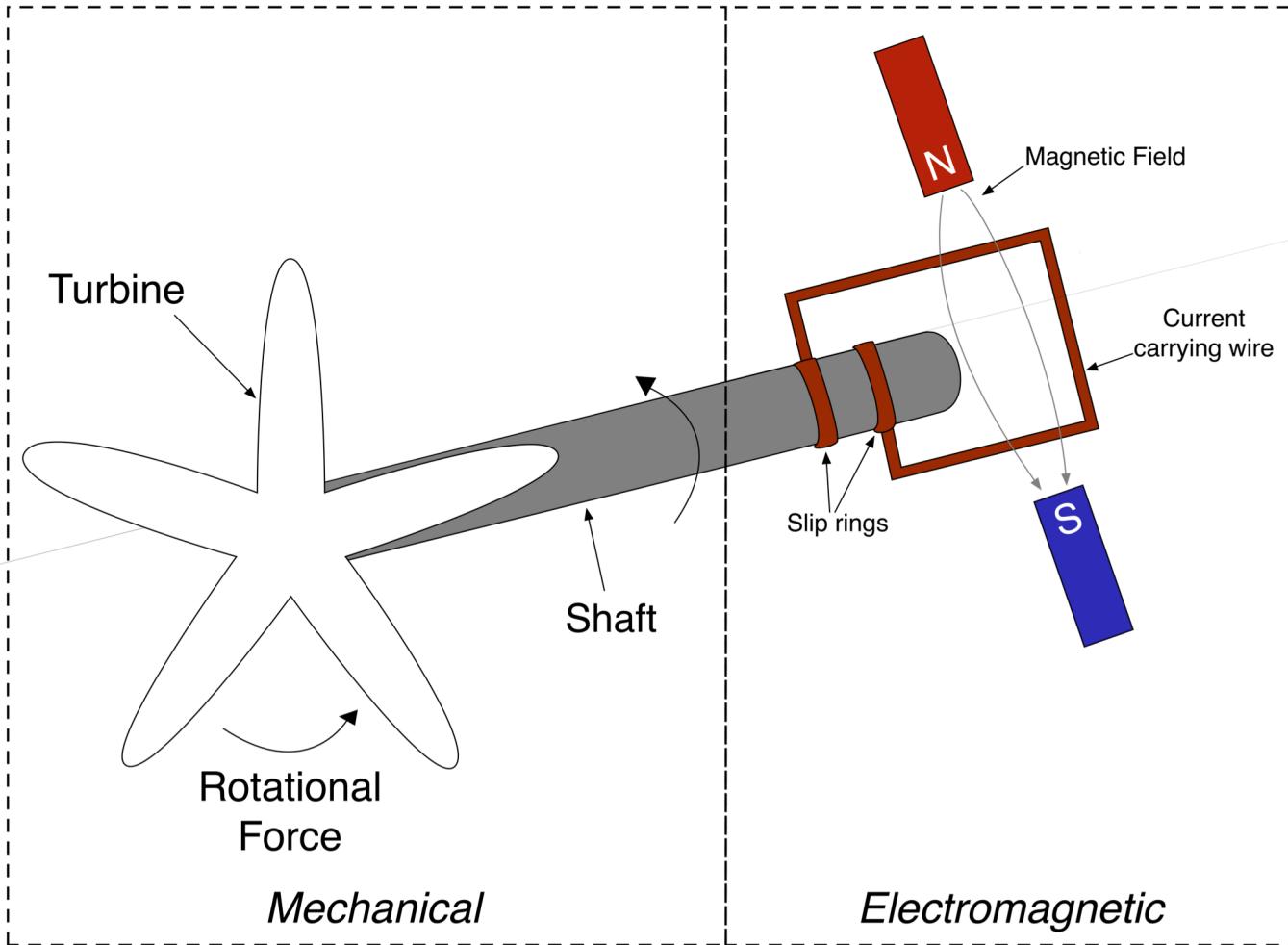


# The Roles of Inertia and Stability in Power Systems

Samantha Molnar

Elizabeth Bradley, Kenny Gruchalla, Bri Mathias-Hodge  
University of Colorado Boulder

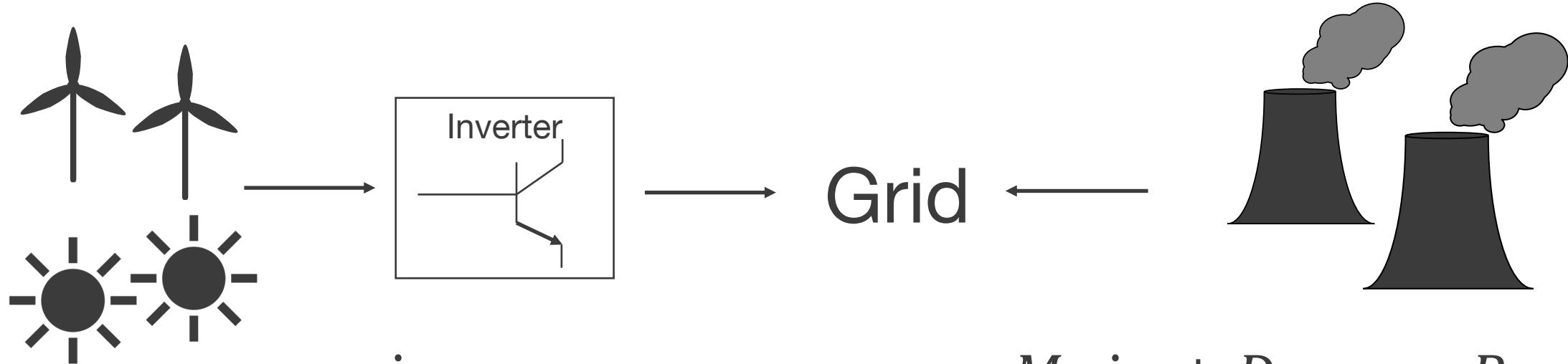
# Basics of Power Generation



## Traditional Generation

- Coal
- Nuclear
- Natural Gas
- Hydro

# Renewable vs. Traditional



$$D_{RG} \dot{\delta}_{RG} = P_{RG} - P_e$$

$$\begin{aligned} M_g \dot{\omega}_g + D_g \omega_g &= P_g - P_e \\ \dot{\delta}_g &= \omega_g \end{aligned}$$

$M_g$  Inertia constant

$D_g$  Damping constant

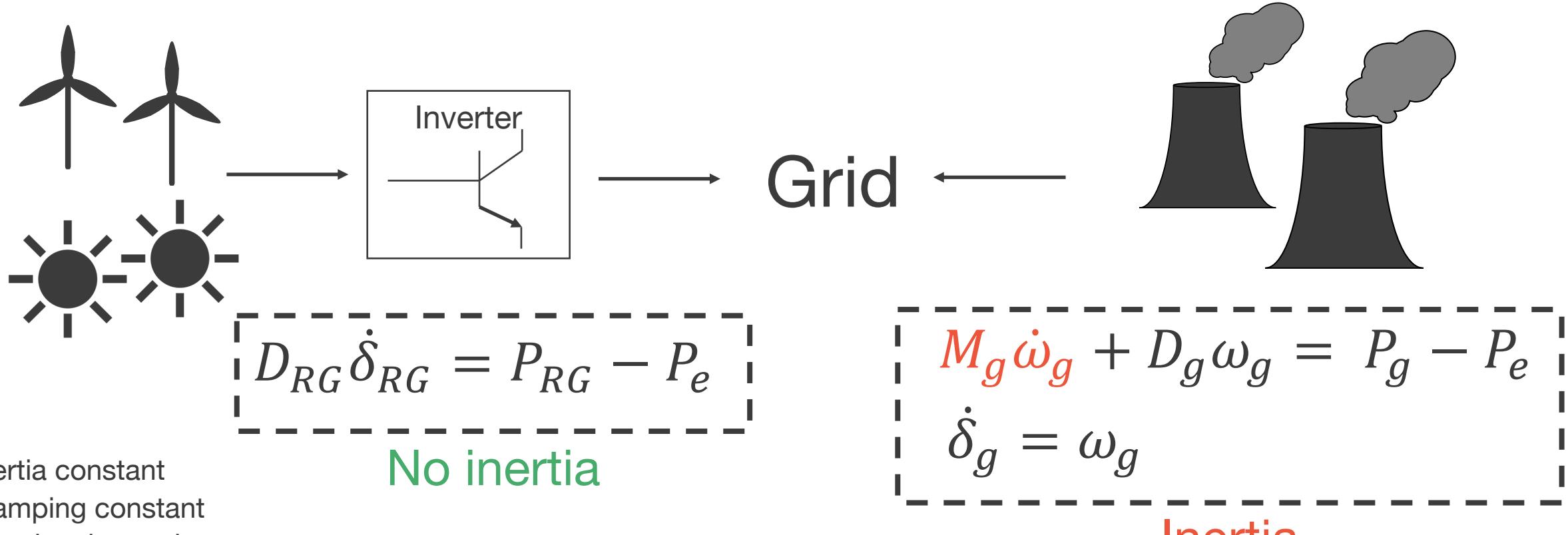
$\omega_g$  Rotational speed

$P_g$  Power generation

$P_e$  Power consumption

$\delta_g$  Angle

# Renewable vs. Traditional



$M_g$  Inertia constant

$D_g$  Damping constant

$\omega_g$  Rotational speed

$P_g$  Power generation

$P_e$  Power consumption

$\delta_g$  Angle

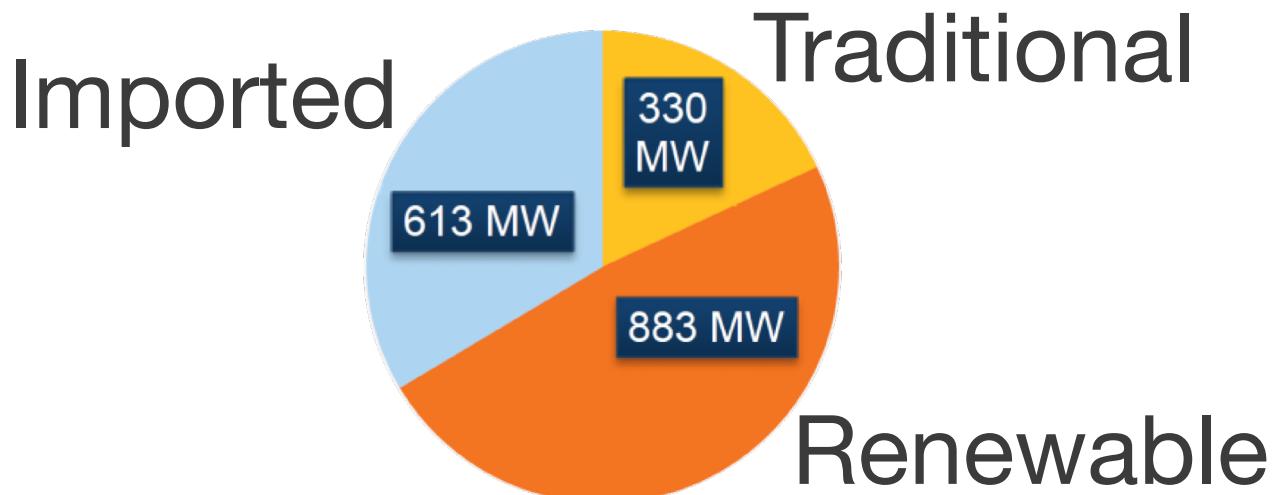
# Inertia – Why does it matter?



ABC News: Tom Fedorowytch. [Accessed](#) 3-6-19

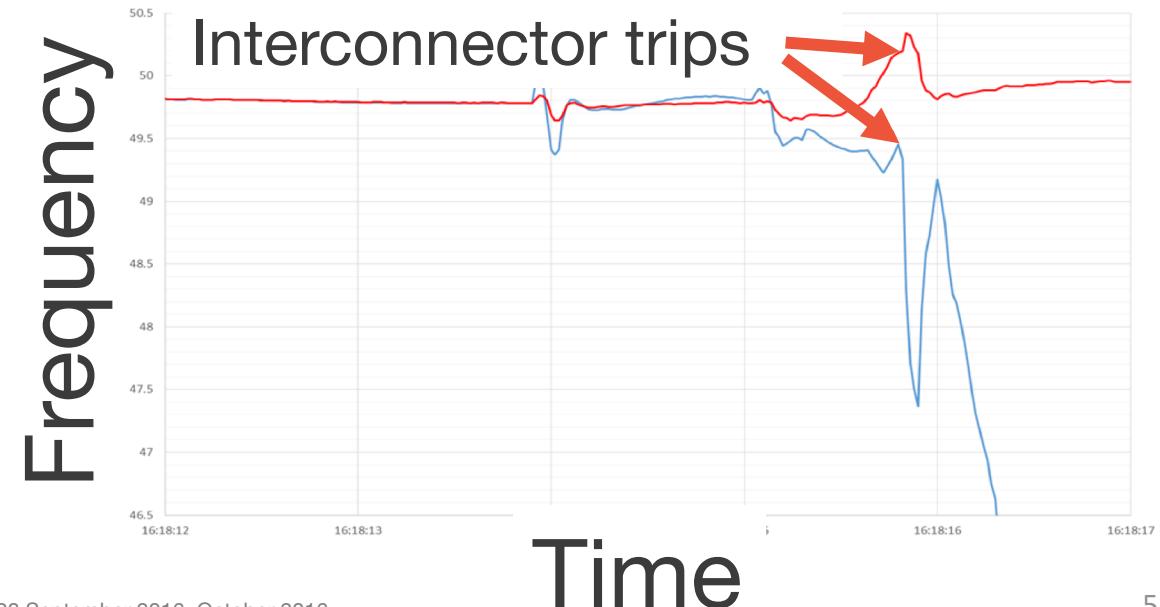


CNN Alison Daye. [Accessed](#) 3-6-19



Motivating Example

AEMO. Preliminary Report – Black System Event in South Australia on 28 September 2016. October 2016.



# Inertia – Why does it matter?

## Minister Josh Frydenberg, senator Nick Xenophon question renewables in wake of South Australia blackout

By Latika Bourke, Michael Koziol

Updated September 29, 2016 – 8.29am, first published September 28, 2016 – 11.31pm

The Sydney Morning Herald

## Malcolm Turnbull criticises state governments for 'unrealistic' emissions targets over energy security

By political reporter [Stephanie Anderson](#)

Updated 28 Sep 2016, 10:45pm

## Blackout report leaves renewables debate dangling in the breeze



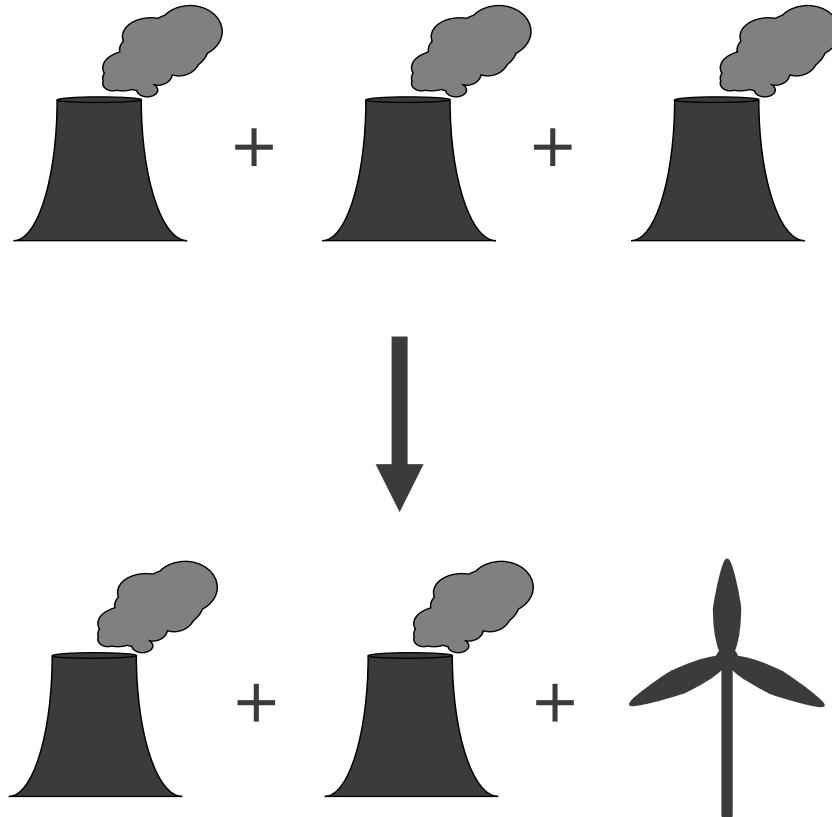
David Washington

 @davidwashingto2



Bension Siebert

# Aspects of Inertia – How much?

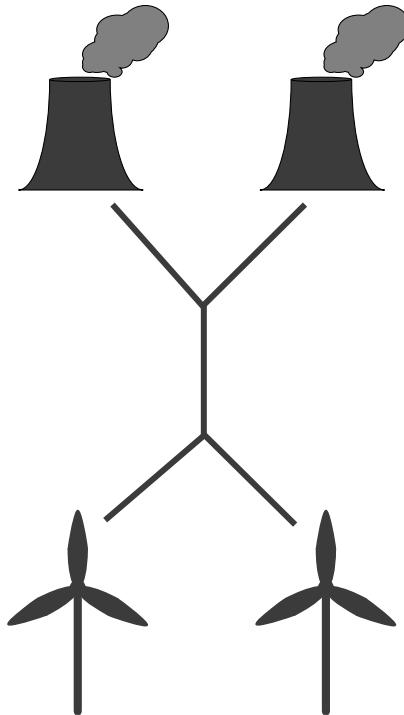


- Study of **total system inertia** started in 2014<sup>1</sup>
- Regulations are based on the largest single worst-case failure<sup>2</sup>
- That is only one of *many* possible failures
- What about other failures?

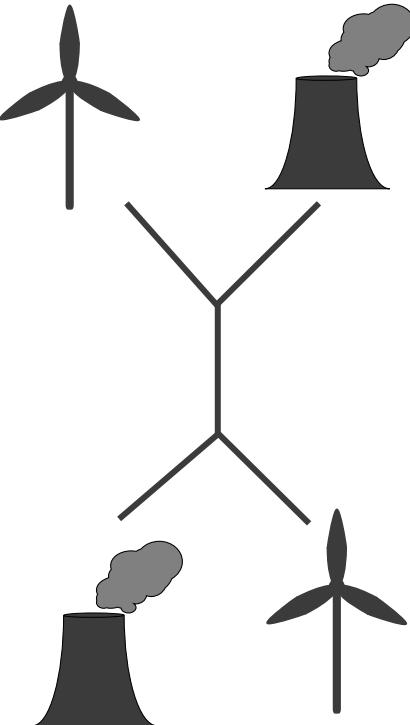
1. A. Ulbig, T. S. Borsche, and G. Andersson. Impact of low rotational inertia on power system stability and operation. IFAC Proceedings, 2014.  
2. N. W. Miller et al. Western wind and solar integration study phase 3 frequency response and transient stability. Technical report, 2014.

# Aspects of Inertia – Where is it?

## Structural Distribution

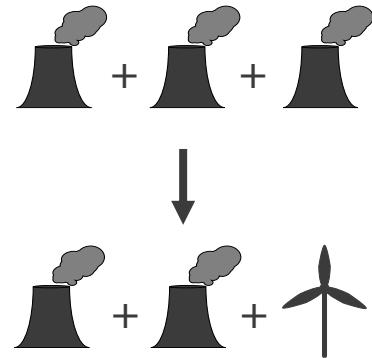


vs.



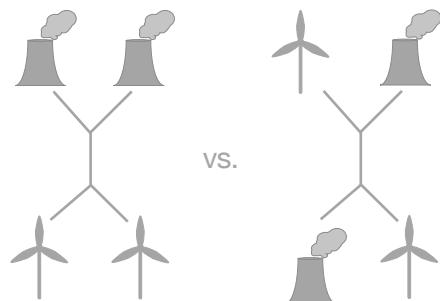
- Total system inertia is an aggregation...
- The **structural distribution** also plays a role
- Does it matter *where* on the network large inertia generation is located?

# Aspects of Inertia – This Talk



Total System Inertia:

- What is the behavior of *all* failures as total inertia decreases?

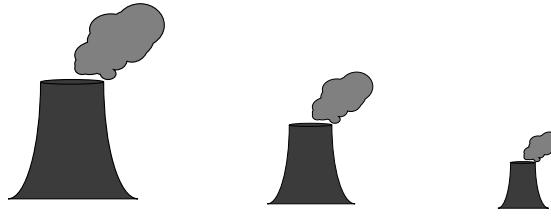


Structural Distribution of Inertia:

- Does it matter *where* on the network large inertia generation is located?

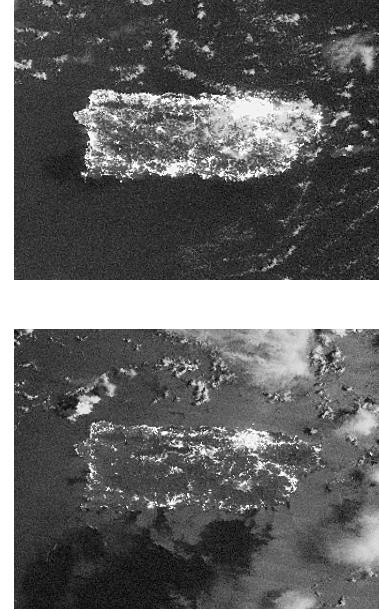
# Exploration of Total System Inertia

## Set Total System Inertia



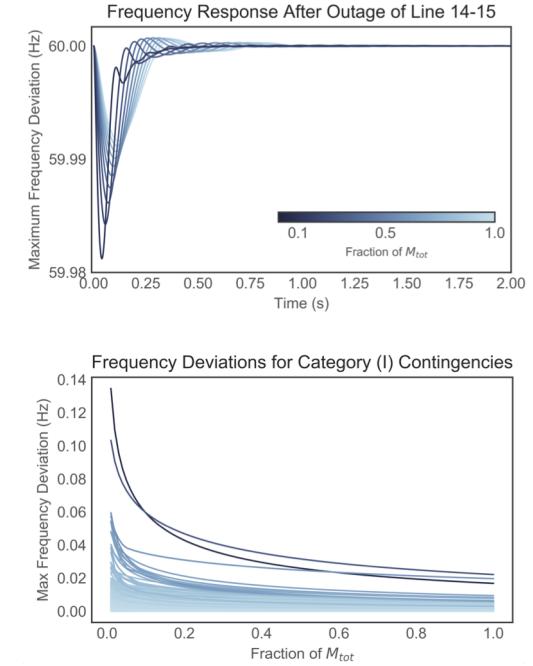
$$M_{tot} = \sum_{g=1}^{n_g} M_g$$

## Simulate Failures

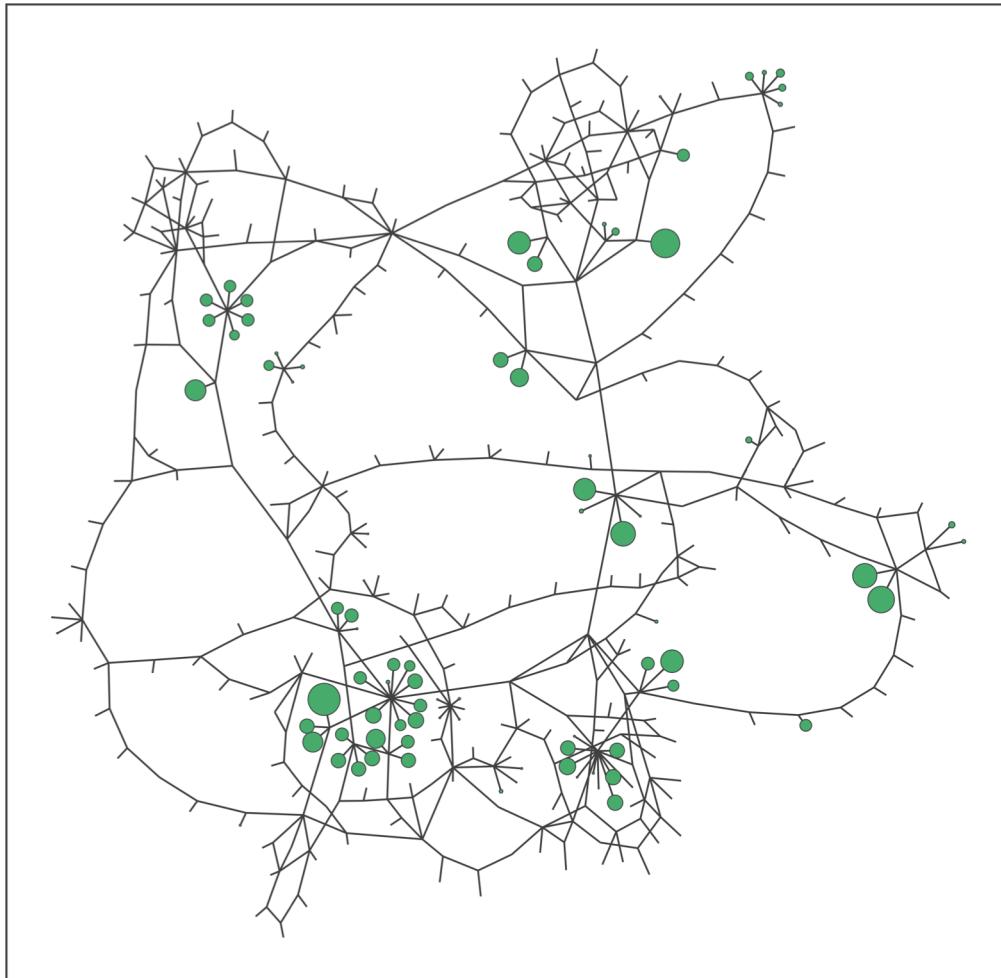


NASA [Suomi NPP](#) 2016.

## Analyze Stability



# Power System Test Case



Nodes → 500

- Generators → 90
- Loads → 200
- Intermediaries → 300

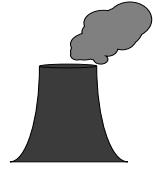
Edges → 597

- Lines

$M_{tot}$  → 139.13 MWs

1. T. Xu, A. B. Bircheld, K. S Shetye, and T. J Overbye. Creation of synthetic electric grid models for transient stability studies. In IREP Symposium Bulk Power System Dynamics and Control, 2017.
2. T. Xu, A. B. Bircheld, and T. J. Overbye. Modeling, tuning, and validating system dynamics in synthetic electric grids. IEEE Transactions on Power Systems, 2018.
3. A. B. Bircheld, Ti Xu, K. M. Gegner, K. S. Shetye, and T. J. Overbye. Grid structural characteristics as validation criteria for synthetic networks. IEEE Transactions on Power Systems, 2017.

# Cascading Failure Model



$$\dot{\omega}_g = -\frac{D_g}{M_g} \omega_g - \frac{1}{M_g} (P_g + \sum_{\forall i \notin G} B_{gi} \sin(\delta_g - \delta_i))$$

$$\dot{\delta}_g = \omega_g - \omega_1$$



$$\dot{\delta}_{RG} = -\frac{1}{D_{RG}} (P_{RG} + \sum_{\forall i \notin G} B_{RGi} \sin(\delta_{RG} - \delta_i)) - \omega_1$$

Nodes that  
aren't gens

$$\dot{\delta}_i = -\frac{1}{D_i} (P_i + \sum_{j=1}^{n_b} B_{ij} \eta_{ij} \sin(\delta_i - \delta_j)) - \omega_1$$

Line status

$$\dot{\eta}_{ij} = 10(f(\eta_{ij}) - \frac{B_{ij}(1-\cos(\delta_i - \delta_j))}{W_{ij}})$$

Line energy

Maximum line energy

$i, j$  Nodes

$\delta$  Voltage Angle

$\omega_1$  Reference Frequency

$\eta_{i,j}$  Line Status

$P_i$  Power consumption/generation  
at node  $i$

$D_i$  Damping Constant

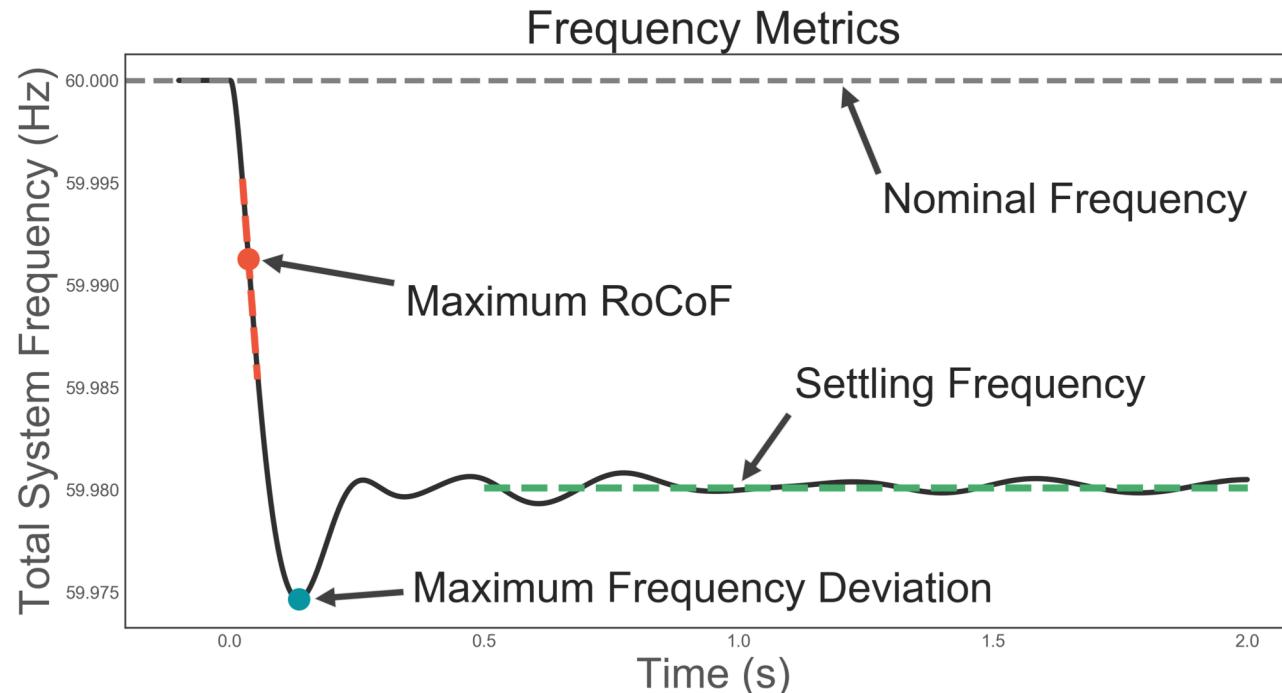
$M_g$  Inertia Constant

# Cascading Failure Model – tl;dr

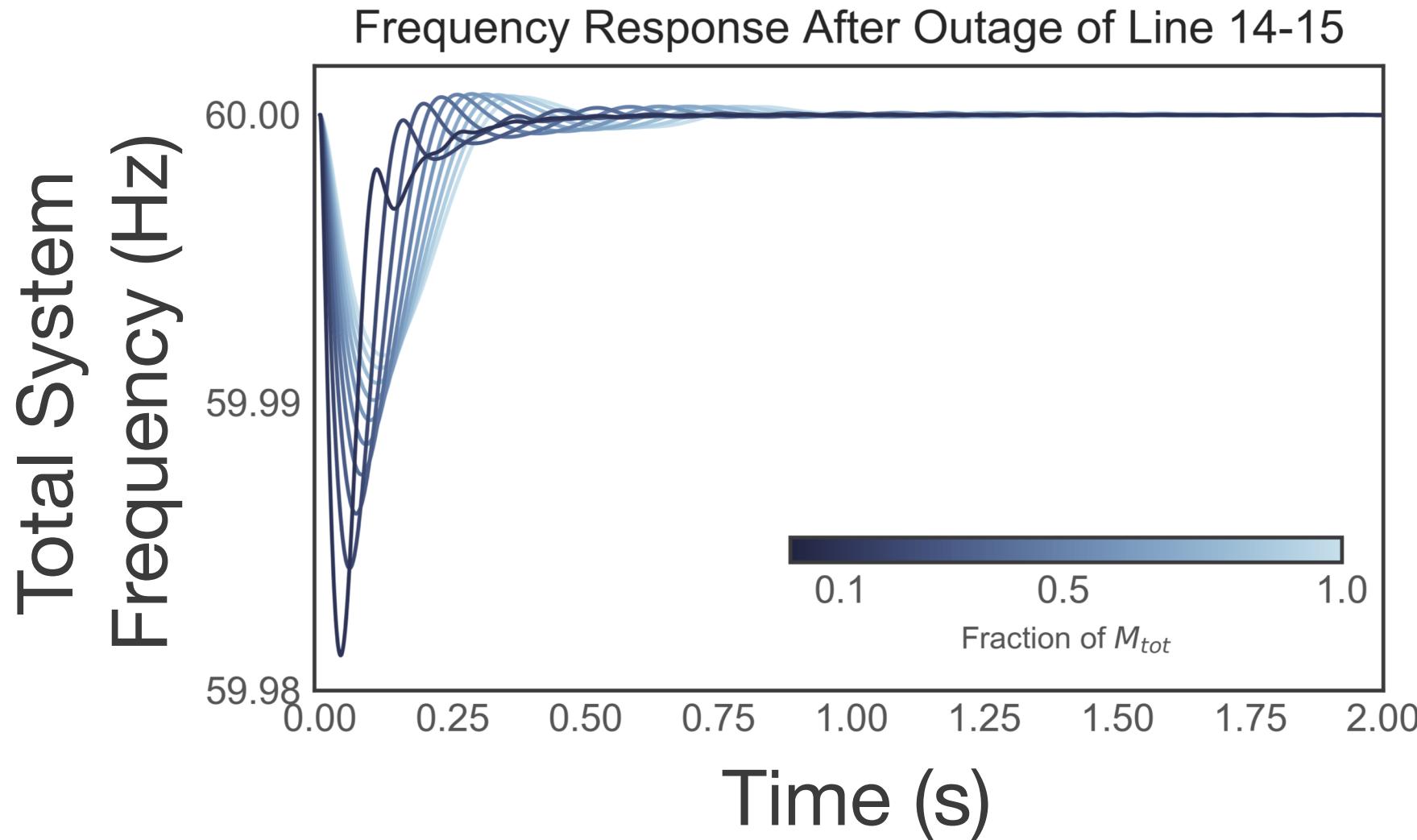
- State variables:
  - Generator angles 
  - Generator frequencies 
  - Bus angles
  - Status of lines (on or off)
- Relevant Parameters:
  - Induced line failures
  - $M_{tot}$

# Terminology

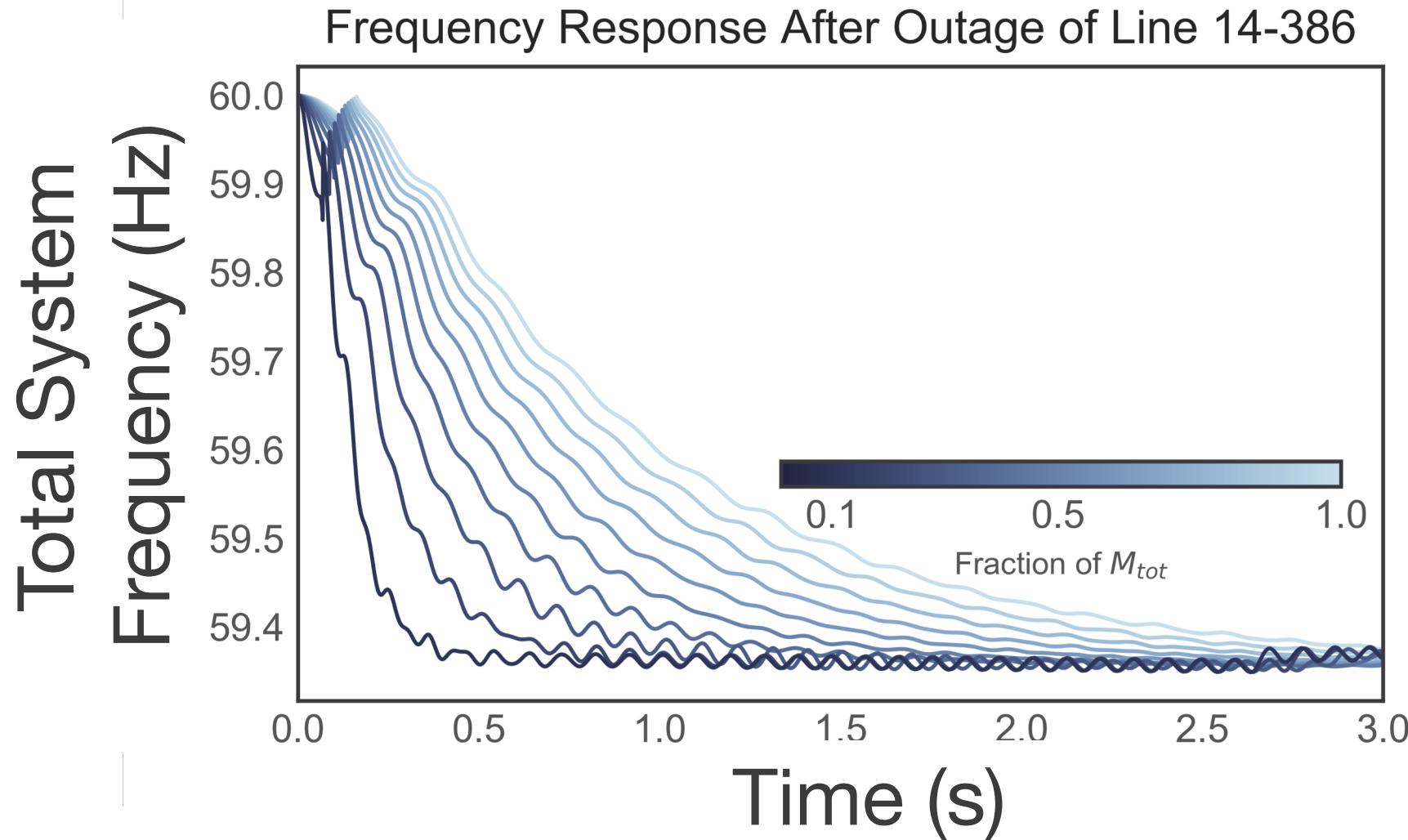
- Contingency = failure of a component (lines, here)
- Metrics defined on **total system frequency** ( $f = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^{n_g} M_g \omega_g}{2\pi \sum_{g=1}^{n_g} M_g}$ )
  - (a proxy for the difference between power consumption and generation)

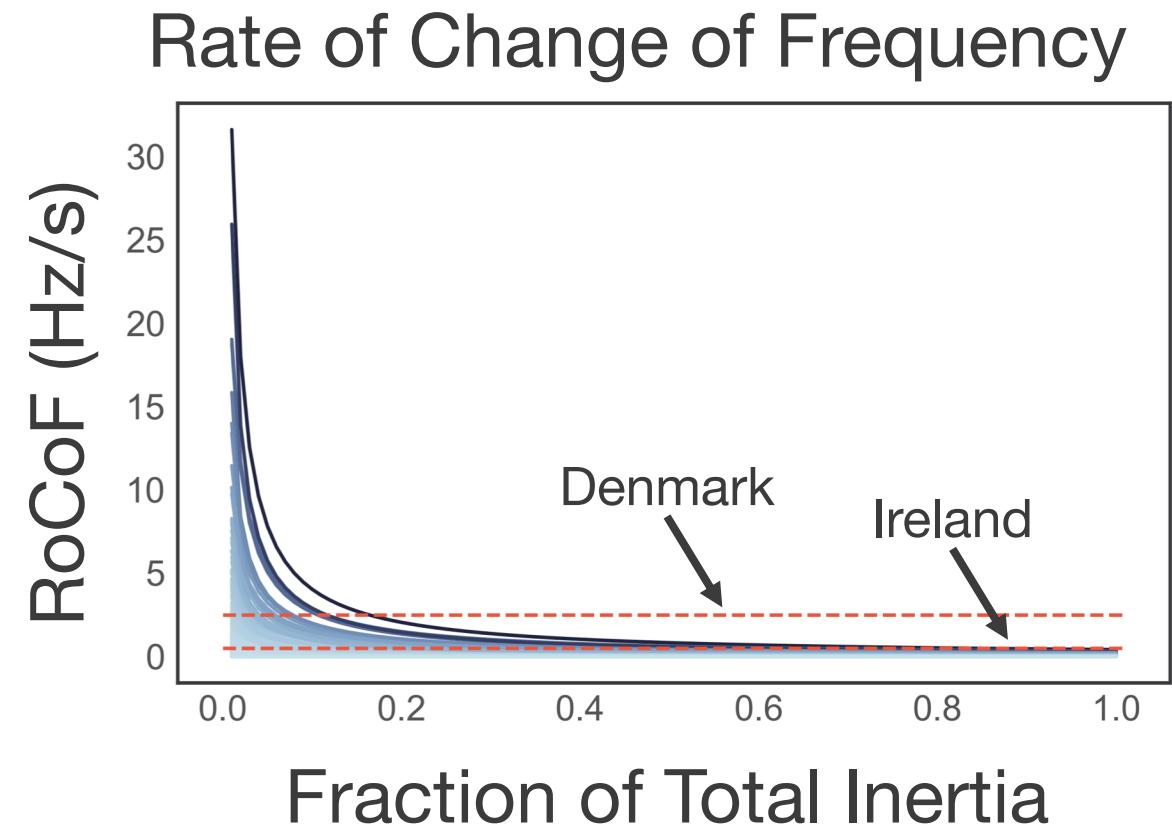
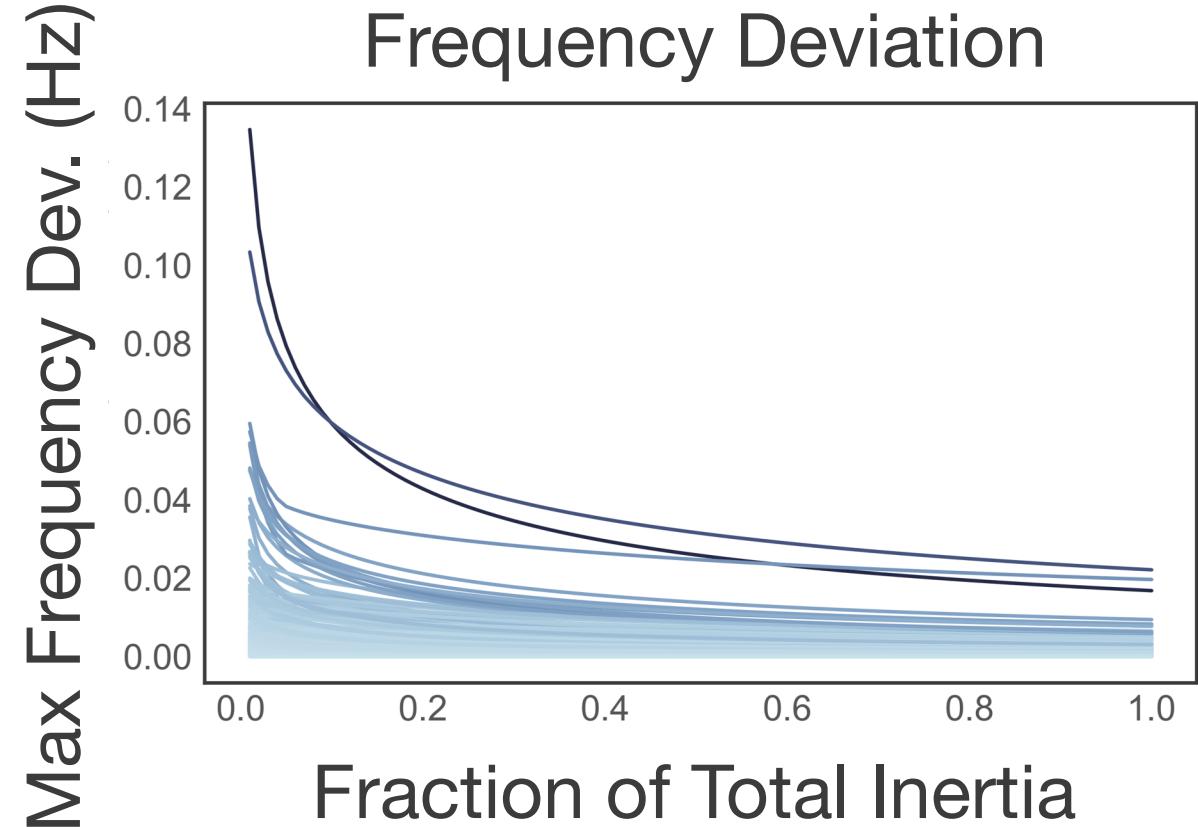


# Small Perturbation

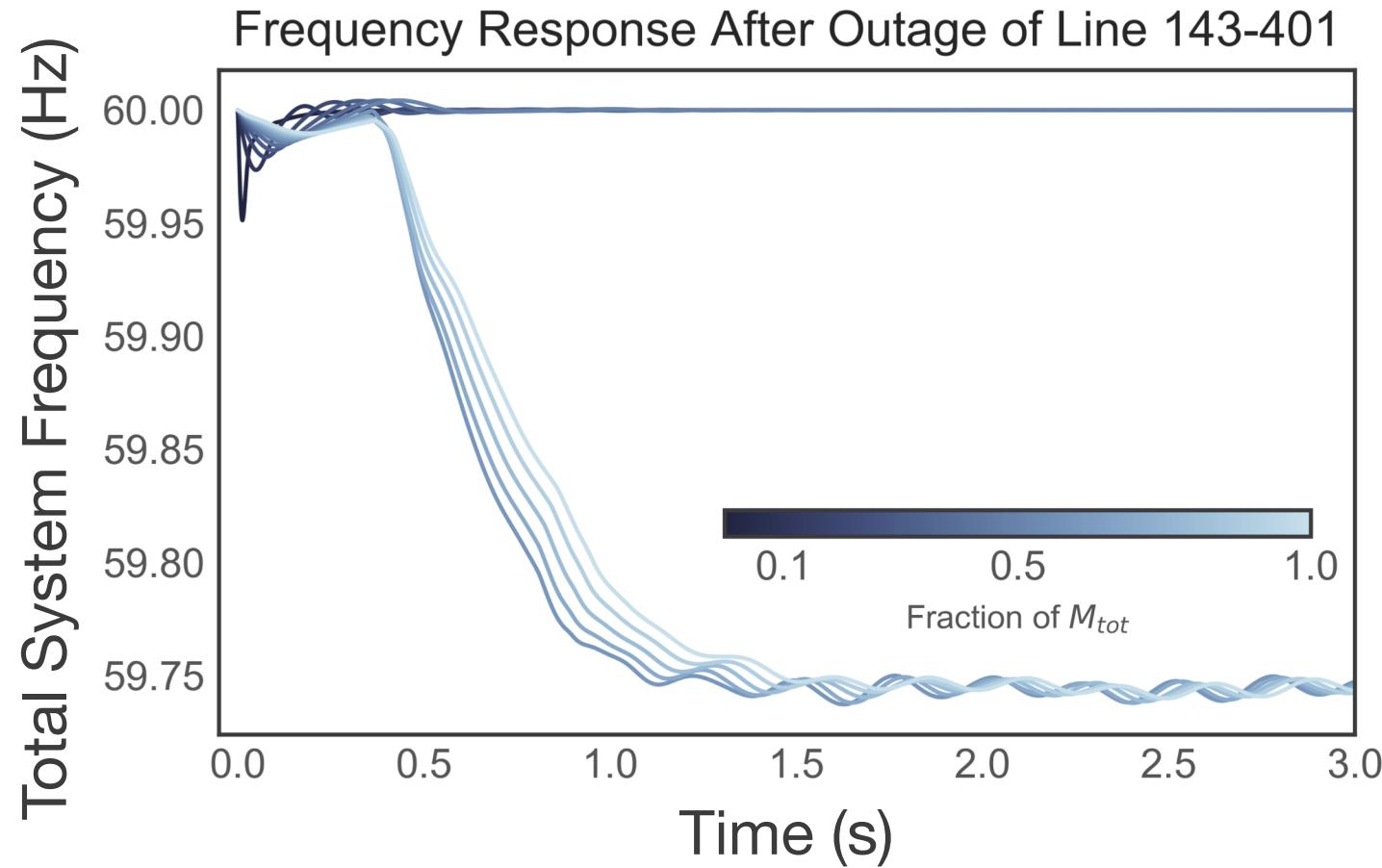


# Large Perturbation



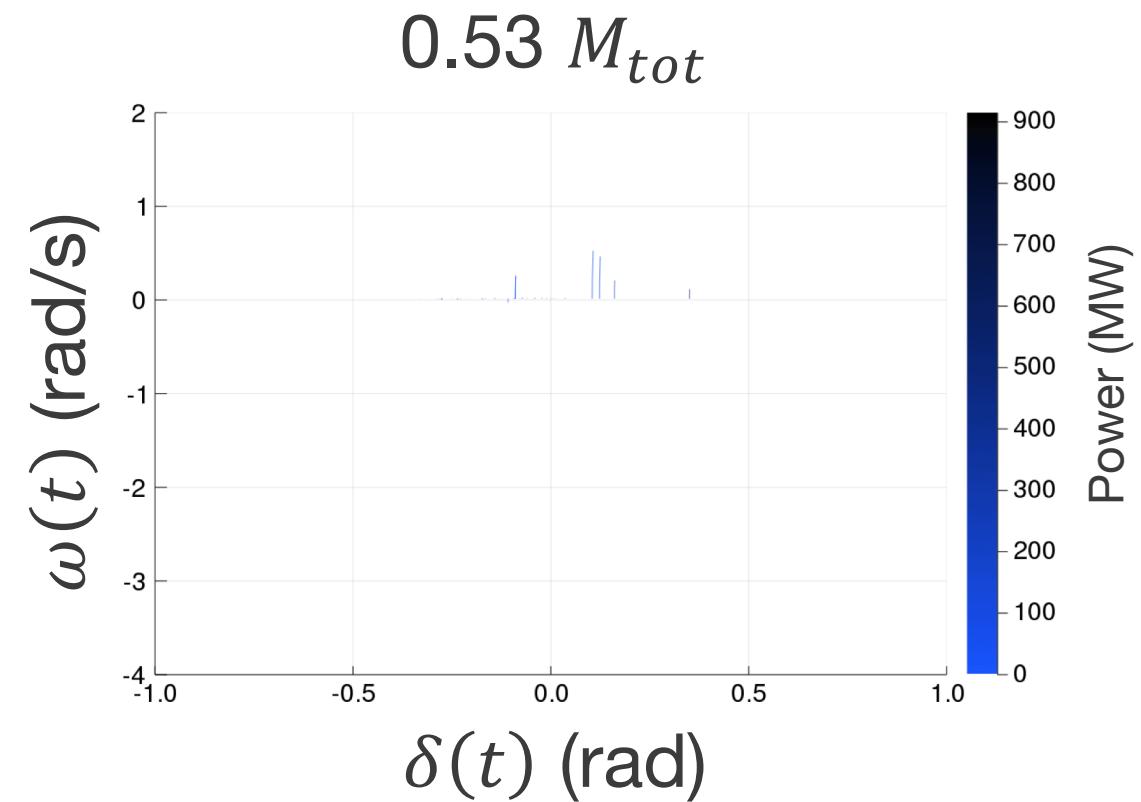
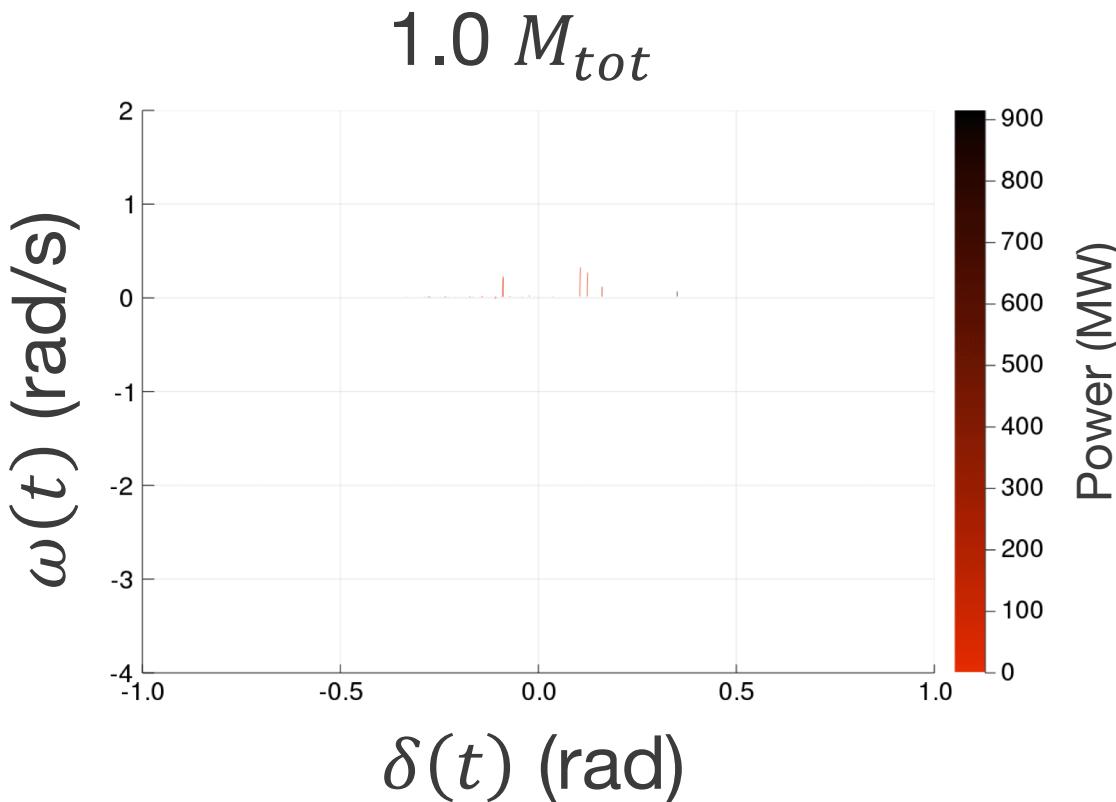


# Bifurcation?



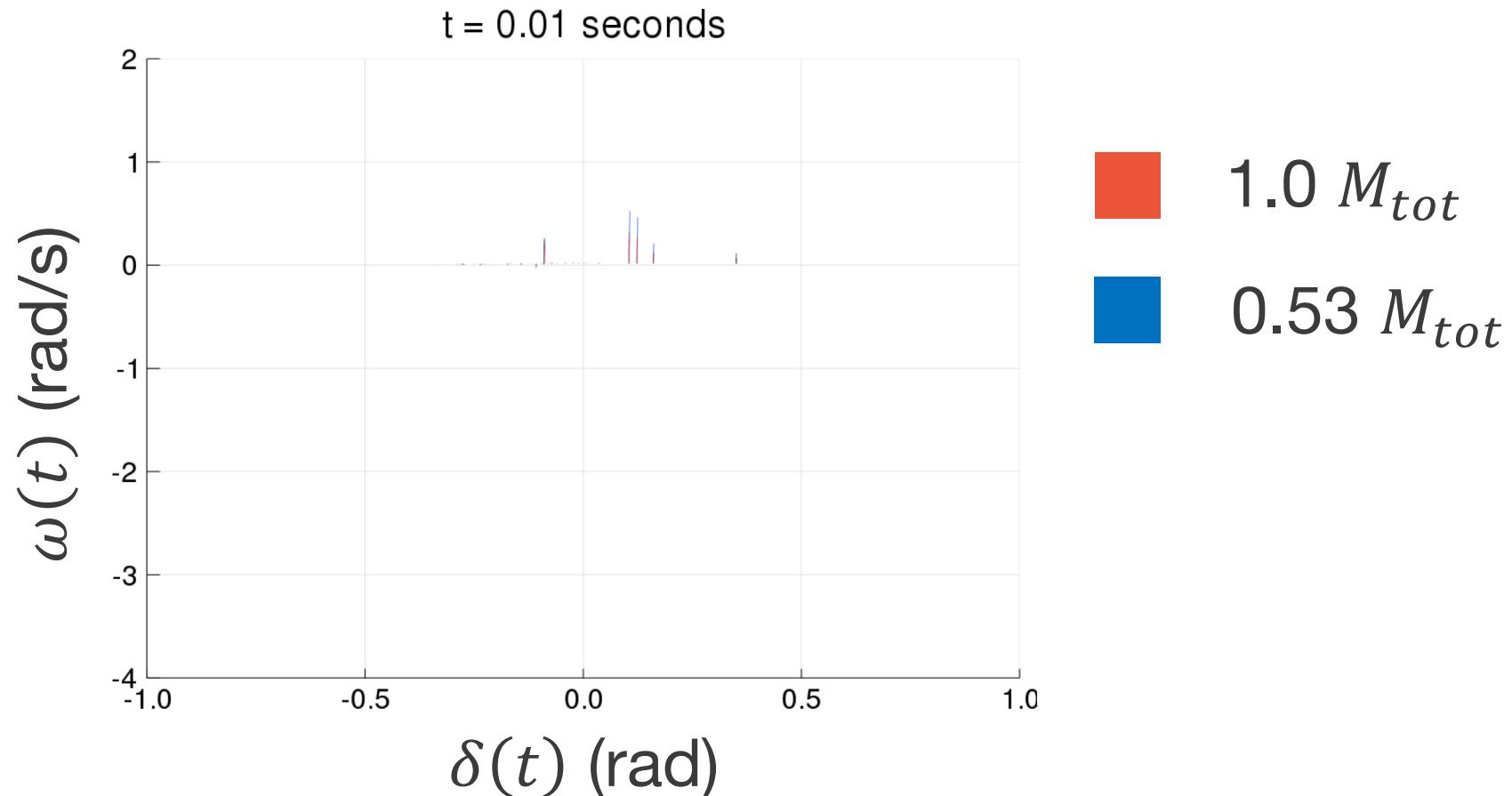
- $\Delta M_{tot} \rightarrow$  Hopf bifurcation (?)

# Bifurcation - Generator Dynamics



- Changing  $M_{tot}$  changes whether a cascade occurs

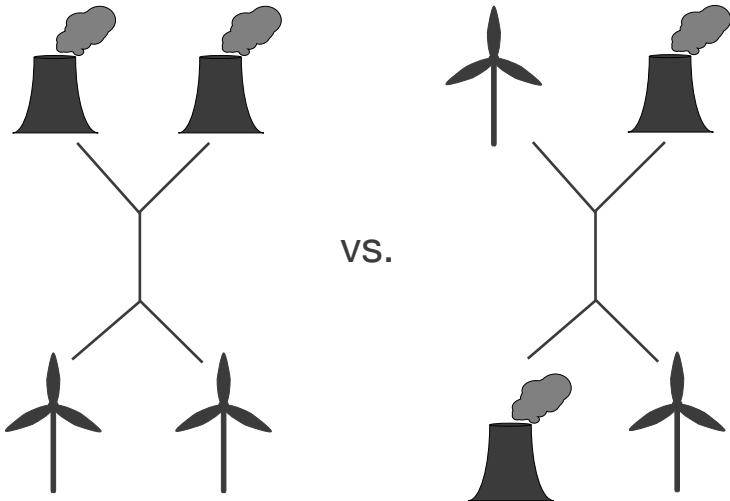
# Bifurcation - Generator Dynamics



- Changing  $M_{tot}$  changes whether a cascade occurs
- Timing of power flow?

# Future Work

- Why does lowering total system inertia cause bifurcations?
  - How long does it take a generator to send 1 MW of power to a specific line?

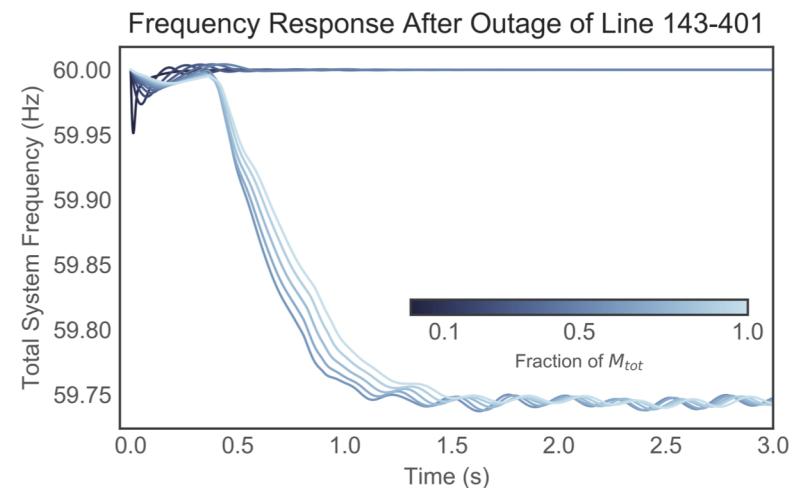
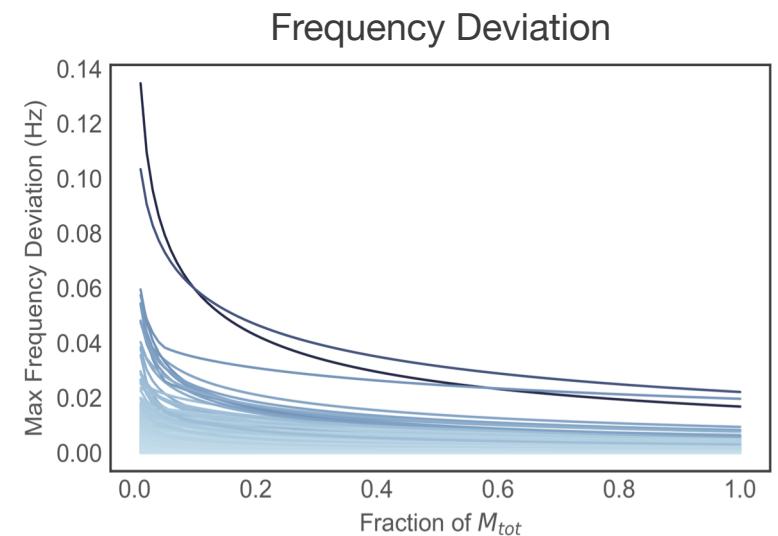
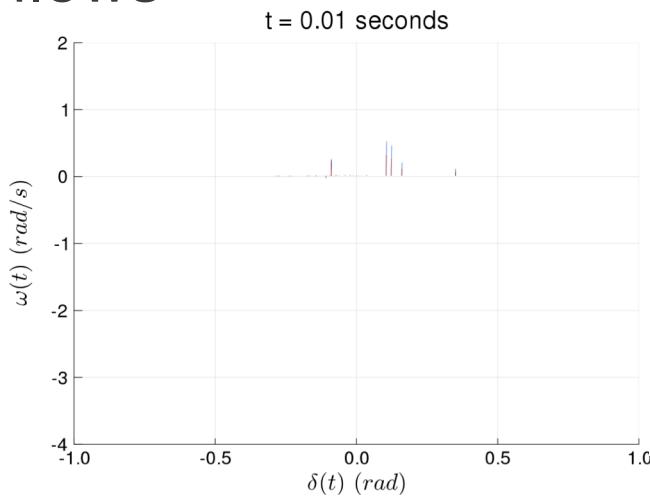


## Structural Distribution of Inertia

- Does it matter *where* on the network large inertia generation is located?
  - *When* does it matter?

# Conclusions

- Important to consider *multiple* contingencies as total system inertia decreases
- The *location* of the contingencies matter
  - Closer to generator = bigger frequency deviations
- Total system inertia can cause bifurcations
  - Possibly due to timing of flows





Questions?



# ...Network structure?

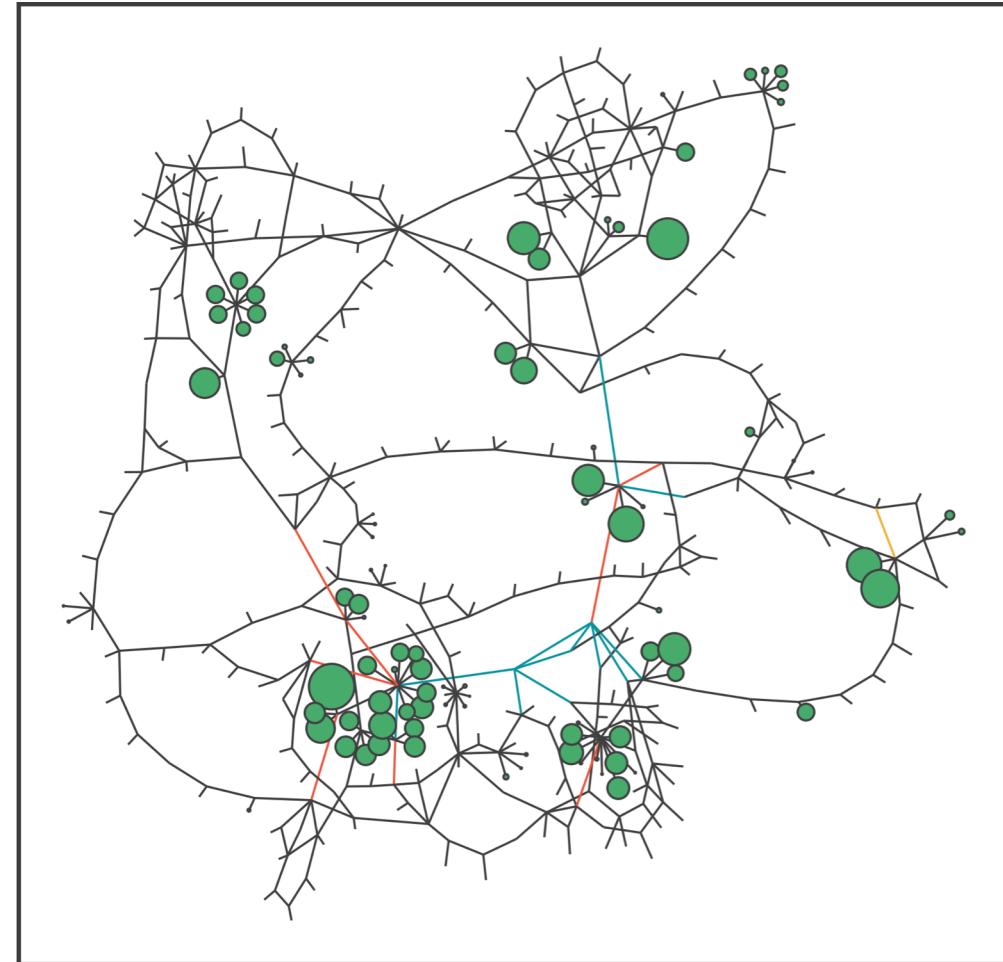
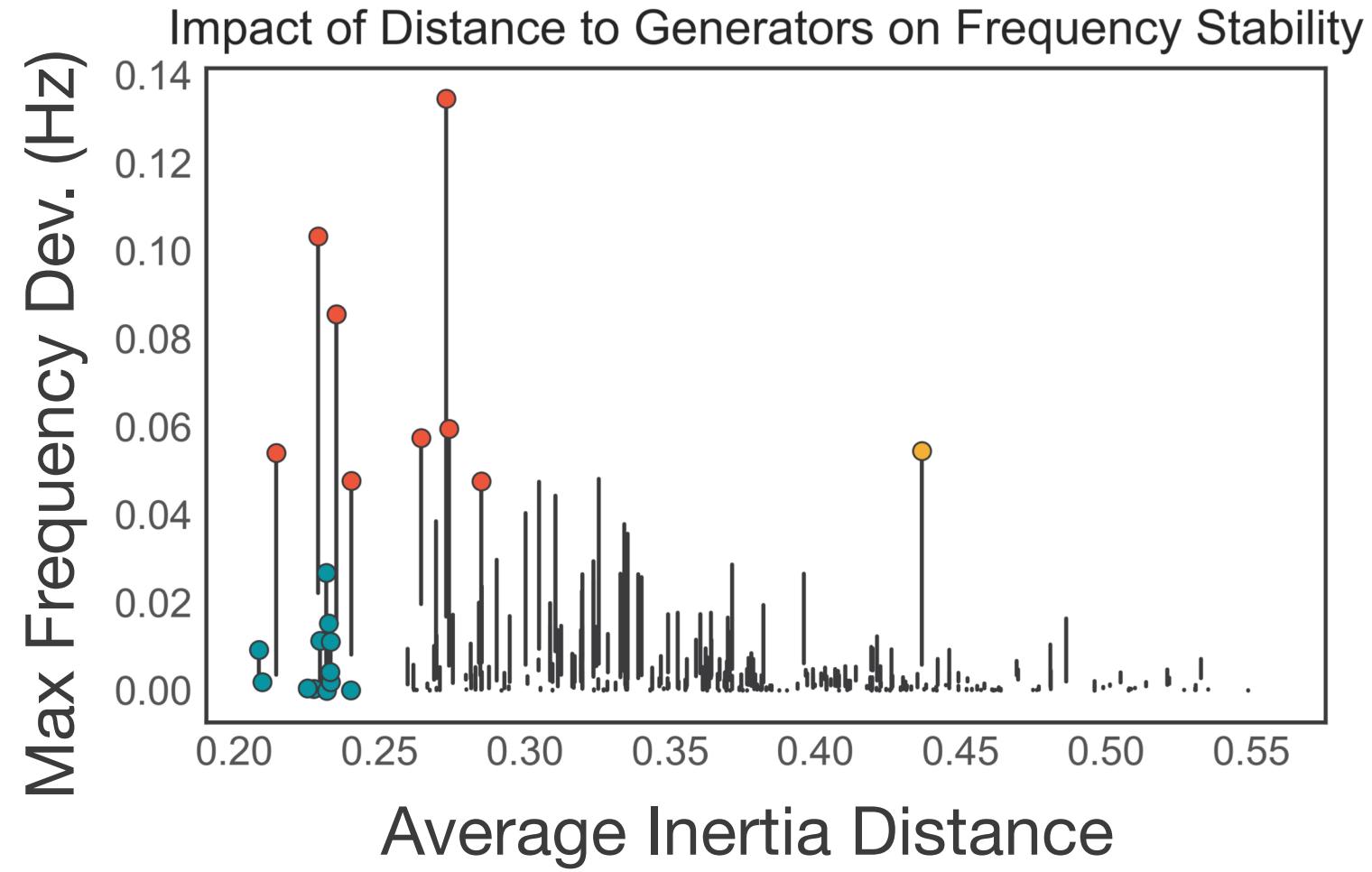
Average Inertia Distance

$$p(\ell_{i,j}) = \frac{1}{M_{tot}} \sum_{g=1}^{n_g} M_g \frac{d(\ell_{i,j}, g)}{\text{diam}(G)}$$

Shortest distance  
to generator

Diameter of  
Network

# Average Inertia Distance



# Wait...a wind generator spins!

- 4 Types of wind turbines
  - Types 1 and 2 are *fixed speed*
    - Turbines always spin at same speed, but might not produce optimal amount of power given a particular wind speed
  - Types 3 and 4 are *variable speed*
    - Turbine speed changes based on wind speed to produce maximum amount of power
    - Have to be connected to a power inverter



Image credit: Dennis Schroeder / NREL. Inspecting Turbine Blade at NWTC. August 9, 2013

# Other Results

