



Virtual Reinforcement of Power Grids: A Feedback Optimization Approach

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Joint work with



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Future power systems: challenges and opportunities

■ Fluctuating renewable energy sources

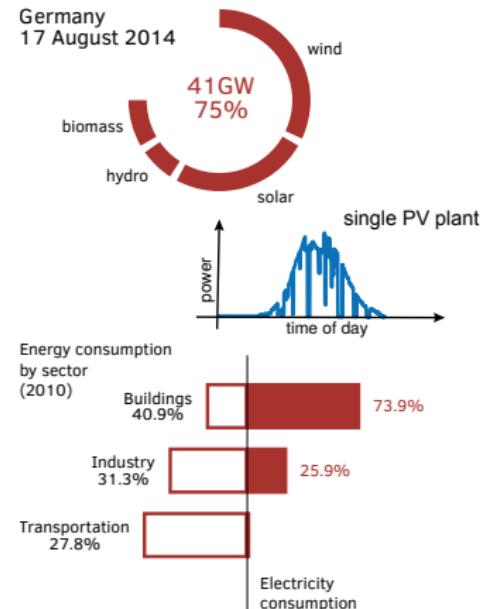
- poor short-range prediction
- correlated uncertainty

■ Inverter-based generation

- control flexibility
- tight operating specifications

■ Electric mobility

- large additional demand
- new spatial-temporal patterns



Congestion of the power distribution infrastructure



Power distribution infrastructure has limited
power transfer capacity

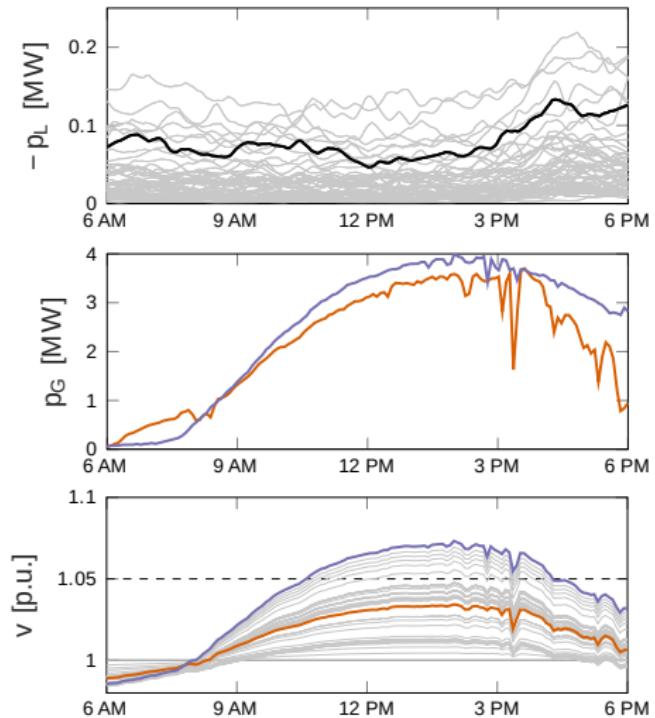
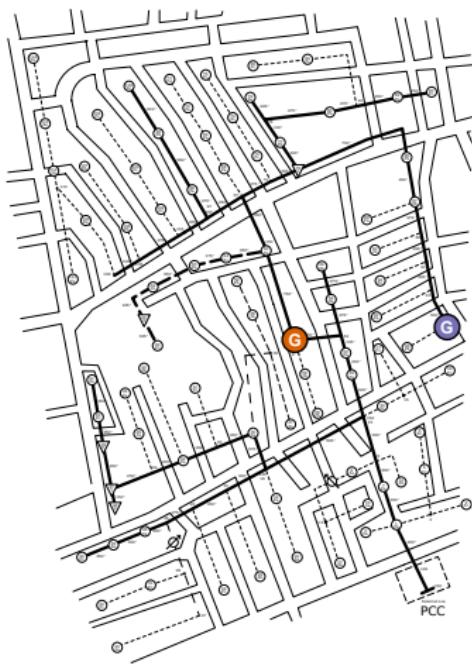
- overvoltage / undervoltage
 - quality of service (loads)
 - protections
 - disconnection of power inverters

Oversupply / undersupply can be prevented

- by curtailing generation / loads (expensive!)
- by injecting / drawing reactive power

Resource sharing problem.
Today, **cooperative** solutions only.

Power distribution infrastructure network



Resource sharing – Volt/VAR regulation

u	controllable input	<i>reactive power injection of generators</i>
w	uncontrollable input	<i>power demand of loads, power generation</i>
y	performance output	<i>voltage of generators</i>

$h(\cdot, \cdot)$ input-output steady-state relation $y = h(u, w)$ *AC power flow eqs.*

Efficient resource sharing

minimize _{u}	$f(u)$	cost of control effort
subject to	$y \in \mathcal{Y}$	specifications on performance output $y = h(u, w)$
	$u \in \mathcal{U}$	actuation constraints

see also: flexible loads, data networks, traffic, ...

Computational approach

Efficient resource sharing

minimize _{u} $f(u)$ cost of control effort

subject to $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ specifications on performance output $y = h(u, w)$

$u \in \mathcal{U}$ actuation constraints

Optimal dispatch:

1. Measure/estimate the uncontrollable input w
2. Solve the non-convex optimization problem (OPF)
3. Dispatch control u

V. A. Evangelopoulos, P. S. Georgilakis, N. D. Hatziargyriou

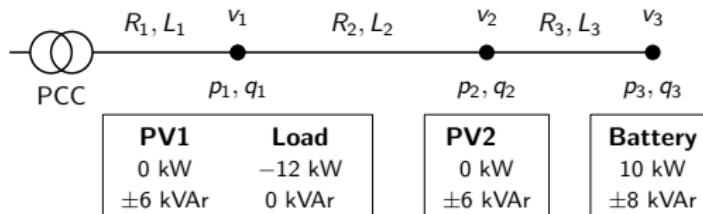
"Optimal operation of smart distribution networks: A review of models, methods and future research"
Electric Power Systems Research (2016)

...and many others

Experimental result

TEAMVAR

Experimental distribution feeder
SYSLAB at DTU, Denmark.



- **controllable inputs:** reactive power injection PV1, PV2, Battery
- **uncontrollable inputs:** active power injections PV1, PV2, Battery, Load

$$\text{minimize} \quad \sum_i (q_i/q_i^{\max})^2$$

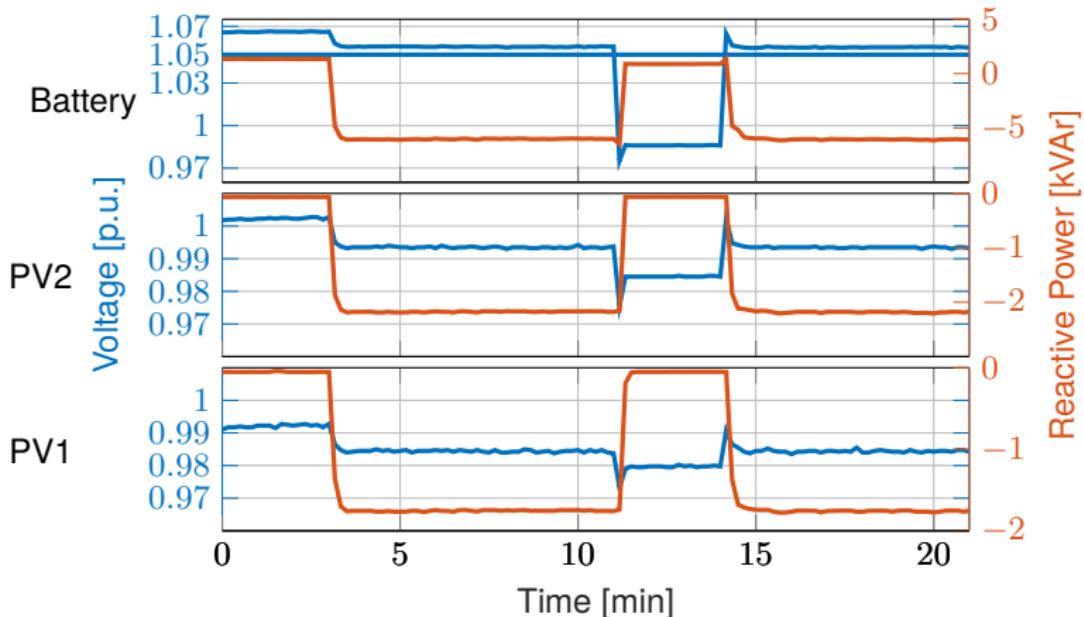
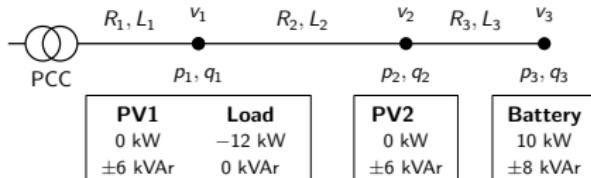
$$\text{subject to} \quad q_i \in [q_i^{\min}, q_i^{\max}]$$

$$v_i \in [v_i^{\min}, v_i^{\max}]$$

$$v = h(q, w)$$

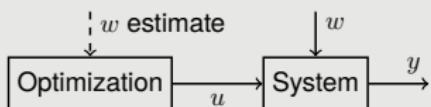
- **optimization problem**

Optimal dispatch



OPF-based dispatch

Feedforward optimization



- complex optimal decision
- operational constraints
- MIMO (multi-input/output)
- **highly model-based**
- **requires full measurement**
- **(computationally intensive)**

$$y = h(u, w)$$

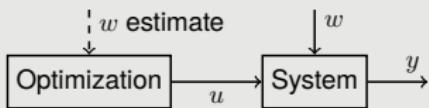
Resource sharing problem
 h uncertain, w unknown

Power distribution grids

- unmonitored loads
- parametric uncertainty (cables)
- model uncertainty (loads)
- steady state tracking errors
- measurement bias / noise

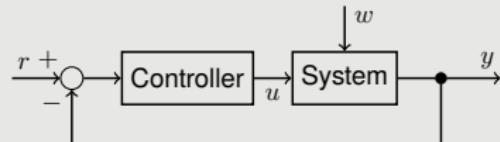
Feedback vs feedforward

Feedforward optimization



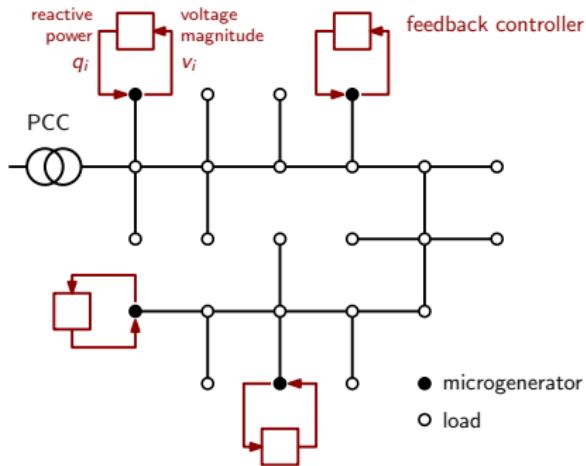
- complex optimal decision
- operational constraints
- MIMO (multi-input/output)
- **highly model-based**
- **requires full measurement**
- **(computationally intensive)**

Feedback control



- **robust to model uncertainty**
- **rejects unmeasured disturbances**
- **fast response**
- requires exogeneous set-points

Feedback Volt/VAr control



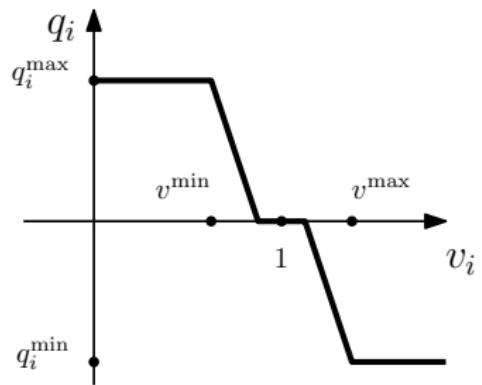
Static and dynamic feedback laws
No communication

- Turitsyn et al. (2011)
- Jahangiri & Aliprantis (2013)
- Cavraro & Carli (2015)
- Farivar, Zhou, & Chen (2015)
- Kundu, Backhaus, & Hiskens (2013)
- Yeh, Gayme, & Low (2012)
- Samadi et al. (2014)
- Kekatos et al. (2015)
- Zhu & Liu (2015)
- Li, Gu, & Dahleh (2014)
- **VDE-AR-N 4105 standard (2018)**
- **ENTSO-E / EU Comm. Reg. 631 (2016)**
- **IEEE 1547.2018 standard (2018)**

Heuristic feedback control design

- VDE-AR-N 4105 standard (2018)
- ENTSO-E / EU Comm. Reg. 631 (2016)
- IEEE 1547.2018 standard (2018)

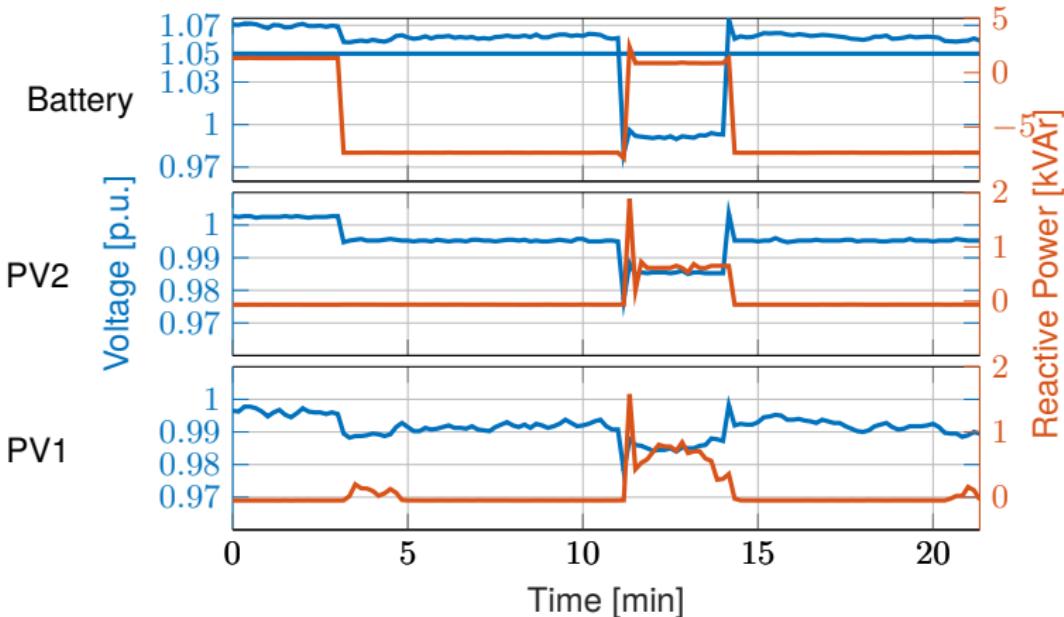
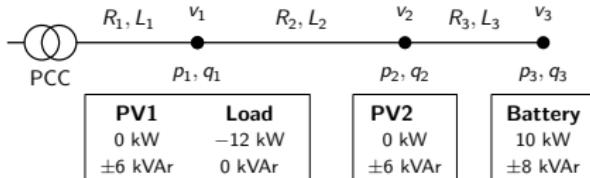
$$\begin{aligned} \text{minimize} \quad & \sum_i q_i^2 \\ \text{subject to} \quad & q_i \in [q_i^{\min}, q_i^{\max}] \\ & v_i \in [v^{\min}, v^{\max}] \end{aligned}$$



$$q_i(t+1) = f_i(v_i(t))$$

- **Model free** – relies only on $\frac{\partial v_h}{\partial q_h} > 0$
- Proportional tracking of a **nominal voltage reference** $v = 1$

Experiment: droop Volt/VAr control



Decentralized feedback control

Suboptimality gap

Decentralized feedback strategies **cannot** guarantee a feasible voltage profile (even when it exists).

Def: Decentralized feedback

$$q_h(t+1) = g_h(q_h(t), v_h(t))$$

where $g_h : [q_{\min}, q_{\max}] \times \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \rightarrow [q_{\min}, q_{\max}]$ satisfies

1. $g_h(q, v)$ continuous in v for all q
2. $g_h(q, v)$ weakly decreasing in v
3. $g_h(q, v) - g_h(q', v) < q - q'$ for all $q > q'$

A wide class that contains all the strategies mentioned before (and more).

Equilibria of decentralized strategies

Individual equilibria - agent i

For any v_i^* , there is a unique $q_i^* = F_i(v_i^*)$ which satisfies $q_i^* = g_i(q_i^*, v_i^*)$.
Moreover, F_i is a continuous, weakly decreasing function of v_i^* .

The equilibria of the system of interconnected agents are the solutions of

$$q^* = F(v^*)$$

individual agents

$$v^* = Xq^* + b$$

linearized grid equations

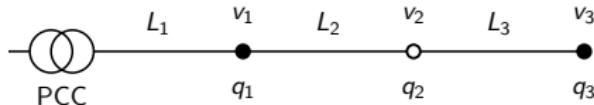
Unique system equilibrium

Sandberg & Willson (1969) → Existence & uniqueness of sol. of $F(x) + Ax = b$

→ There exists a unique equilibrium voltage profile

$$v^* = XF(v^*) + b$$

Constructive proof



For any value of the grid parameters, there exists a value of q_2 , q_3^{\max} , q_1^{\max} such that **the unique equilibrium is unfeasible for all decentralized strategies**

$$(q^*, v^*) \notin [q^{\min}, q^{\max}] \times [v^{\min}, v^{\max}]$$

even if a (non equilibrium) feasible solution exists.

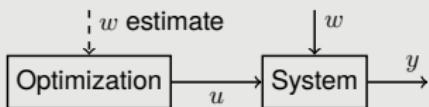
S. Bolognani, R. Carli, G. Cavraro, S. Zampieri

“On the need for communication for voltage regulation of power distribution grids”

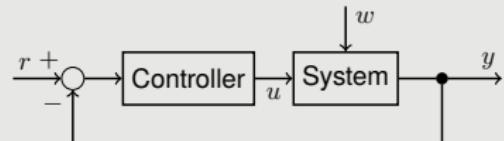
IEEE Transactions on Control of Network Systems (2019)

Feedback optimization

Feedforward optimization



Feedback control



Proposal: a **feedback optimization** approach to inherit the best of both

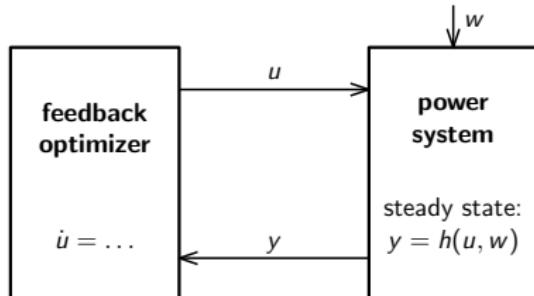
- **Robustness** against uncertainty in the model h
- Rejection of **unmeasured disturbances** w
- **No** need for exogenous **set-points**
- Guaranteed tracking of the **optimal constrained solution**

Control design specifications

Resource sharing problem

$$\text{minimize}_u \quad f(u)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{subject to} \quad & y = h(u, w) \in \mathcal{Y} \\ & u \in \mathcal{U} \end{aligned}$$



- **Input saturation:** $u \in \mathcal{U}$ at all times (hard constraint)
- **Closed-loop trajectory:** $y \in \mathcal{Y}$ at steady state
- **Optimality:** The closed-loop system converges to the constrained solution

Optimization perspective

Algorithms as dynamical systems
[Lessard et al., 2014], [Wilson et al., 2018]
→ implemented via the physics

Control perspective

Existing feedback systems interpreted
as solving opt. problem
→ general objective + constraints

Optimization algorithms as dynamical systems

Feedback optimization design \leftrightarrow continuous-time limit of **iterative algorithms**

- Gradient Flows on Matrix Manifolds

[Brockett, 1991], [Bloch et al., 1992], [Helmke & Moore, 1994], ...

- Interior-point methods

[Karmarkar, 1984], [Khachian, 1979], [Faybusovich, 1992], ...

- Acceleration & Momentum methods

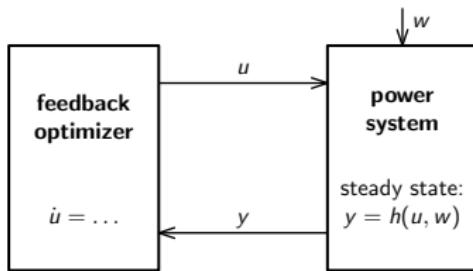
[Su et al., 2014], [Wibisono et al, 2016], [Krichene et al., 2015], [Wilson et al., 2016], [Lessard et al., 2016], ...

- Saddle-Point Flows

[Arrow et al., 1958], [Kose, 1956], [Feijer & Paganini, 2010], [Cherukuri et al., 2017], [Holding & Lestas, 2014], [Cortés & Niederländer, 2018], [Qu & Li, 2018], ...

In continuous-time, most algorithms reduce to either (projected) **gradient flows** (w/ w/o momentum), (projected) **Newton flows**, or (projected) **saddle-point** flows.

Example: Projected saddle-flow



$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize}_u \quad f(u) \\ & \text{subject to} \quad g(y) \leq 0 \quad y = h(u, w) \in \mathcal{Y} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad u \in \mathcal{U} \end{aligned}$$

- Constraint substitution (**“certainty equivalence design”**)

assume steady state $y = h(u, w)$

- **Partial Lagrangian** (dualize the output constraints only)

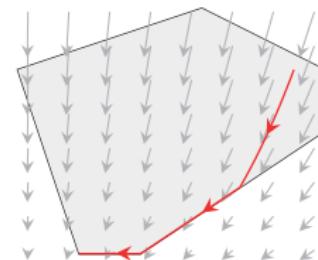
$$\mathcal{L}(u, \lambda) := f(u) + \lambda^\top g(h(u, w))$$

Example: Projected saddle flow

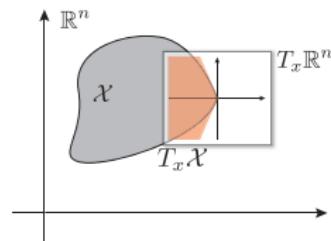
$$\mathcal{L}(u, \lambda) := f(u) + \lambda^\top g(h(u, w))$$

Primal projected Newton descent + Dual projected gradient ascent

$$\dot{u} = \Pi_{T_u \mathcal{U}} [-(\nabla^2 f)^{-1} \nabla_u \mathcal{L}(u, \lambda)]$$



$$\dot{\lambda} = \Pi_{\geq 0} [\alpha \nabla_\lambda \mathcal{L}(u, \lambda)]$$



Differential inclusion if proj not unique

Example: Projected saddle flow

$$\mathcal{L}(u, \lambda) := f(u) + \lambda^\top g(h(u, w))$$

Primal projected Newton descent + Dual projected gradient ascent

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{u} &= \Pi_{T_u \mathcal{U}} [-(\nabla^2 f)^{-1} \nabla_u \mathcal{L}(u, \lambda)] \\ &= \Pi_{T_u \mathcal{U}} \left[-(\nabla^2 f)^{-1} \left(\nabla_u f(u) + \underbrace{\nabla_u h(u, w)^\top}_{\text{model}} \nabla g(\underbrace{h(u, w))^\top}_{\text{meas.}} \lambda \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\lambda} &= \Pi_{\geq 0} [\alpha \nabla_\lambda \mathcal{L}(u, \lambda)] \\ &= \Pi_{\geq 0} \left[\alpha g \left(\underbrace{h(u, w)}_{\text{meas.}} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Discrete time implementation (dual update)

$$\dot{\lambda} = \Pi_{\geq 0} \left[\alpha g \left(\underbrace{h(u, w)}_{\text{meas.}} \right) \right] = \Pi_{\geq 0} [\alpha g(\textcolor{red}{y})]$$

- forward Euler step
- projection in the standard metric → element-wise saturation

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda(t+1) &= \arg \min_{\lambda \geq 0} \|\lambda - (\lambda(t) + \alpha g(y))\| \\ &= \max \{0, \lambda(t) + \alpha g(y)\}\end{aligned}$$

Dual update → fully decentralized integrator of the constraint violations

Discrete time implementation (primal update)

$$\dot{u} = \Pi_{T_u \mathcal{U}} \left[-(\nabla^2 f)^{-1} \left(\nabla_u f(u) + \underbrace{\nabla_u h(u, w)^\top}_{\text{model}} \nabla g(\textcolor{red}{y})^\top \lambda \right) \right]$$

- forward Euler integration $u(t) + \delta u$
- projection step in the same metric $(\nabla^2 f)^{-1}$

$$u(t+1) = \arg \min_{u \in \mathcal{U}} \|u - (u(t) + \delta u(t))\|_{(\nabla^2 f)^{-1}}$$

Primal update → centralized **quadratic program**

Sensitivity approximation

Back to the Volt/VAr problem:

- quadratic cost function $f(u)$

$$q^\top M q$$

- simple \mathcal{Y}

$$v_i^{\min} \leq v_i \leq v_i^{\max}$$

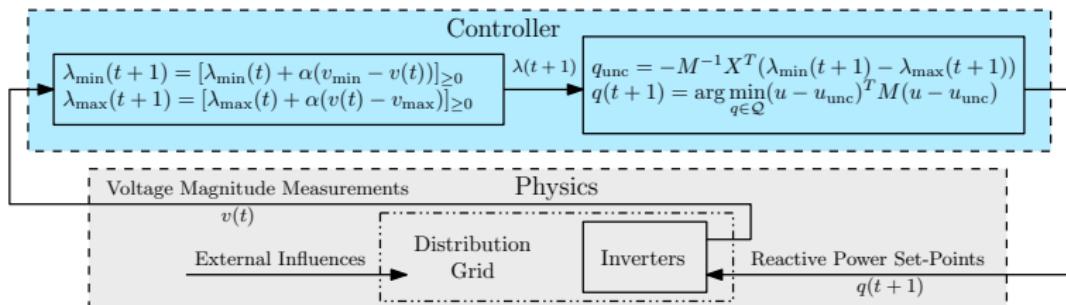
- simple \mathcal{U}

$$q_i^{\min} \leq q_i \leq q_i^{\max}$$

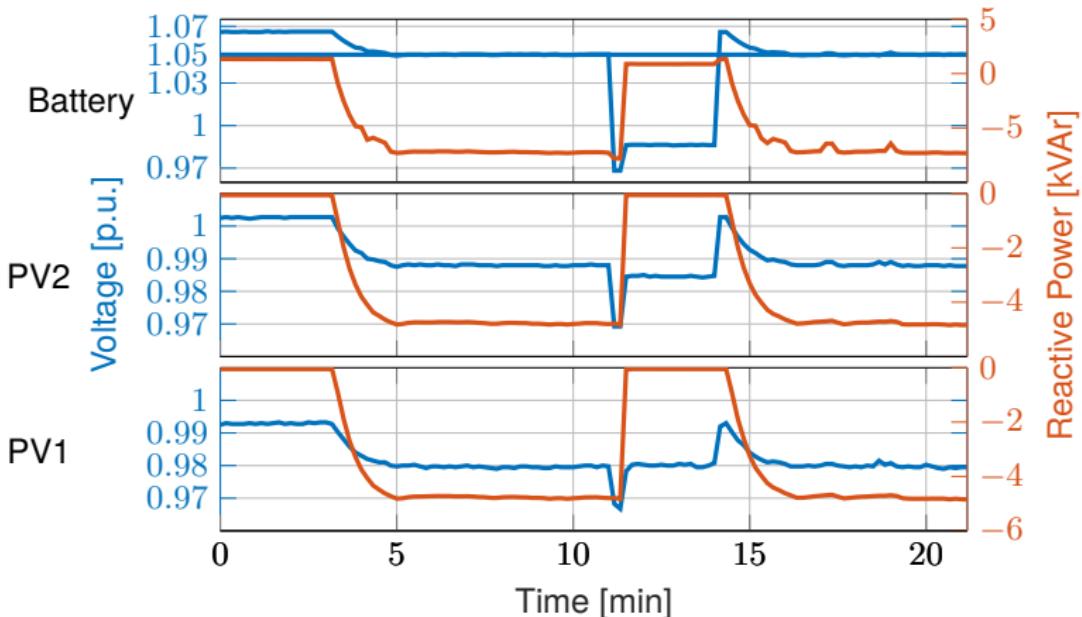
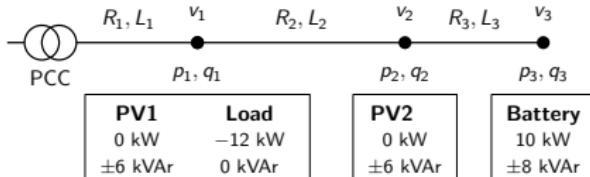
- **sensitivity** $\nabla_u h(u, w)$

\approx susceptance matrix X

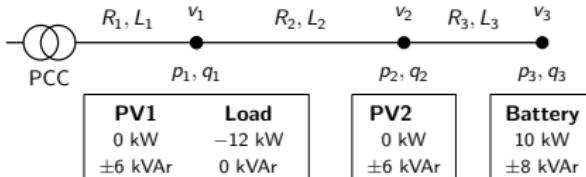
- can be estimated from cable data / experiments
- conjecture: very robust against approximation



Experiment: Feedback Optimization



Experiment: Feedback Optimization



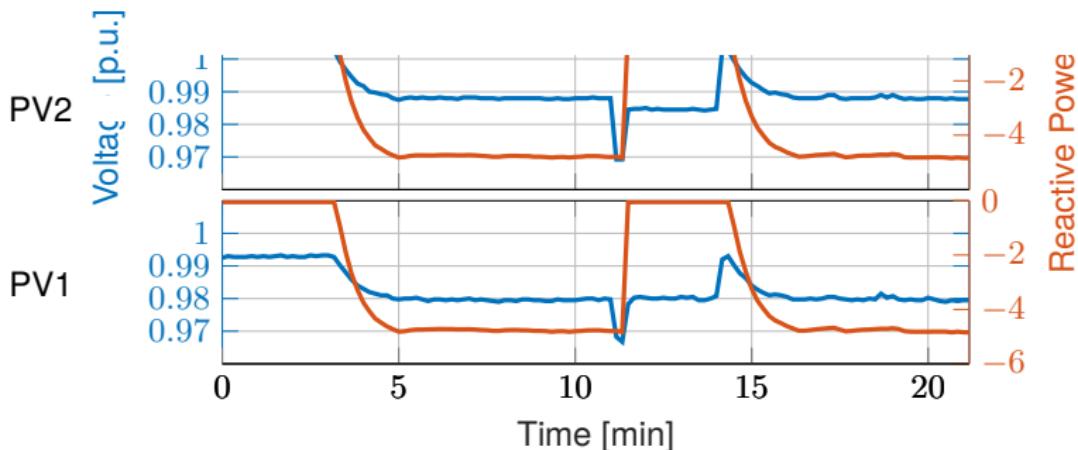
Model-free?

$$\nabla_u h = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

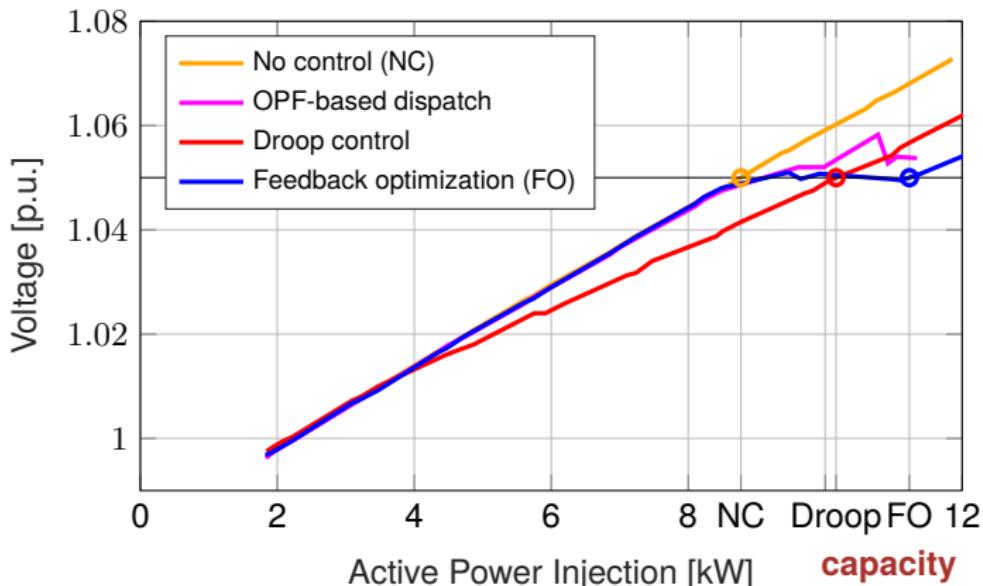
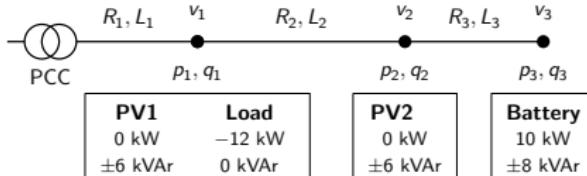
Open question: characterization of this robustness

Battery

M. Colombino, J. W. Simpson-Porco, A. Bernstein
 "Towards Robustness Guarantees for Feedback-Based Optimization"
 IEEE CDC (2019)



Virtual grid reinforcement

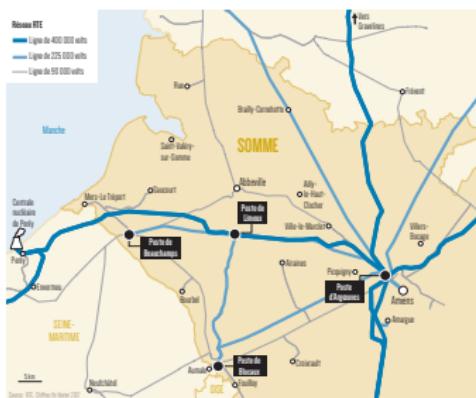


A promising unified approach

Work since 2013 by: Low, Li, Dörfler, Bolognani, Zampieri, Simpson-Porco, Zhao, Dall'Anese, Simonetto, De Persis, Gan, Topcu, Bernstein, Jokic, ...

D. K. Molzahn, F. Dörfler, H. Sandberg, S. H. Low, S. Chakrabarti, R. Baldick, J. Lavaei
"A Survey of Distributed Optimization and Control Algorithms for Electric Power Systems"
 IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid (2017)

F. Dörfler, S. Bolognani, J. W. Simpson-Porco, S. Grammatico
"Distributed Control and Optimization for Autonomous Power Grids"
 European Control Conference (2019)



UNICORN A Unified Control Framework for Real-Time Power System Operation

ETH zürich



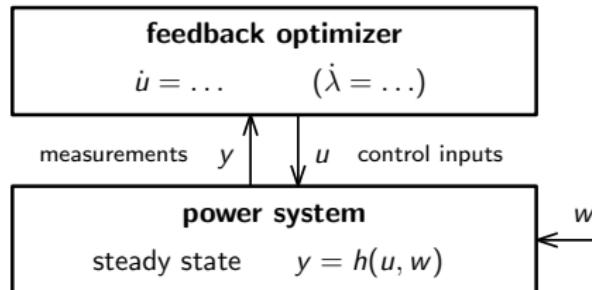
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
 Confederazione Svizzera
 Confederaziun svizra



ERIGrid Research Infrastructure
 EU Horizon 2020

CLOSED-LOOP ANALYSIS

Stability



Two reasons why it may fail to converge to the OPF solution

- **Irregularity of the domain \mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y}**
- **Interplay with the dynamics of the grid $y \approx h(u, w)$**

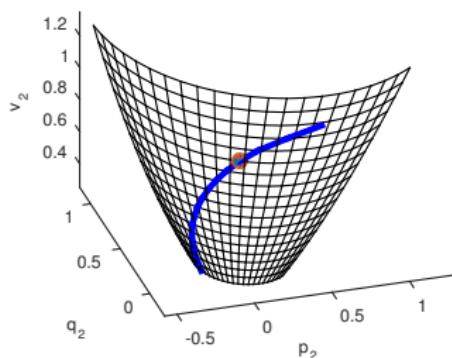
WELL-POSEDNESS AND DOMAIN REGULARITY

Power flow manifold

- Ambient space for the steady-state map $y = h(u, w) \rightarrow x = \begin{bmatrix} v \\ \theta \\ p \\ q \end{bmatrix}$
- Set of all grid states that satisfy the **AC power flow equations** $F(x) = 0$

→ **power flow manifold** $\mathcal{M} := \{x \mid F(x) = 0\}$

- Regular submanifold of dimension $2n$



Induced trajectory

- Steady state $h \Leftrightarrow$ Attractive manifold
- Feedback (gradient) control law $\dot{u} = \dots$
induces a trajectory

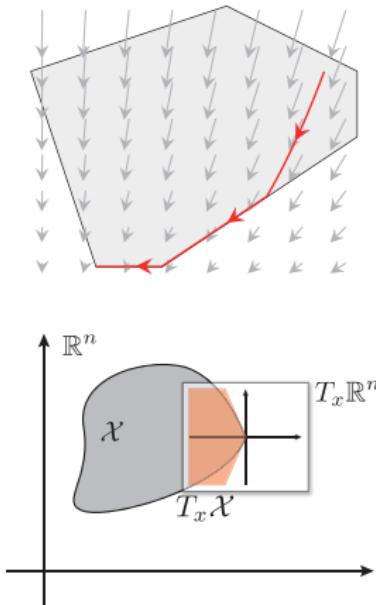
$$x(t) \in \mathcal{M}$$

Bolognani & Dörfler

“Fast power system analysis via implicit linearization of the power flow manifold”

Allerton Conference (2015)

Projected dynamical systems



$$\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X} \subset \mathcal{M}$$

- **Projected vector field** (a set-valued map) with respect to **a metric g**

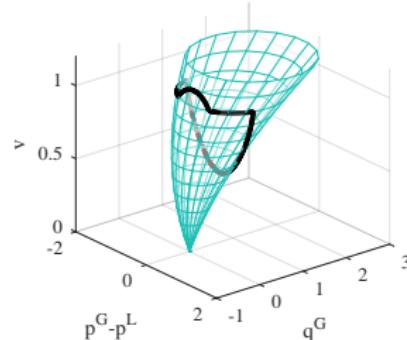
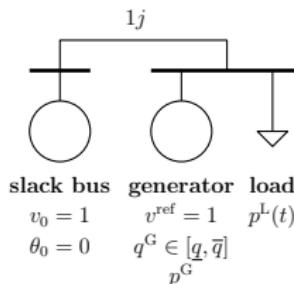
$$\Pi_{\mathcal{X}}^g[f](x) := \arg \min_{v \in T_x \mathcal{X}} \|v - f(x)\|_{g(x)}$$

- **Initial value problem** (differential inclusion)

$$\dot{x} \in \Pi_{\mathcal{X}}^g[f](x), \quad x(0) = x_0 \in \mathcal{X}$$

- Well posedness of this trajectory (existence, uniqueness) is (for the most part) function of the **regularity of the domain \mathcal{X}**

Well-posedness results (static)



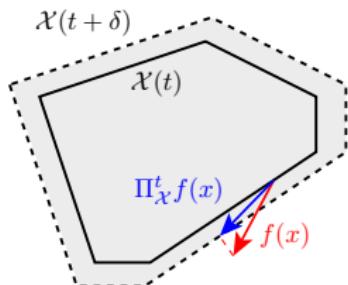
	domain \mathcal{X}	vector field f	metric g	manifold \mathcal{M}
existence of Krasovskii solutions	compact	C^0	C^0	C^1
$\mathcal{S}_C(x_0) = \mathcal{S}_K(x_0)$	Clarke reg.	C^0	C^0	C^1
uniqueness of solutions	prox reg.	$C^{0,1}$	$C^{0,1}$	$C^{1,1}$

Krasovskii → La Salle → **convergence of projected gradient systems**

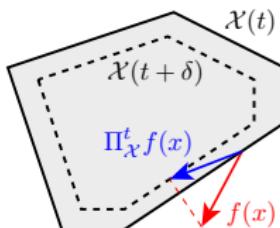
Hauswirth, Bolognani, & Dörfler
"Projected Dynamical Systems on Irregular, Non-Euclidean Domains for Nonlinear Optimization"
arXiv (2018)

Time-varying projected dynamical systems (with I. Subotić)

expanding domain



shrinking domain



- New definition of **temporal tangent “cone”**

$$v \in T_x^t \mathcal{X} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} \exists x_k \rightarrow x, \delta_k \rightarrow 0^+ : \\ \frac{x_k - x}{\delta_k} \rightarrow v \quad \text{and} \quad x_k \in \mathcal{X}(t + \delta_k) \end{cases}$$

→ not necessarily a cone ⇒ can be empty

- Define **time-varying** projected vector field

$$\Pi_{\mathcal{X}}[f](x, t) := \arg \min_{v \in T_x^t \mathcal{X}} \|v - f(x)\|$$

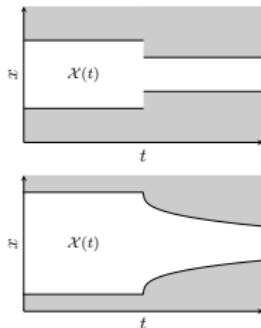
→ initial value problem

$$\dot{x} \in \Pi_{\mathcal{X}}[f](x), \quad x(0) = x_0 \in \mathcal{X}$$

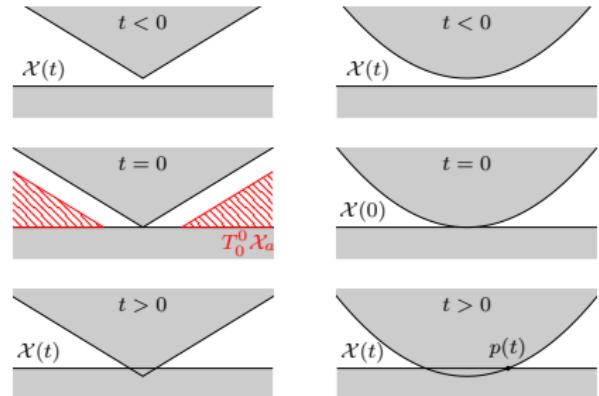
⇒ Existence of **Krasovskii solutions** if $\mathcal{X}(t)$ is a **forward Lipschitz continuous**

Time varying domain

Limit on domain shrinking



Constraint geometry



$$\begin{bmatrix} \nabla h(x) \\ \nabla g_{I(x)}(h) \end{bmatrix} \text{ full rank}$$

A. Hauswirth, I. Subotic, S. Bolognani, G. Hug, F. Dörfler
“Time-varying Projected Dynamical Systems with Applications to Feedback Optimization of Power Systems”
 IEEE Conference on Decision and Control (2018)

Genericity results

LICQ

$\begin{bmatrix} \nabla h(x) \\ \nabla g_{I(x)}(h) \end{bmatrix}$ full rank is **generically** satisfied in **static** OPF

→ well-posedness & uniqueness of Lagrange multipliers

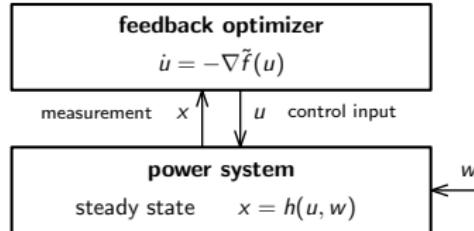
- load perturbation or shunt admittance perturbation **OK**
- line parameter perturbation **NOT OK** (structural ill-posedness)

A. Hauswirth, S. Bolognani, G. Hug, F. Dörfler
“Generic Existence of Unique Lagrange Multipliers in AC Optimal Power Flow”
 IEEE Control Systems Letters (2018)

Remark: Non-existence of a feasible trajectory can be interpreted as a lack of **control authority**: no finite control effort will maintain the grid state inside the desired bounds, or to track the prescribed reference.

INTERCONNECTED DYNAMICS

Gradient-based Feedback Optimization



Feedback on state x , Cost $f(u, x)$

Optimization Dynamics

Variable-metric gradient descent

$$\dot{u} = -Q(u)\nabla \tilde{f}(u)$$

- $Q(u) \succ 0$ for all $u \in \mathbb{R}^p$
- $\tilde{f}(u) := f(u, h(u, w))$
- $\nabla \tilde{f}(u) = \nabla_u f + \nabla h^T \nabla_y f$

Plant Dynamics

Exponentially stable system

$$\dot{x} = \phi(x, u)$$

with steady-state map $x = h(u, w)$

Interconnection

$$\dot{x} = \phi(x, \textcolor{red}{u})$$

$$\dot{u} = -Q(u) (\nabla_u f(u, \textcolor{red}{x}) + \nabla h^T \nabla_y f(u, \textcolor{red}{x}))$$

Interconnected dynamics (gradient FO)

Theorem

Assume

- Physical system **exponentially stable** with Lyapunov function $W(x, u)$ s.t.

$$\dot{W}(x, u) \leq -\gamma \|x - h(u)\|^2 \quad \|\nabla_u W(x, u)\| \leq \zeta \|x - h(u)\| .$$

- $f(u, x)$ has compact level sets and **L -Lipschitz** gradient.

Then, all trajectories converge to the set of KKT points whenever

$$\sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}^p} \|Q(u)\| < \frac{\gamma}{\zeta L} .$$

Furthermore,

- Asymptotically stable equilibrium \Rightarrow strict local minimizer
 - Strict local minimizer \Rightarrow stable equilibrium
- If f convex and $h(u, w)$ linear, then convergence to set of global minimizers.

Interconnected dynamics (gradient FO)

Vanilla GD

Choose $Q = \varepsilon I_n$.

Stability is guaranteed if

$$\varepsilon \leq \frac{\gamma}{\zeta L}$$

\Rightarrow prescription on global control gain

Newton GD

Choose $Q(u) = (\nabla^2 f(u, h(u)))^{-1}$
(if f μ -strongly cvx and twice diff'ble)

Stability is guaranteed if

$$\frac{L}{\mu} \leq \frac{\gamma}{\zeta}$$

\Rightarrow invariant under scaling of J

Projected GD

Control signal u constrained to set \mathcal{U}
(in case of actuator saturation).

$$\dot{u} = \Pi_{T_u \mathcal{U}} [-\varepsilon \nabla \tilde{f}(u)]$$

\Rightarrow stable if $\varepsilon \leq \frac{\gamma}{\zeta L}$ (same bound)

Not

- Subgradient methods
- Accelerated gradient method

General feedback optimization controllers

General Slow Dynamics

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{u} &= \varepsilon g(h(u), u, z) \\ \dot{z} &= \varepsilon k(h(u), u, z)\end{aligned}$$

- Saddle-point flows
- requires exponential stability (open problem!)
- [Qu & Li, 2018]
- Projected dynamics
- **primal variables:**
any-time constraints
- **dual variables:**
steady-state constraints

Theorem

- $(g(x, u, z), k(x, u, z))$ is L -Lipschitz in x
- $(g(h(u), u, z), k(h(u), u, z))$ is ℓ -Lipschitz
- \exists Lyap fct $V(u, z)$ for the slow dynamics

$$\dot{V}(u, z) \leq -\mu \|e(u, z)\|^2$$

$$\|\nabla V(u, z)\| \leq \kappa \|e(u, z)\|$$

- \exists Lyap fct $W(x, u)$ for the plant

$$\dot{W}(x, u) \leq -\gamma \|x - h(u)\|^2$$

$$\|\nabla_u W(x, u)\| \leq \zeta \|x - h(u)\|$$

Then, asymptotic stability is guaranteed if

$$\epsilon < \frac{\gamma}{\zeta L(1 + \frac{\kappa\ell}{\mu})}.$$

Highlights and comparison

Weak assumptions on plant

- internal stability
- exponential convergence

Weak assumptions on cost

- Lipschitz gradient
- no convexity required

- potentially conservative bound (Singular Perturbation Analysis)
- directly **useful for control design** (no LMI/IQC stability test)
[Nelson et al. 2017], [Colombino et al. 2018]
- analysis applicable to many continuous-time optimization algorithms

Hauswirth, Bolognani, Hug, & Dörfler
“Timescale Separation in Autonomous Optimization”
arXiv (2019)

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions

- Integral **feedback control** to solve constrained optimization problems
- A sound mathematical framework: **projected dynamical systems**
 - existence of solutions, time varying constraints, disconnected regions, ...
- **Stability / convergence guarantees**
 - singular-perturbation analysis yields design specifications
- A new unified approach to real-time **power systems operations**
 - any-time feasibility + steady state optimality
 - robustness to model mismatch / unmeasured disturbances / uncertain dynamics
 - almost-model-free design (only “sensitivities” are needed)
- **Resource sharing problem:** beyond power grids?

UNICORN A Unified Control Framework for
Real-Time Power System Operation



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