

# Federated Synchrophasor Data Prediction, Aggregation and Inference Using Deep Learning: A Case of Proactive Control for Short-Term Stability

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**Abstract**—A novel asynchronous federated architecture is proposed in this work for data prediction, aggregation, and inference with a use case for fast short-term instability mitigation in transmission systems. Existing machine learning (ML) prediction approaches rely on centralized-schemes that accumulate measurements from distributed regions at a central computing node. This centralized-schemes increase *computational overhead* leading to prediction delay. Federated-learning collaboratively learns a global model without centralized data processing. Nevertheless, its performance degrades when data becomes *non-independent and identically-distributed* due to the changes in grid dynamics, leading to expensive model re-training. This research proposes a *federated-inference architecture* that can exploit data dependency in different regions to effectively exchange model parameters among high-quality local models and improve local predictive results, hence avoiding the need for global model and re-training effort. The architecture includes several major modules: a) federated deep ML models using gated-recurrent unit for local synchrophasor data prediction in each region, b) computationally-efficient data anomaly detection and mitigation using statistical and unsupervised autoencoders, c) a federated inference algorithm that aggregates model weights and outputs from top- $k$  correlated neighbors to improve local performance, upon system dynamics change, d) instability prediction and e) a case analysis for its application in proactive short-term stability control. The efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed approach is validated on modified IEEE test systems with multiple test event scenarios with varying factors, including number of PMUs, error tolerances, and length of input and prediction windows.

**Index Terms**—federated inference, machine learning, short-term stability, synchrophasor data, unsupervised learning

## I. INTRODUCTION

DIGITAL-automation, availability of synchrophasor data and advancement in machine learning (ML) enables real-time predictive analysis and proactive control to realize secure and resilient power grid. Among the critical applications is the proactive control to avoid short-term instability over a time frame of few seconds following a major disturbance [1], [2] such as fault or generator disconnection [3]. An unstable system results in large rotor angle oscillations, which if not mitigated promptly, may evolve into cascading failures.

While fast predictive analysis is important for proactive control, it is typically performed using (a) time domain simulations (TDS), which solves a non-linear differential algebraic equation system [4], or (b) ML-based predictive models [5], [6], [7], [8], [9], [10], [11], [12], [13] that learn from high resolution real-time phasor measurement unit (PMU) data. While TDS-based approaches often incur heavy computational

overhead, ML models enable real-time prediction with prior training. A variety of ML models have been adopted for stability prediction, including support vector machine [6], autoencoders [5], artificial neural networks [7], graph neural networks [8], [9], convolutional neural network (CNN) [10], [11], hierarchical CNN [12] and long-short term memory networks (LSTM) [13].

While capable of accurate prediction of instability onset, these ML methods do not account for distributed nature of PMU data stored at different regional local servers [14]. Such regions are naturally formed based on their geographical proximity. Existing research often follows a centralized approach, where (geographically) distributed PMU data gets transmitted from the local servers to a centralized computing node to train a global predictive model. Nevertheless, it is often computationally expensive. Sending terabytes of PMU data to a central site from distributed regions incur significant transfer overhead, storage overload and packet drop [15], leading to delays in real-time short-term stability predictions.

Federated Learning (FL) is a recent formalism that does not require data sharing [16]. FL is a decentralized learning scheme where multiple sites collaboratively train a global model by locally updating shared model parameters that are synchronized at the central node, thereby reducing large data exchange. Nevertheless, FL often assumes that the data is independently and identically distributed (i.i.d), an assumption that may not hold with non-i.i.d PMU data from geographically dispersed regions having different data distribution due to different power grid operational characteristics [17], [18]. Changes in data distribution of particular regions often degrade the performance of the global model in prediction, reducing the overall accuracy [19]. This requires models to be re-trained (either locally or globally), which becomes time-prohibitive for rapid short-term applications such as instability prediction.

*Can we do better and avoid expensive model retraining, especially over PMU data managed at distributed sites, when data sharing is expensive if not impossible?* In this work, we develop a novel asynchronous *federated inference* (FI) architecture for data prediction. The fast output of the FI algorithm can be fed into any downstream prediction task in power system applications, such as proactive short-term stability mitigation. We summarize the contributions below.

- 1) Development of a federated prediction, aggregation and inference algorithm utilizing multiple computing agents

in local regions. Each agent independently monitors the quality of the results of pre-trained local models by only accessing locally observed PMU data; and calls a FI algorithm that dynamically determines a set of highly correlated local models from “neighboring” regions using top- $k$  correlated neighboring models (top- $k$ CN), and update local predicted results by aggregating their weighted output depending on spatiotemporal correlation. This *strikes a balance* between predictive quality and the maintenance cost of predictive models.

- 2) Development of an *asynchronous federated inference* minimizing unnecessary data exchange and training by (a) posing a guard condition to trigger data exchange only when necessary (b) only exchanging light-weighted messages that encode model weights and outputs, (c) performing at most two rounds of communication, all in parallel, in an asynchronous manner. We also detect data anomalies and mitigate using statistical approach, Chebyshev inequality and unsupervised autoencoder not requiring labeled data before utilizing for prediction. We remark that our approach, unlike federated learning, is *not* to learn a global model or retrain local models from scratch, but aims to perform light-weighted fine-tuning of local models by exchanging small amount of correlated high-quality counterparts from nearby regions.
- 3) Introduction of a proactive short-term stability control to reduce the unnecessary need of remedial action schemes by taking proactive action based on the data-driven short-term stability prediction from the FI architecture. This is superior to existing solutions to address short-term instability problem such as: a) out-of-step protection triggering generator disconnection [20] and b) advanced event-based remedial action schemes (RAS) for generation rejection or load shedding without consideration of system-level impact [7], [21]. Our proposed idea of FI-based proactive short-term stability control is illustrated in Fig. 1. To the best of our knowledge, *this is the first effort that introduces federated inference-based proactive control action for fast prediction and short-term instability mitigation*.
- 4) Evaluation of the FI architecture experimentally on IEEE test system under diverse unstable event scenarios. The advantages of the FI-based proactive stability control approach is demonstrated over centralized and federated learning, where FI achieves an average of 30% improvement in accuracy.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section II formulates the problem statement. Section III discusses the federated inference architecture. Section IV presents the results and discussions, and Section V presents the conclusion.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

We start with the following set up. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a power system network of  $N$  (geographical) regions  $\mathcal{G} = \{G_1, \dots, G_N\}$ . Each region  $G_i$  is a graph (network) with a set of nodes (buses) and edges (connected buses), and a corresponding agent  $A_i$  for coordinating data and local models with other agents. Moreover, at time  $t$ , each  $G_i$  has the following components:

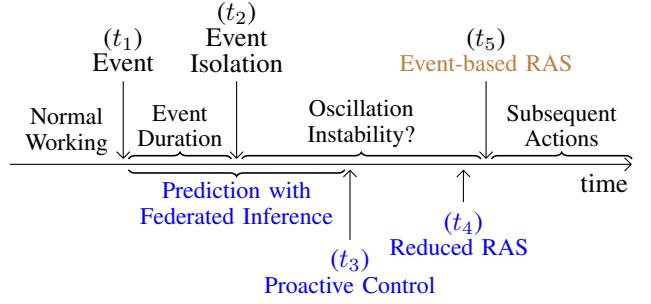


Fig. 1. Illustration of federated inference-based proactive short-term stability architecture. Let event onset and clearing be at  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  respectively. When instability is detected, pre-set event-based remedial action schemes trigger at  $t_5$  (orange). With federated inference based early instability prediction, proactive actions are taken at  $t_3 < t_5$  (blue), and reduced corrective actions, if needed, at  $t_4$  (blue) to eliminate any unstable oscillations.

- Local data: *local PMU measurement data*  $X_i^t$ , and
- Local models: a pair of *local models*  $M_i^t = (M_{bi}^t, M_{pi}^t)$ .

We remark that our study does not pose assumptions on how the regions are constructed. In practice, the regions can be determined by criterias from network structures, administrative areas, or functional zones.

**Local data.** The local dataset  $X_i^t = \{x_{t-\omega}, \dots, x_t\}$  ( $t \geq \omega$ ) is a sequence of observed PMU measurements (packets) at time  $t$  in region  $G_i$ , induced by a sliding window of size  $\omega$ . Each  $x_j$  ( $j \in [t-\omega, t]$ ) is a vector of PMU data packets, where each packet is a vector of readings from a distinct PMU, encoding (featurized)  $3 - \phi$  voltage, current magnitudes and angles.

**Local model.** Agent  $A_i$  for region  $G_i$  ( $i \in [1, N]$ ) manages a pair of pre-trained local models  $M_i^t = (M_{bi}^t, M_{pi}^t)$  at time  $t$ . (a) The model  $M_{bi}^t$  refers to a *bad data detector*. It is a binary classifier that detects, for each entry  $x_j^t \in X_i^t$ , a boolean flag ('0' means ‘normal’, and ‘1’ indicates a ‘bad data’). (b) The model  $M_{pi}^t$  is a *predictive model* that takes as input a sequence of historical data  $D_i^t$  at time  $t$  and predicts a sequence of future measurements  $\hat{D}_i^t$  at region  $G_i$ . When the context is clear that  $t$  refers to a “current” time, we simply denote  $D_i^t$  (resp.  $\hat{D}_i^t$ ) as  $D_i$  (resp.  $\hat{D}_i$ ) and  $M_{bi}^t$  (resp.  $M_{pi}^t$ ) as  $M_{bi}$  (resp.  $M_{pi}$ ).

As will be discussed, our architecture adopts a pipeline that couples local “bad data imputation” (with  $M_{bi}$ ) and “stability prediction” (with  $M_{pi}$ ) at each region  $G_i$  over currently observed data  $D_i$  (see Fig. 2). To “cold-start” and maintain FI-based stability control that tolerate low-quality or non i.i.d PMU input, we also use the following notation.

**Neighbors.** We say a local model  $M_i$  (resp. Agent  $A_i$ ) is a neighbor of another  $M_j$  (resp.  $A_j$ ) if there is an edge between two nodes, one in region  $G_i$ , and the other in region  $G_j$ . Our architecture explores neighboring models via message passing among corresponding neighboring agents to “propagate” high-quality predicted results. Each agent  $A_i$  maintains a set of all its neighbors, denoted as  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$ .

**Federated PMU Data Inference Problem.** Given a power system network  $\mathcal{G} = \{G_1, \dots, G_N\}$  with  $N$  agents, our goal is to develop a *federated inference architecture* that predicts short-term instability, such that (a) it only consults the local models  $M_i$  at each region  $G_i$ , (b) upon changed distribution

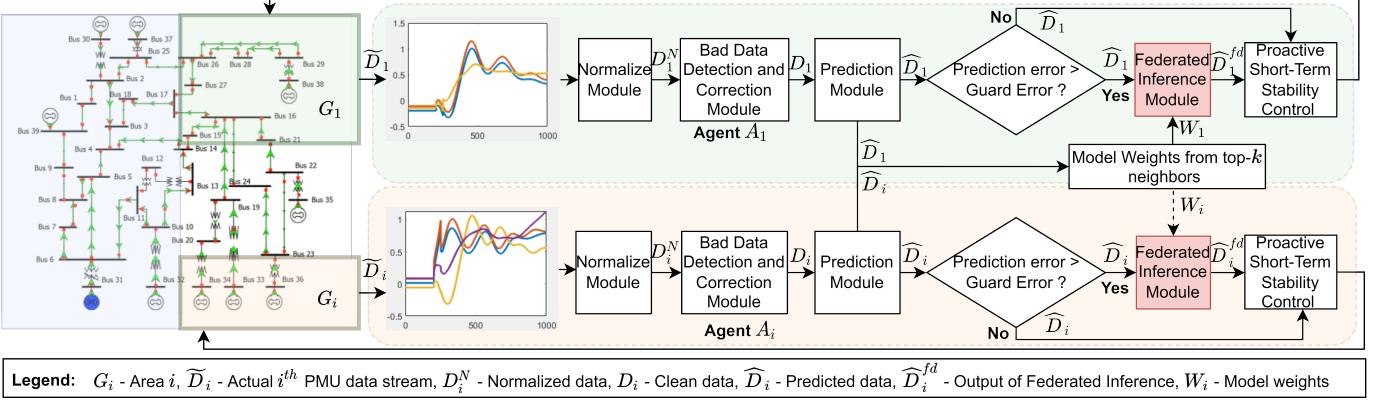


Fig. 2. Proposed federated inference architecture - for each area  $G_i$ , agent  $A_i$  analyzes PMU measurement data over window  $\tilde{D}_i$ . Data is first normalized, and bad data are imputed. The imputed data  $D_i$  is fed to the prediction module. When performance of prediction module degrades due to changes in PMU data distribution, the federated inference module is triggered, which aggregates model weights from top- $k$  highly correlated neighbors to improve predictions. The output of the federated inference module now serves as an input for proactive short-term stability control actions against unstable oscillations.

of  $X_i^t$ , it only performs the necessary data exchange among neighboring agents to refine the local predicted results  $\hat{D}_i$ , *without* retraining  $M_i$  from scratch. With the early oscillation instability detection FI architecture, we then implement proactive short-term stability controls to stabilize the grid.

### III. FEDERATED INFERENCE ARCHITECTURE

We start with an overview of the proposed federated inference architecture (see Fig. 2), followed by module details.

#### A. Framework Overview

**Bad Data Correction Module:** Bad data in PMU occurs due to various reasons [22] e.g., harmonic interference, incorrect calibration of instrument transformers and gross errors. This module (discussed in Section III-B) detects and refines bad data in the input PMU measurements  $X_i$ . Bad data, usually detected as data anomalies, are labeled by the classifier  $M_{bi}$ , and imputed with built-in imputation method (using e.g., median of the data points [23]). This generates corrected inputs  $D_i$  to be fed to the prediction module.

**Prediction:** Given observed (imputed) input  $D_i$  (of length  $\omega$ ), the prediction module (Section III-C) uses a predictive model  $M_{pi}$  to forecast the expected measurements  $\hat{D}_i$  in the next  $s$  timestamps ahead (where  $s$  is a configurable hyperparameter of  $M_{pi}$ ). Predicting future measurement helps capture critical indicators (“events”), which in turn help early suggestion for taking suitable actions to mitigate unstable oscillations.

**Federated Inference:** Power events such as faults in region  $G_i$  introduce dynamics that change the distribution of the PMU measurements. As a result of non-i.i.d PMU data, the performance of the local prediction model  $M_{pi}$  may degrade. In such scenarios, it becomes imperative to retrain the ML model, which becomes computationally expensive and time-consuming over streaming PMU data. This shortcoming is addressed by the FI module, discussed in Section III-D. As shown in Fig. 2, when the performance of  $M_{pi}$  degrades due to non-i.i.d PMU data and the prediction error exceeds guard

error  $\epsilon_i$ , the FI module is initiated by agent  $A_i$  for a region  $G_i$ . Inside the FI module, performance of prediction model  $M_{pi}$  is improved by aggregating model weights from top- $k$ CN of  $G_i$ . As shown in Fig. 2, when the prediction error of  $M_{pi}$  for region  $G_i$  is greater than guard error, then output  $\{D_i, \hat{D}_i\}$  from the prediction module serves as an input to the FI module. The output of FI module, denoted as  $\hat{D}_i^{fd}$ , represents the refined predictions using the local model  $M_{pi}$  and its neighbors. The dataset  $\hat{D}_i^{fd}$  serves as an input to the proactive short-term stability control module.

**Proactive Stability Control:** Availability of the high-resolution data prediction from the FI algorithm can enable multiple applications such as proactive control for mitigating impending power system instability. The proactive stability control module, discussed in Section III-E, enables rapid during-event actions that prevent system wide short-term instability power by accurate short-term prediction of PMU measurement data. When the FI-based prediction module forecasts that the system will continue to evolve towards instability in near future, proactive control actions such as generator reduction, reactive power injection and load rejection are triggered to arrest impending grid instability. The proactive actions are triggered prior to pre-set event-based RAS to reduce the magnitude of subsequent corrective actions.

#### B. Bad Data Detection and Correction Module

This module uses an autoencoder-based anomaly detection to capture bad data,  $M_{bi}$  and subsequently impute detected bad data to improve the quality of prediction. At any time  $t$ , the module (a) caches a sequence of historical (observed) PMU data  $\tilde{D}_i$  with a window with length  $\omega$  at each region  $G_i$ , and (b) normalizes  $\tilde{D}_i$  and scales it to have mean  $\mu = 0$  and standard deviation  $\sigma = 1$  with  $\frac{\tilde{D}_i - \mu}{\sigma}$  to ensure measurements with different range of values are standardized to a common scale. It “cold starts” an unsupervised training phase to obtain a pre-trained *autoencoder*  $M_{bi}$  (if  $M_{bi}$  does not exist yet), in a *training phase*. Otherwise, it enters a *detection phase* that applies  $M_{bi}$  to detect bad data in  $\tilde{D}_i$ .

**Training phase.** The training makes a practical assumption that a large fraction of the observed PMU data contains no bad data. The encoder compresses normal input  $D_i$  to a low dimension representation  $\Phi$  using an encoder function  $f$ ,

$$\Phi = f(D_i) = \sigma(W_f \times D_i + b_f) \quad (1)$$

where  $b_f$  is the bias vector,  $W_f$  is the weight matrix and  $\sigma(\cdot)$  is the sigmoid activation function. The decoder reconstructs the low dimension representation  $\Phi$  to an output  $D'_i$  using a decoder function  $g$ ,

$$D'_i = g(\Phi) = \sigma(W_g \times \Phi + b_g) \quad (2)$$

where  $b_g$  is the bias vector,  $W_g$  is the weight matrix and  $\sigma(\cdot)$  is the sigmoid activation function. The goal is to minimize a reconstruction error between  $D'_i$  and  $D_i$ , quantified by the root mean squared error (RMSE):

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^{\gamma} (D_i - D'_i)^2} \quad (3)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the total number of data points in the training batch.

**Detection Phase.** Upon receiving observed input  $\tilde{D}_i$ , the pre-trained autoencoder  $M_{pi}$  is applied to infer a sequence of expected “normal” measurements  $D'_i$ . As  $M_{bi}$  learns how to recover “normal data”, a high reconstruction error indicates the occurrence of bad data (“anomalies”). These measurement data points are then processed in the post processing phase using Chebyshev inequality.

*Chebyshev’s inequality.* The Chebyshev’s inequality is used to detect bad data when the distribution of data is unknown [24]. Let  $K$  represent the number of standard deviations  $\sigma$  from the mean  $\mu$  of the data window  $\tilde{D}_i$ . For a given  $K$ , first a strict threshold  $K\sigma$  is applied on  $\tilde{D}_i$ . Values of  $\tilde{D}_i$  exceeding the first threshold are filtered out. A second threshold is then applied as  $P(|\tilde{D}_i - \mu| \geq K\sigma) \leq \frac{1}{K^2}$ , where the values  $\mu$  and  $\sigma$  are *dynamically* computed over every sliding window, ensuring an adaptive detection process. The data points with values in  $\tilde{D}_i$  that do not satisfy the above equation are labeled as ‘1’ (“bad data”), and ‘0’ otherwise.

**Data correction.** The labeled measurements are then imputed. Multiple data imputation approaches are available [23], [25]. By default, we choose median-imputation [23] as a pragmatic, light-weighted method to support fast data stream processing. The imputed data  $D_i$  is then fed to the prediction module.

### C. Prediction Module

The objective of the prediction module is to predict PMU measurements  $s$  timestamps ahead using a pre-trained prediction model  $M_{pi}$  to identify trajectory of the power system oscillations. Our predictive model  $M_{pi}$  exploits gated recurrent units (GRUs) [26]. GRUs are a type of LSTM network unit capable of learning order dependence for time-series prediction problems. GRUs are selected among other types of LSTMs because GRU uses fewer parameters during training and requires less memory. GRUs consists of two gates (reset

and update gate), while on the other hand, most of the other types of LSTMs consist of three memory gates (input, output, and forget gate). Hence, GRUs are more efficient than other types of LSTMs. The reset gate  $R_t$  of GRU determines how much of the previous information to forget and is given as,

$$R_t = \sigma(\Theta_r \odot [D_i, H_{t-1}] + b_r) \quad (4)$$

where  $\Theta_r$  is the parameterized tensor,  $H_{t-1}$  is the state from the previous time-step,  $b_r$  is the bias tensor and  $\sigma(\cdot)$  is the sigmoid activation function. The update gate  $Z_t$  in GRU determines how much of the past information from the previous time-steps need to be passed to the future:

$$Z_t = \sigma(\Theta_u \odot [D_i, H_{t-1}] + b_u) \quad (5)$$

where  $\Theta_u$  represents the parameterized tensor, and  $b_u$  represents the bias tensor. Further, the hidden state in GRU is represented as,  $\tilde{H}_t = \tanh(\Theta_C \odot [D_i, (R_t \odot H_{t-1})] + b_c)$ , where  $\tanh(\cdot)$  is the tangential operation, and  $b_c$  is the bias tensor for the hidden cell state. Using the output from the reset gate, the update gate, and the hidden state, the final output  $H_t$  of the GRU is formulated as,

$$H_t = Z_t \odot H_{t-1} + (1 - Z_t) \odot \tilde{H}_t \quad (6)$$

**Training Phase:** The module is cold started at  $G_i$  by agent  $A_i$  with a training phase if the predictive model  $M_{pi}$  is not available. The learning objective is to reduce the error between the observed data  $D_i^o$  and the predicted data  $\hat{D}_i$ . The GRU model is trained using stochastic gradient descent algorithm to minimize the predictive error quantified as:

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^{\gamma} (D_i^o - \hat{D}_i)^2} \quad (7)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the total number of data points in training batch  $i$ . The values of  $s$ , and the structure and hyper-parameters of the GRU are heuristically determined (see Section-IV).

**Inference Phase:** During inference phase, given sliding window data  $D_i$  from bad data module as input, the trained GRU model predicts a sliding window  $\hat{D}_i$  of size  $s$  as output.

As shown in Fig. 2, for each window, agent  $A_i$  for region  $G_i$  continuously monitors the RMSE of model  $M_{pi}$  shown in Eq. (7). When the performance of  $M_{pi}$  degrades and the prediction error is greater than guard error  $\epsilon_i$  (which can be set locally and adaptively), the agent  $A_i$  initiates the FI module to improve the local prediction. Note that at this moment, the impact of bad data is mitigated due to the imputation.

### D. Federated Inference Module

Each individual region  $G_i$  independently, and simultaneously maintains a pre-trained local predictive model  $M_{pi}$ . During prediction phase, the model performance may degrade due to the non-i.i.d nature of PMU data caused by changes in system dynamics. The objective of the FI module is to improve the performance of the local model  $M_{pi}$  - this is achieved by aggregating model weights and outputs from a set of highly

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**Algorithm 1:** Federated Inference (at each region  $G_i$ , executed asynchronously in parallel; time  $t$  omitted)

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**Input:** local prediction  $\hat{D}_i$ , agent  $A_i$ ,  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$ , pre-trained models  $M_i$ ;  
**Output:** refined prediction  $\hat{D}_i^{fd}$ .  
1: initialize list  $L_{ki} := \emptyset$ ; set  $\hat{D}_i^{fd} := \emptyset$ ; set message  $W_{ki} := \emptyset$ ;  
2: list  $L_{ki} := \text{topkCN}(A_i, D_i, \mathcal{N}(A_i))$ ;  
3: message  $W_{ki} := \text{FedAgg}(\mathcal{N}(A_i), L_{ki})$ ;  
4:  $\hat{D}_i^{fd} = \text{RfnPred}(M_{pi}, \hat{D}_i, W_{ki})$ ;  
5: **return**  $\hat{D}_i^{fd}$  (to Proactive stability control module);

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**Algorithm 2:** Procedure topkCN: identify top- $k$  Correlated Neighbors of  $A_i$

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**Input:** validated prediction  $D_i$ ,  $A_i$ ,  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$   
**Output:** a list of top- $k$  agents (models)  $L_{ki}$ ;  
1: list  $L_k := \emptyset$ ;  
2:  $A_i$  requests data  $(\bar{\theta})$  from neighboring agents  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$ ;  
3: **for**  $j \in [\bar{\theta}_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}_n]$  **do**  
4:    $r[i, j] = \text{PearsonCorrelation}(\bar{\theta}_i, \bar{\theta}_j)$   
5: **end for**  
6:  $L_{ki} = \text{sortAscending}(r)$ ;  
7: **return**  $L_{ki}$ ;

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correlated “neighboring” models. FI module leverages a cost-effective federated inference algorithm to refine the output of  $M_{pi}$  by a weighted aggregation strategy, as described below.

**Asynchronous Federated Inference.** We outline the asynchronous FI algorithm, which is executed in parallel at each single region  $G_i$  (as illustrated in Algorithm 1). At any time  $t$ , it takes as input the local predicted result  $\hat{D}_i$ , agent  $A_i$  and its neighbors  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$ , and pre-trained models  $M_i = (M_{bi}, M_{pi})$ . Each agent  $A_i$  *asynchronously* performs a “superstep” that sequentially performs three primitive procedures at  $G_i$ , in two rounds of communications with  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$ . This asynchronous process eliminates the need to wait for other agents to complete data transmission, avoiding delays and possibly multiple missed data window.

- Procedure topkCN (line 2, communication round 1): identify a list  $L_{ki}$  of top  $k$  most correlated neighboring models with  $M_i$  (see Algorithm 2);
- Procedure FedAgg (line 3, communication round 2): computes a weighted output of neighbor models by requesting and aggregating the outputs from  $L_{ki}$  (see Algorithm 3);
- Procedure RfnPred (line 4, locally at  $G_i$ ): agent  $A_i$  then refines the local predicted results  $\hat{D}_i$  with the weighted average of the outputs from neighboring models for downstream proactive stability control module.

We next describe Procedures topkCN and FedAgg (Procedure RfnPred is straightforward and omitted).

**Procedure topkCN.** The procedure (Algorithm 2) takes as input  $D_i$ ,  $A_i$  and its neighbors  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$ , and outputs the top- $k$  correlated models (agents) of  $A_i$ . Specifically, it performs the following. (a)  $A_i$  requests each agent  $A_j \in \mathcal{N}(A_i)$  to share a sketch of the *validated prediction* from  $M_j$  that passes

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**Algorithm 3:** Procedure FedAgg (at region  $G_i$ )

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**Input:** top- $k$  neighboring agents  $L_{ki}$ , agent  $A_i$ ;  
**Output:** aggregated model weights  $W_k$ .  
1: Initialize model weight tensor  $W_k := \emptyset$ ;  
2: **for each** neighboring agent  $A_j \in L_{ki}$  **do**  
3:    $A_i$  requests weight tensor  $W_{pj}$  of  $M_{pj}$  from  $A_j$ ;  
4:   **if**  $W_j \neq \emptyset$  and  $W_k = \emptyset$  **then**  
5:      $W_k := W_{pj}$ ;  
6:   **else**  
7:     **if**  $W_j \neq \emptyset$  **then**  
8:        $W_k := \text{Avg}(W_k, W_{pj})$ ;  
9:     **end if**  
10: **end if**  
11: **end for**  
12: **return**  $W_k$ ;

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the guard error test; Here we make case for bus voltage angle  $\theta$  that are verified to be accurately predicted. An agent  $A_j$  may *refuse* to share, if  $M_j$  fails the guarded predictive error  $\epsilon_j$ . Otherwise,  $A_j$  sends the average of voltage angle,  $\bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \theta_m$  from  $m$  measurable PMUs in  $G_j$ . (b) Let the averaged voltage angles received be  $[\bar{\theta}_1, \dots, \bar{\theta}_N]$  (for  $N$  neighbors). Pearson correlation coefficient is computed between the average voltage angle  $\bar{\theta}_i$  of region  $G_i$ , and each  $\theta_j$  from  $A_j \in \mathcal{N}(A_i)$ , to derive a correlation score  $r[i, j]$ . (c)  $\mathcal{N}(A_i)$  is then refined (by pruning agents that has no response or refused to share) and sorted according to the correlation scores, and top- $k$  neighbors are chosen as  $L_{ik}$ .

**Procedure FedAgg.** This procedure (Algorithm 3, at region  $G_i$ ) takes as input the top- $k$  correlated neighbors  $L_{ki}$ . For each neighboring agent  $A_j \in L_{ki}$ , agent  $A_i$  requests an auxiliary structure called *model weight tensor*  $W_j$  (simply “model weight”) of the local predictive model  $M_{pj}$ . We define the term “model weight” [27] as a 3D matrix  $W$  (a tensor) of dimension  $l \times d \times k$ , which profiles the intermediate  $d$ -dimension embeddings of all the  $l$ -th layers of each of top  $k$  models. The averaged model weight  $W_k$  is then returned for the refinement of model outputs.

**Procedure RfnPred.** Upon receiving the averaged model weights, proposed approach refines the predicted results by (a) “replacing” the intermediate embedding representation of the layers of the local model  $M_i$ , and (b) re-applying  $M_i$  to infer an updated predicted results  $\hat{D}_i^{fd}$ .

Intuitively, each agent simulates federated learning to produce a surrogate “global” model, yet only use the intermediate embeddings of pre-trained neighboring (correlated) models which has validated high-quality output, hence avoid retraining of either global or local predictive models. Each agent  $A_i$  dynamically refines the local prediction by prioritizing and favoring “useful” layer embeddings from neighboring models  $L_{ki}$  in terms of “*how strong we are correlated in the past*” and “*are you a reliable neighbor*”, thus leverage their pre-trained intermediate representations to “regenerate” refined local output towards more accurate prediction. This justification, as experimentally verified by our experiments (see Section IV) for proactive stability control, is consistent with recent study on general collaborative inference in [15], [28].

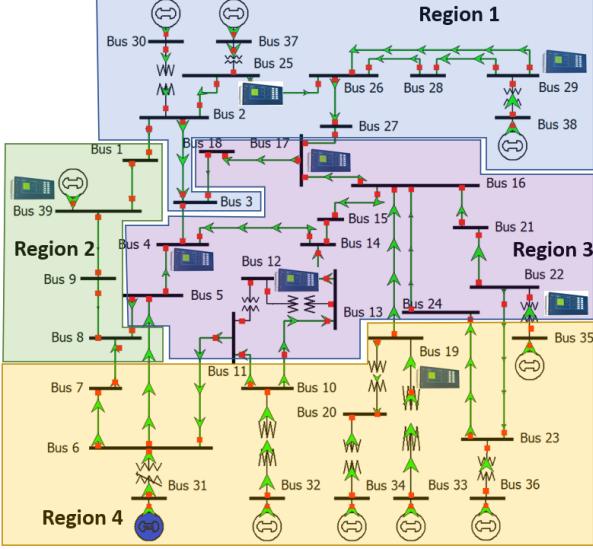


Fig. 3. The IEEE 39 bus system partitioned into 4 regions.

**Cost analysis.** The overall time cost of a single superstep at each agent consists of (1) at most  $\mathcal{N}(A_i) + |\mathcal{N}(A_i)|^2 + |\mathcal{N}(A_i)| \log |\mathcal{N}(A_i)|$  time to obtain correlation scores and top- $k$  neighbors from all  $|\mathcal{N}(A_i)|$  neighbors; (2) at most  $k \times \omega \times d$  time for aggregation collected model weights, where  $\omega \times d$  is the size of the predicted results (with  $\omega$  PMU packets, each with at most  $d$  number of values); and (3) the inference cost of the local model  $M_{pi}$ . Such cost is usually small (see Section IV). As the process is asynchronous, each step incurs at most 2 rounds of communication. No synchronization or re-training cost is incurred in this process.

#### E. Proactive Stability Control Module

We make case of the application of federated inference for cost-effective proactive stability control. These proactive schemes have a distinct advantage over out-of-step generator protection and event-based RAS. When a generator loses synchronism with the grid, out-of-step protection system disconnects the generator. Similarly, event-based RAS mitigate instability by generation rejection or load shedding. Both these control actions result in loss of assets. Generator tripping may subsequently lead to short-term and steady state stability violations. Event-based RAS actions may result in subsequent steady-state violations. Proactive control actions address these drawbacks through rapid during-event actions.

**Proactive Action.** Proactive control action is defined as during-event action that prevents system wide instability and reduces the magnitude of subsequent RAS. Similar to RAS, these proactive control actions are based on domain knowledge, extensive operator experience and pre-determined offline simulations considering wide range of operating scenarios. As shown in Fig. 2, the output of FI module (predicted PMU measurements  $\hat{D}_i^{fd}$ ) serves as an input to the proactive stability control module.

#### IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

The developed FI architecture for short-term proactive stability control is implemented on the IEEE-39 bus system with focus

TABLE I  
DETAILS OF EVENTS LEADING TO STABLE AND UNSTABLE SCENARIOS

ID	Event Type	Event Location	Event Onset Time (seconds)	Event Clear Time (seconds)	Stable/Unstable
1	Bus Fault	16	5.0	5.1	Stable
2	Generator Trip	31	5.0	5.2	Unstable
3	Generator Fault	32	5.0	5.1	Stable
	3-Phase Line Fault	2 - 3	5.0	5.2	Stable
	3-Phase Line Fault	5 - 6	5.0	5.1	Unstable
4	Load Shed (30%)	28 - 29	5.0	5.1	Stable
5	Load Trip	4	5.0	-	Stable
6	1-Phase Line Fault	25	5.0	-	Stable
7	3-Phase Transformer Fault	13 - 14	5.0	5.1	Stable
8	Generator Trip	35	5.0	-	Unstable

on federated inference and not the system size. A total load of 8903 MW and 2600 MVAR, and a total generation of 9109 MW and 5187 MVAR as well as total of 8 PMUs are placed at buses 4, 12, 17, 19, 22, 25, 29 and 39, covering four communication sub-regions, as shown in Fig. 3. The details of all stable and unstable scenarios, generated using PowerWorld™, are given in Table I.

**Evaluation metrics.** We use five performance metrics - the first three metrics, *accuracy*, *precision*, *recall*, are calculated using four key terms: (1) False Positive (FP), (2) True Positive (TP), (3) False Negatives (FN) and (4) True Negative (TN). The F-1 score is evaluated as the harmonic mean of the precision and recall. The RMSE is calculated between  $D_i$  and predicted output  $\hat{D}_i$ , similar to eq (7). The effectiveness of the bad data detection module is evaluated using accuracy, precision, recall, and F-1 score, while the prediction and FI module are evaluated on the RMSE.

**Hyper-parameter tuning.** We tune the hyper-parameters with a grid search strategy [29]. We describe the tuning for the following important hyper-parameters.

**Sliding window size ( $\omega$ ) and prediction window size ( $s$ ).** We aim to identify the “optimal” values for  $\omega$  and  $s$ , under which the local bad data detection and predictive models achieves the best performance. Table II reports the impact of  $\omega$  and  $s$ . On one hand, larger input window size yields lower error rates yet may incur longer processing time. On the other hand, it is more challenging to achieve higher accuracy for further “future” – by enforcing larger  $s$ , as expected. An “optimal” performance could be achieved with  $\omega = 20$  and  $s = 10$ , achieving an accuracy of 97.97%, precision of 96.64%, recall of 97.96%, and F-1 score of 97.07% for bad data detection module and RMSE of  $3.09 \times 10^{-5}$  for prediction module, respectively, with a reasonable inference time of 0.22 seconds on average.

**Impact of guard error threshold  $\epsilon$  and  $k$  (# of neighbors).** Table III reports the performance of FI algorithm with varied  $\epsilon$  and  $k$ . In general, RMSE remains to be relatively higher if  $\epsilon$  is set with higher values. For example, for  $5.5 \times 10^{-3} \leq \epsilon \leq 10.5 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $k \in \{1, 2\}$ , the RMSE before and after FI was relatively higher, between  $4.2 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $10.2 \times 10^{-3}$ . Results on smaller  $\epsilon$  e.g.,  $(3.5 \times 10^{-3})$  indicate that FI improves RMSE better. Nevertheless, a small  $\epsilon$  incurs more frequent triggers of FI algorithm, incurring

TABLE II  
PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF BAD DATA DETECTION AND PREDICTION MODULE WITH VARYING VALUES OF  $\omega$  AND  $s$

Input window size ( $\omega$ )	Prediction window size ( $s$ )	Bad Data Detection (performance averaged across all regions)				Prediction (performance averaged across all regions)	Inference time
		Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-score		
15	10	95.89	95.12	95.95	95.64	7.24	0.13
	15	59.05	53.02	54.43	53.37	15.95	0.15
	25	44.32	43.35	45.49	44.92	45.95	0.19
	<b>10</b>	<b>97.97</b>	<b>96.64</b>	<b>97.96</b>	<b>97.07</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>0.22</b>
	15	85.65	85.29	85.74	85.48	11.62	0.26
	25	45.32	45.59	46.32	45.88	61.58	0.29
20	10	98.32	98.53	98.45	98.50	3.14	0.34
	15	94.48	94.54	94.48	94.51	14.43	0.37
	25	68.65	65.39	65.12	65.27	61.34	0.41

TABLE III  
PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF FI WITH VARYING VALUE OF GUARD ERROR  $\epsilon$  AND TOP-KCN

Guard Error $\epsilon$	RMSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ ) prior to FI				RMSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ ) after FI								Inference Time (seconds)			
	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4	
	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$	$k=1$	$k=2$
3.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.7	3.3	2.1	3.2	2.4	3.3	2.9	3.4	3.1	0.14	0.20		
<b>4.5</b>	4.9	4.6	4.8	4.8	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>	4.1	<b>2.4</b>	4.4	<b>2.6</b>	4.2	<b>2.9</b>	0.17	<b>0.21</b>		
5.5	6.4	6.3	6.5	5.9	5.2	4.0	5.3	4.1	5.1	4.9	5.3	4.3	0.13	0.22		
6.5	6.8	6.7	6.4	6.8	6.3	5.8	6.2	5.6	6.2	5.2	6.3	5.5	0.15	0.21		
7.5	7.9	7.6	7.7	7.9	6.9	5.5	6.9	5.3	6.3	5.8	6.6	5.2	0.13	0.25		
8.5	8.7	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.1	7.7	8.4	7.3	8.2	7.9	7.9	7.3	0.14	0.22		
9.5	9.8	9.9	9.4	9.6	9.3	8.8	9.1	8.3	8.9	8.7	8.2	8.9	0.13	0.23		
10.5	11.1	10.9	10.8	10.8	10.2	9.9	10	9.3	9.6	9.1	10.3	9.9	0.15	0.24		

TABLE IV  
HYPERPARAMETERS OF LOCAL MODELS

Configuration	Bad Data Detection Model ( $M_{bi}$ )				Prediction Model ( $M_{pi}$ )					
	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4			
Number of layers	8 (4 encoder / 4 decoder)		6 (3 encoder / 3 decoder)		8 (4 encoder / 4 decoder)		8 (4 encoder / 4 decoder)			
Number of neurons in respective layers	Encoder : [64, 28, 24, 12] Decoder : [12, 24, 28, 64]		Encoder : [28, 24, 12] Decoder : [24, 28, 64]		Encoder : [64, 28, 24, 12] Decoder : [12, 24, 28, 64]		Encoder : [64, 28, 24, 12] Decoder : [12, 24, 28, 64]			
Number of LSTM layers	5			3			5			
Number of LSTM cells in respective layers	[64, 64, 28, 24, 12]			[28, 24, 12]			[64, 64, 28, 28, 12]			

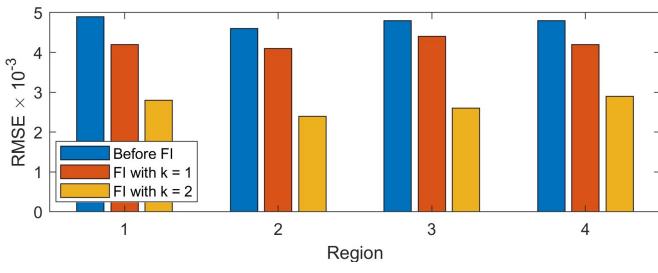


Fig. 4. RMSE before and after Federated Inference with  $\epsilon = 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$  larger total overhead. We choose an optimal value of  $\epsilon$  as  $4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ . Fig. 4 shows the RMSE values with different  $k$ ;  $k = 2$  has the lowest RMSE and is chosen as there are 4 areas, each having 2 neighbors.

Putting these together, in our tests, we set hyper-parameters for all local model training at all regions consistently as:  $\omega = 20$ ,  $s = 10$ ,  $\epsilon = 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $k = 2$  by default. Table IV shows the setting of hyper-parameters for the local models. Parameters are fine-tuned with grid search to ensure that local

models achieved reasonably good performance at local dataset.

#### A. Ablation Analysis

The performance of the developed architecture with and without the FI module is compared in Table V. For all the six different events in Table V leading to instability, it is observed that the developed architecture with the FI module outperforms cases when FI is not implemented.

Consider the 3-phase bus fault event at bus 16 in region 3 as shown in row 1 of Table V. Without FI, the RMSE for region 3 is  $5.8 \times 10^{-3}$ . Compared to the case with FI module, the RMSE drops down to  $3.3 \times 10^{-3}$ , showing significant improvement. The detailed analysis for model performance improvement is as follows. The FI module is triggered between 5.0167 seconds and 5.0583 seconds when the prediction error  $\epsilon \geq 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ . During this time, the FI module requests and receives model weights from highly correlated adjacent neighbors. In this case, the two chosen neighbors are region

TABLE V  
ABLATION ANALYSIS - PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS WITHOUT AND WITH FI

Event	Region	RMSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )			
		Without FI and (With FI)			
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
Bus fault	3	3.2 (3.2)	3.7 (3.7)	5.8 (3.3)	3.4 (3.4)
3-phase Line Fault	1	5.7 (3.1)	3.4 (3.4)	3.1 (3.1)	2.8 (2.8)
3-phase Transformer Fault	1	4.9 (2.7)	2.5 (2.5)	2.2 (2.2)	3.2 (3.2)
Generator Fault	4	2.7 (2.7)	2.8 (2.8)	4.6 (2.5)	5.4 (3.8)
Line Trip	3	3.1 (3.1)	3.2 (3.2)	5.3 (3.6)	3.9 (3.9)
Generator Trip	3	2.7 (2.7)	2.2 (2.2)	5.3 (3.9)	4.2 (4.2)

TABLE VI  
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS - BEFORE AND AFTER FI

Event	Region	RMSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )				
		Before FI and (After FI)				Global Average with FI
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	
Bus fault	3	3.3 (3.3)	3.8 (3.8)	5.5 (3.5)	3.2 (3.2)	3.4
3-phase Line Fault	1	4.7 (3.1)	3.4 (3.4)	2.2 (2.2)	3.9 (3.9)	3.1
3-phase Transformer Fault	1	5.7 (3.8)	2.5 (2.5)	3.4 (3.4)	4.1 (4.1)	3.1
Generator Fault	4	3.4 (3.4)	4.0 (4.0)	3.9 (3.9)	5.3 (3.3)	3.6
Line Trip	3	2.5 (2.5)	2.5 (2.5)	5.2 (3.2)	3.8 (3.8)	3.0
Generator Trip	3	3.4 (3.4)	4.2 (4.2)	5.4 (3.9)	3.3 (3.3)	3.7

1 and region 4 with correlation of 0.92 and 0.75 respectively. The weights are then aggregated to improve the performance.

For the 3-phase transformer fault event in region 1 shown in row 3 of Table V, the RMSE for region 1 with and without FI is  $4.9 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $2.7 \times 10^{-3}$  respectively. In this case, the two chosen neighbors are region 2 and region 3 with correlation of 0.6 and 0.9 respectively. Similar observations are noted for each scenario in Table V. This shows that our developed architecture with the FI module is able to improve inference through weight sharing with highly correlated neighbors when local model performance degrades.

### B. Performance of FI-based prediction and proactive control

The performance of the developed FI architecture, consisting of bad data detection module, prediction module, FI module and proactive stability control module, as shown in Fig 2, was evaluated on the IEEE-39 bus system for different events shown in Table I. For each region, sliding window  $\omega = 20$ , prediction widow  $s = 10$ , guard error  $\epsilon = 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ , and top-kCN = 2 was set as per the hyper-parameter tuning analysis discussed in section IV. The results are summarized in Table VI. The performance metric corresponding to Table VI had an average accuracy of 97.97%, precision of 96.64%, recall of 97.96% and F1-score of 97.07%. The results of the

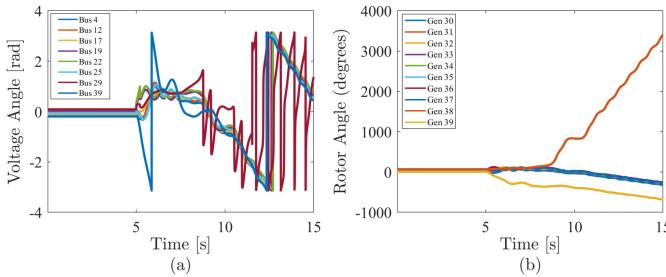


Fig. 5. Unstable scenario - 3-phase fault at bus 16 at  $t = 5$  s with delayed clearing at  $t = 5.2$  s. (a) Bus voltage angle and (b) generator rotor angle

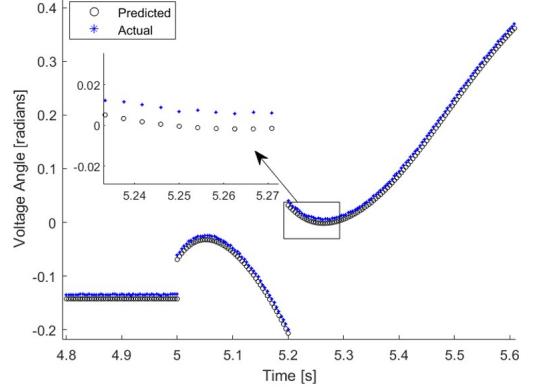


Fig. 6. Predicted voltage angle at PMU bus 17 before Federated Inference - high RMSE =  $5.5 \times 10^{-3}$

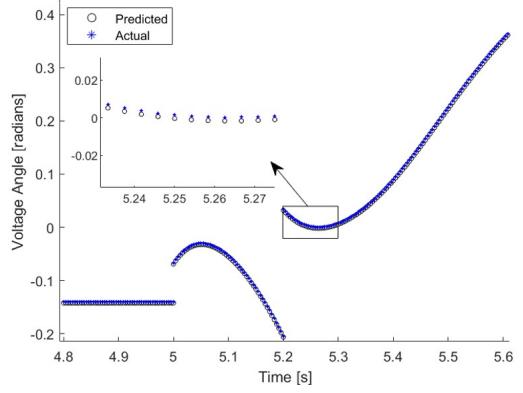


Fig. 7. Predicted voltage angle at PMU bus 17 after Federated Inference - low RMSE =  $3.5 \times 10^{-3}$

case study for the unstable scenario of 3-phase bus fault at bus 16 in row 1 of Table I is discussed in details next. The bus voltage angle and rotor angle corresponding to this unstable event is shown in Fig. 5.

Condition of short-term instability for the 3-phase bus fault event at bus 16 is simulated due to delayed fault clearing (case of stuck breaker or protection system malfunction) at  $t = 5.2$  seconds. Measurement data was obtained from PMUs placed at buses 4, 12, 17, 19, 22, 25, 29 and 39. All bad data was imputed in the bad data detection module, and the correct data was fed to the prediction module. The prediction model  $M_{pi}$  for region  $N = 3$  predicts PMU data  $s = 10$  time-steps ahead. However, due to change in system dynamics, the prediction RMSE =  $5.5 \times 10^{-3}$  was greater than guard error  $\epsilon = 4.5 \times 10^{-3}$ . Fig 6 shows the predictions with RMSE =  $5.5 \times 10^{-3}$ , showing a considerable difference between predicted and actual PMU measurements. In this case, agent  $A_3$  of region  $N = 3$  triggered the FI module to improve the performance of  $M_{pi}$  model. The FI module identifies top correlated regions 1 and 4 with Pearson correlation coefficient 0.9 and 0.7, respectively. Model weights are then exchanged between  $A_1, A_4$  and  $A_3$ . Fig 7 shows the predictions after FI module is invoked. It is observed that the performance of predictions after FI significantly improved with RMSE =  $3.5 \times 10^{-3}$ . The average global RMSE for this case is  $3.4 \times 10^{-3}$ . The predictions from the updated model are fed to the proactive stability control module for instability detection

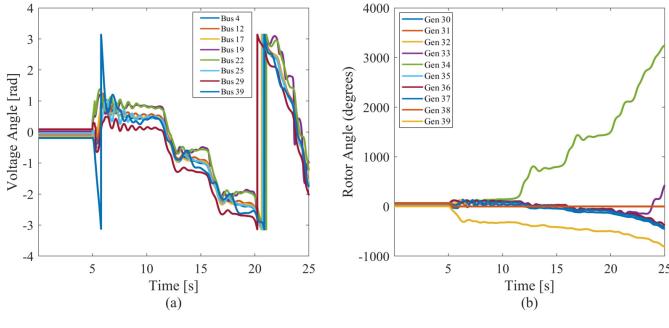


Fig. 8. Unstable scenario after generator 38 out-of-sync trip at  $t = 5.28$  s, additional generator 34 and generator 33 goes out-of-step. (a) Bus voltage angle and (b) generator rotor angle

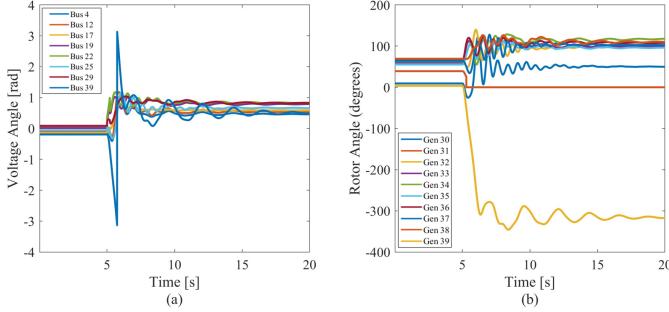


Fig. 9. Stable scenario after RAS action rejects generator 31 at  $t = 5.55$  s. (a) Bus voltage angle and (b) generator rotor angle

and proactive control action.

As discussed earlier, the unstable conditions are simulated due to delayed fault clearing at  $t = 5.2$  seconds. This results in an out-of-step condition for generator 38, resulting in loss of synchronization with the rest of the system, as shown previously in Fig. 5. First, the results of generator out-of-trip and event-based remedial schemes are discussed. Next, the results of proactive stability control are demonstrated.

At  $t = 5.28$  seconds, the phase difference between generator 38 and slack bus 39 is greater than  $120^\circ$  and the generator 38 is tripped at  $t = 5.28$  seconds with out-of-sync protection. The tripping is done before the phase angle difference between the generator and the system is greater than  $120^\circ$  as larger angles induce excessive stress on the circuit breaker due to dynamic recovery voltage [20]. As a result of generator 38 disconnection, it is observed that generator 34 and generator 33 go out of step. The bus voltage angle and rotor angle for this unstable case is shown in Fig. 8. In addition, lines  $\{25 - 26, 17 - 27, 10 - 13, 25 - 37, 2 - 3\}$  are overloaded beyond 110% when generator 38 is out. The system is both short-term and steady-state unstable, which results in subsequent outages and may further evolve into cascading outages leading to a blackout.

To mitigate, there are multiple solutions: a) corrective control, b) event-based remedial action scheme (RAS) and c) proactive control. Generator tripping will be an example of corrective control. Activating a pre-set event-based RAS as a second possible control will trigger generator 31 rejection at  $t = 5.55$  seconds. No further short-term instability occurs as seen from Fig. 9. However, line 2 – 3, 10 – 32 are overloaded above 110% of system operating limits. A total of 572 MW

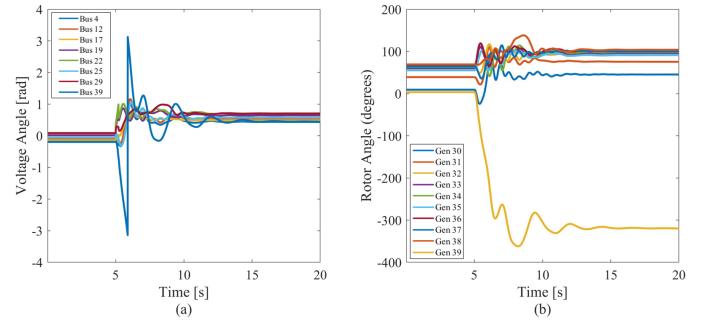


Fig. 10. Stable scenario after proactive control action sheds 2% output of generator 38 at  $t = 5.32$  s; (a) Bus voltage angle and (b) generator rotor angle

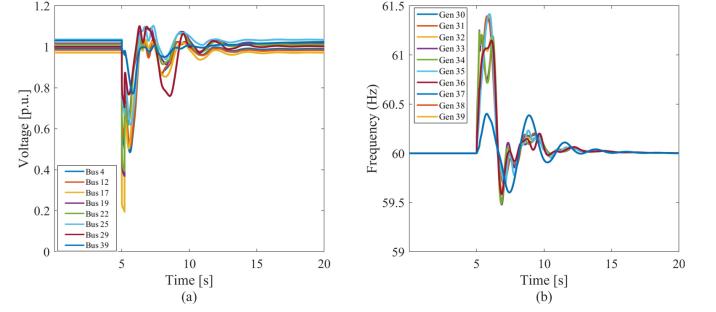


Fig. 11. Stable scenario after proactive control action sheds 2% output of generator 38 at  $t = 5.32$  s. (a) Bus voltage and (b) frequency

of generation is lost and frequency stabilizes at 59.96 Hz. The third possible control is using the results of the FI-module for proactive short-term instability control. For proactive control, data prediction indicates impending instability triggering the MW output of generator 38 to proactively ramp down by 2% of its initial value of 1217 MW at  $t = 5.32$  seconds. This action is chosen based on domain knowledge and pre-determined offline simulations. No further expected short-term instability occurs. This is evident from the voltage angle and rotor angle plots in Fig. 10, and bus voltage and frequency plots in Fig. 11. A total of only 16 MW of generation is shed and frequency is stabilized at 59.99 Hz. Simulation results clearly demonstrate that the proposed proactive control provides superior performance compared to the corrective control and event-based RAS for instability mitigation.

### C. Comparison with Centralized and Federated Learning

We compare the performance of FI-based proactive short-term stability control over (1) the centralized approach and (2) the federated learning (FL) approach [30], in terms of (a) prediction accuracy, and (b) amount of data exchange.

*Set up.* For centralized training, a single GRU model was trained over a dataset gathered from all the regions in a single computing node. The GRU model consists of 9 layers with 256, 256, 128, 128, 128, 128, 64, 64 and 64 GRU cells in respective layers. For FL, all regions collaboratively train a global GRU model with 5 layers with 64, 64, 28, 28 and 10 GRU cells in layers respectively, where each learns a local GRU with 4 layers of 28, 28, 24 and 12 GRU cells respectively. For a fair comparison, all the training are consistently optimizing RMSE

TABLE VII  
PREDICTION ERRORS FOR CENTRALIZED, FL AND FI

Event	Region	RMSE $\times 10^{-3}$						
		Centralized Approach	Federated Learning	Federated Inference				
				Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Global
3-phase line fault	1	6.6	5.9	3.1	3.4	3.1	2.8	3.1
3-phase transformer fault	1	8.4	6.3	2.7	2.5	2.2	3.2	2.6
Bus fault	3	9.2	8.1	3.2	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.4
Generator Fault	4	5.5	4.8	2.7	2.8	2.5	3.8	2.9
Line Trip	3	7.4	6.9	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.9	3.4
Generator Trip	3	6.9	6.4	2.7	2.2	3.9	4.2	3.2

TABLE VIII  
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS - BEFORE AND AFTER FI - 6 AREA SYSTEM

Event	Region	RMSE ( $\times 10^{-3}$ ) Before FI and (After FI)						Global Average with FI
		Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	
Bus Fault	1	5.2 (3.3)	3.4(3.4)	(3.1) (3.1)	3.6 (3.6)	3.2 (3.2)	3.4 (3.4)	3.3
3-Phase line fault	1	4.9 (3.2)	3.1 (3.1)	3.4 (3.4)	3.5 (3.5)	3.2 (3.2)	3.1 (3.1)	3.2
3-Phase Transformer Fault	1	5.8 (3.6)	3.5 (3.5)	3.7 (3.7)	3.8 (3.8)	3.1 (3.1)	3.2 (3.2)	3.4
Generator Fault	3	3.5 (3.5)	3.4 (3.4)	4.2 (3.1)	3.6 (3.6)	3.2 (3.2)	3.3 (3.3)	3.3
Line Trip	6	3.1 (3.1)	3.2 (3.2)	3.4 (3.4)	3.2 (3.2)	3.1 (3.1)	5.4 (3.3)	3.2
Generator Trip	2	3.1 (3.1)	5.9 (3.2)	3.2 (3.3)	3.4 (3.4)	3.2 (3.2)	3.1 (3.1)	3.2

loss, with an ADAM optimizer for stochastic gradient descent. The performances are reported in Table VII.

Accuracy and Time cost. It is observed that the RMSE error for the centralized and the FL architecture is higher than the developed FI architecture. The reason is attributed to that both centralized and federated learning aims to learn a global model under the assumption that PMU data is of high quality and follows i.i.d assumption. Under our test cases, PMU data at different regions may not necessarily follow a consistent distribution and can be noisy, thus a proper federated inference scheme over verified high-quality PMU data help local models to achieve their better results. Such observation has also been consistently verified in similar data scenarios [31], [32]. Further, both the centralized and the FL approaches require retraining to maintain their performance. In contrast, the RMSE error for every region and the global average with the FI architecture was the lowest among all three methods. Moreover, the average time taken across all regions by FI architecture was 0.25 seconds, while that of the centralized was 3.5 seconds and FL was 1.5 seconds.

Data shipment. During the inference process, for centralized method, in total 240 MB data has been gathered; in contrast, the FI architecture ships in total 197 KB data, around 0.08% of the amount of data shipment of centralized architecture. We estimate that FI improves the communication cost better over large-scale datasets. Consider a case where 100 PMUs with 20 measurements sampling at 120 messages per second transmits 200 GB of data per day [33]. In our tests, the FI inference architecture transmitting one measurement (i.e the average voltage angle) already achieves desirable accuracy, leading to

0.2 GB data shipment. Moreover, we estimate a much smaller amount of data shipment in practice, as FI incurs data shipment overhead only when triggered and when necessary.

#### D. Analysis on Larger System

Due to the unavailability of transient stability software for larger systems, the results of the FI approach are validated on a modified IEEE 30 bus system with more areas and a significantly more number of PMUs. This modified system has 6 areas and 16 PMUs placed at buses 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30 and 39, providing a total of 91 measurement streams. The parameters are set as  $\omega = 22$  and  $s = 10$ . The similar experiment was repeated and the performance metric is shown in Table VIII with average accuracy of 96.49 %, precision 97.18 %, recall 95.03 %, and F1-score 97.31 %, effectively validating the proposed FI approach. The overall inference time was 0.23 seconds.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

A novel federated inference architecture has been proposed in this work with an asynchronous strategy for data prediction, aggregation and inference with a use case of proactive control for mitigating short-term instability. The FI architecture enables collaborative inference to refine local predictions by adaptively identifying and aggregating the weights and outputs from highly correlated neighboring models only when necessary. The developed architecture incurs at most two rounds of communication for each agent, and avoids model retraining from scratch. We have utilized the FI architecture

to enable an example application for a novel proactive short-term stability control strategy that is experimentally verified to drastically reduce the impacts of traditional event-based remedial action schemes. The results obtained under diverse event scenario show superiority of FI based prediction and control. It is observed that predictions after FI significantly improved with 36% decrease in error, and the proactive control resulted in shedding of 95% less generation output compared to traditional remedial schemes. By implementing federated inference based proactive control to address short-term stability issues, the proposed approach mitigates the risk of equipment damage and the large costs associated with it. A future topic is to extend the architecture for federated causality analysis of events in large-scale power networks. Another topic is to evaluate our methods with more economic indicators, more scenarios in protection systems, as well as extreme events such as natural disasters.

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