

# PMU Data Analytics for Power Distribution

First Session

Hamed Mohsenian-Rad, University of California, Riverside

**Nonintrusive Load Modeling Using Micro-PMUs**

Asja Derviskadic, Swiss Federal Institute of Tech of Lausanne

**Synchronized Sensing for Wide-Area Situational Awareness of Power Distribution Networks**

Second Session

Wei Zhou, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

**DPMU for Harmonic State Estimation**

Moosa Moghimi Haji, University of Alberta

**Estimating Distribution System Parameters using DPMU and Smart Meter Data**

# Nonintrusive Load Modeling Using Micro-PMUs

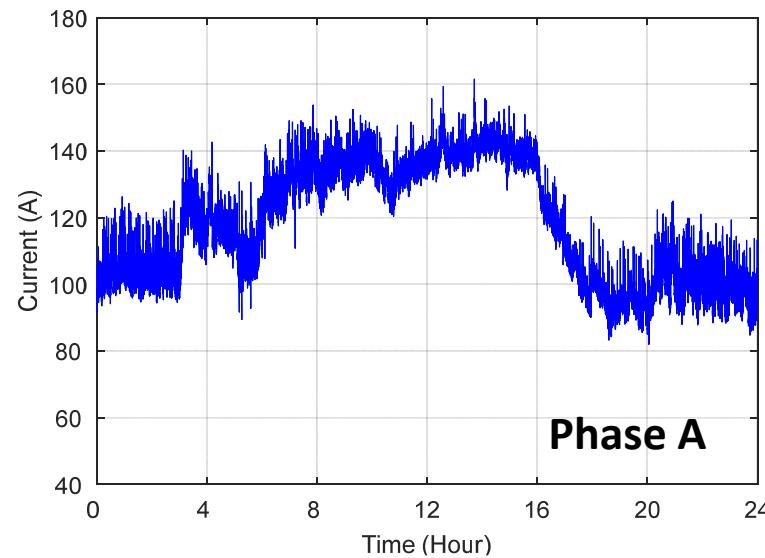
Smart Grid Comm 2019, Beijing, China

Hamed Mohsenian-Rad

Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering, University of California, Riverside  
Associate Director, Winston Chung Global Energy Center  
Director, UC-National Lab Center for Power Distribution Cyber Security

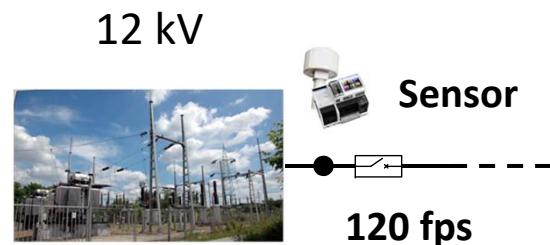
*Acknowledgements:* A. Shahsavari, M. Farajollahi, E. Stewart, E. Cortez,  
A. von-Meier, L. Alvarez, C. Roberts, F. Megala, Z. Taylor

# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams



## Event Signature

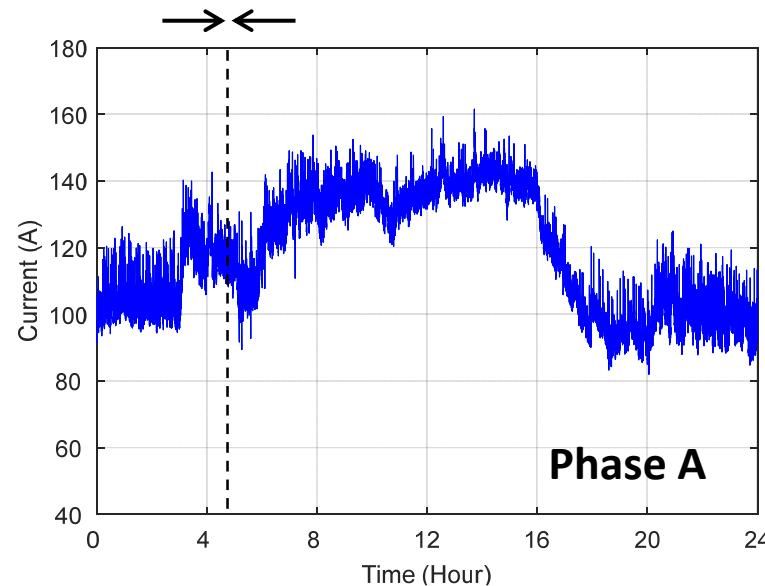
- Current ( $I$ )
- Voltage ( $V$ )
- Active Power ( $P$ )
- Reactive Power ( $Q$ )



Micro-PMU  
(Riverside, CA)

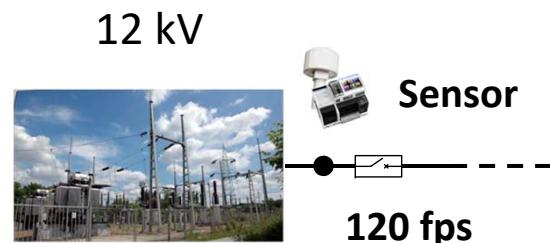
**120 Million Data Points Per Day**

# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams



## Event Signature

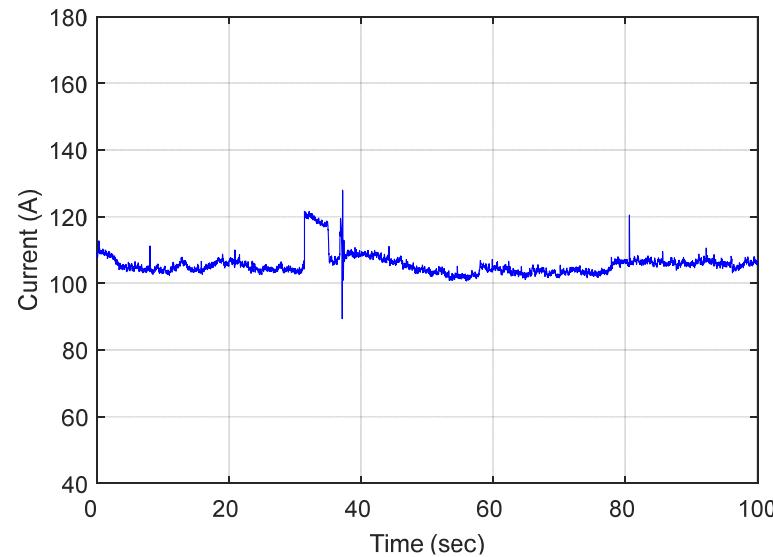
- Current ( $I$ )
- Voltage ( $V$ )
- Active Power ( $P$ )
- Reactive Power ( $Q$ )



Micro-PMU  
(Riverside, CA)

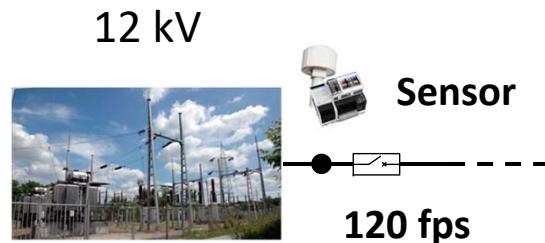
**120 Million Data Points Per Day**

# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams



## Event Signature

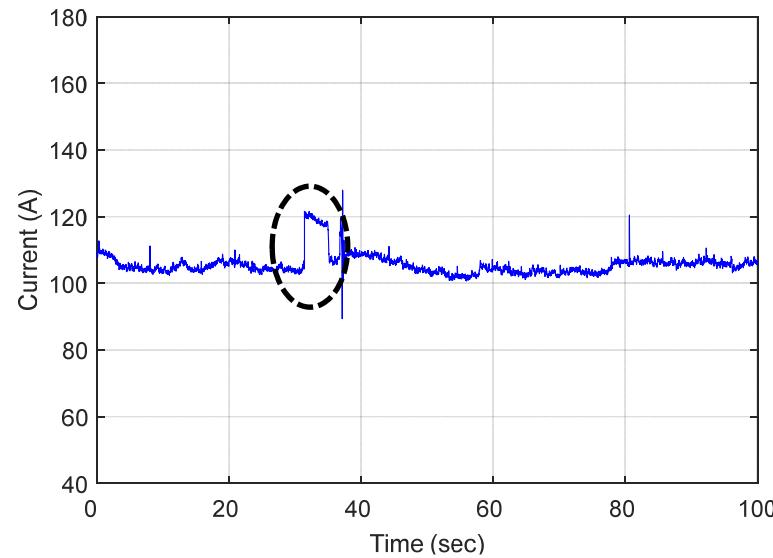
- Current ( $I$ )
- Voltage ( $V$ )
- Active Power ( $P$ )
- Reactive Power ( $Q$ )



Micro-PMU  
(Riverside, CA)

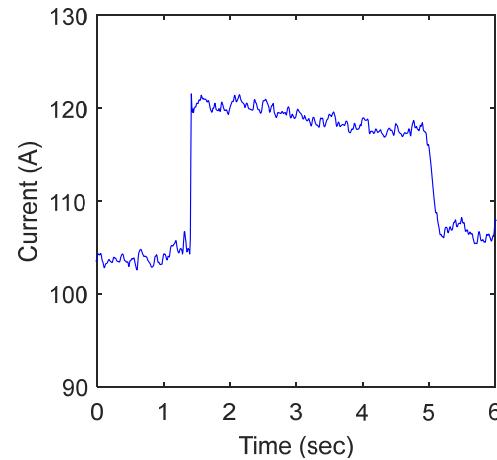
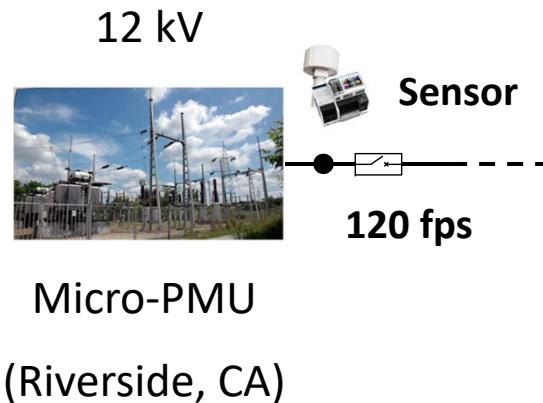
**120 Million Data Points Per Day**

# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams

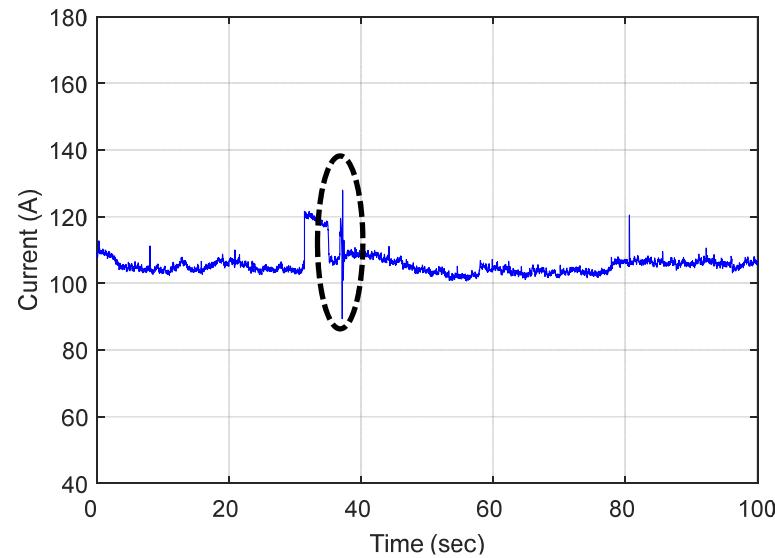


## Event Signature

- Current ( $I$ )
- Voltage ( $V$ )
- Active Power ( $P$ )
- Reactive Power ( $Q$ )

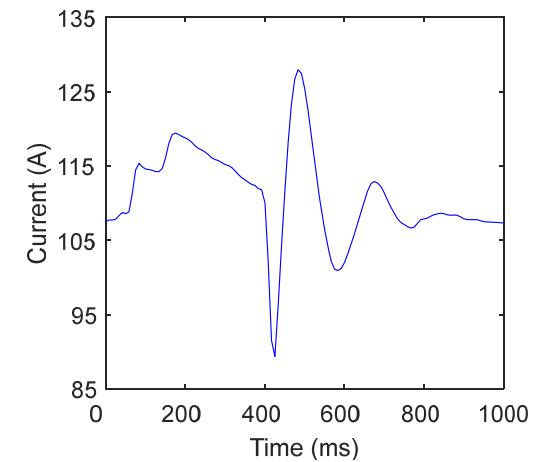
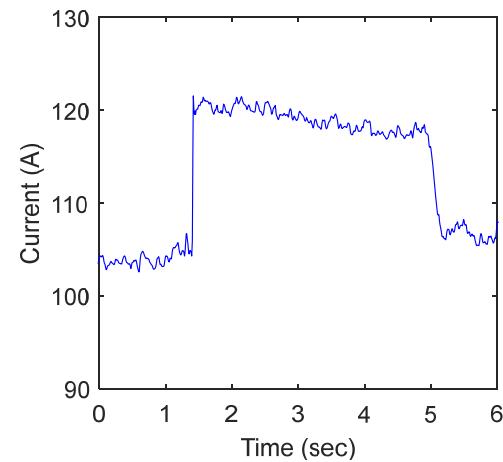
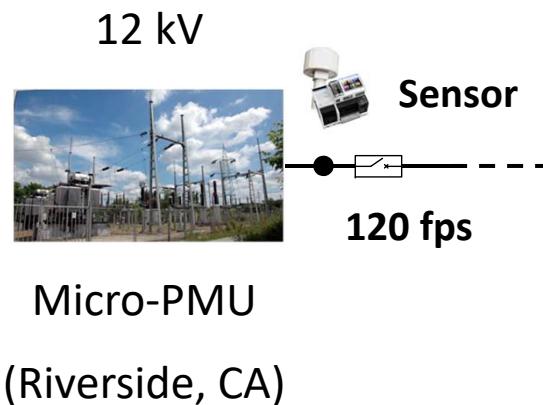


# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams

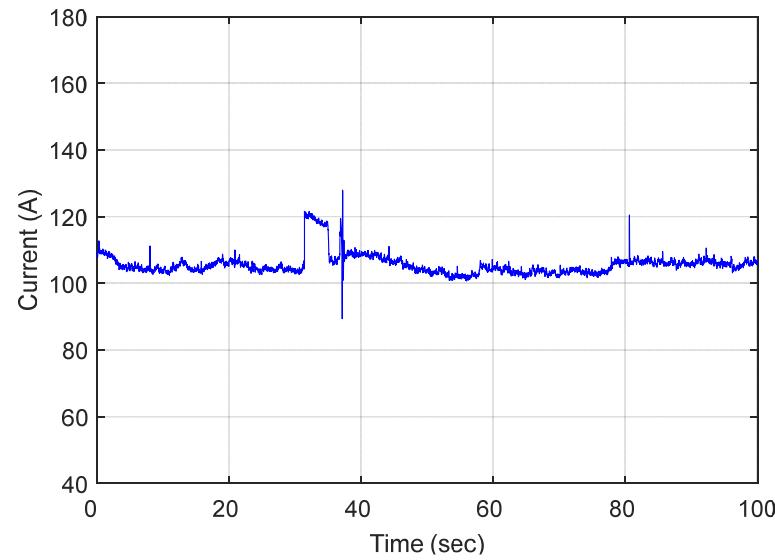


## Event Signature

- Current ( $I$ )
- Voltage ( $V$ )
- Active Power ( $P$ )
- Reactive Power ( $Q$ )

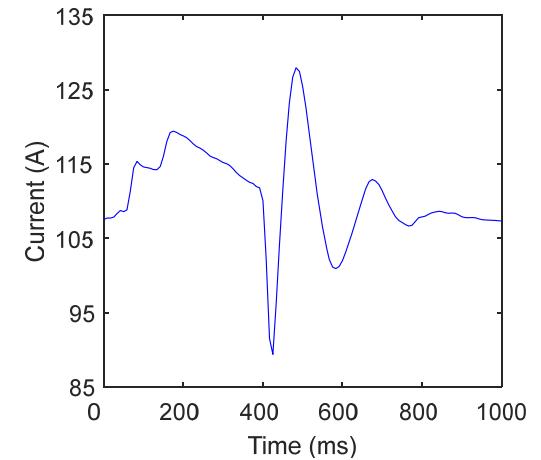
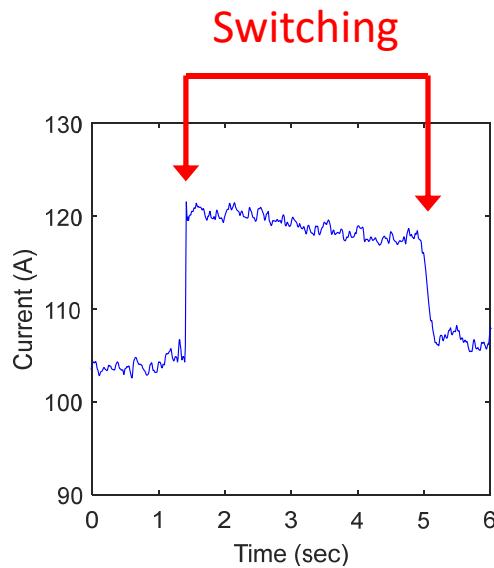
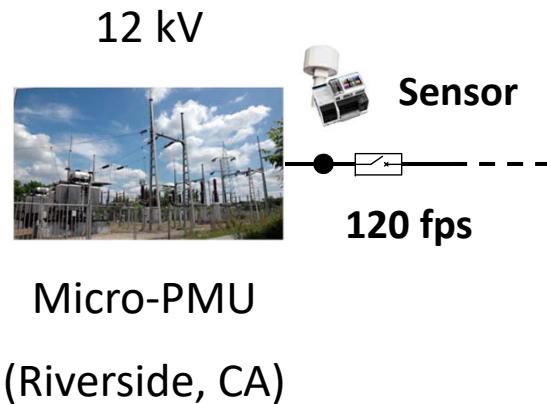


# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams

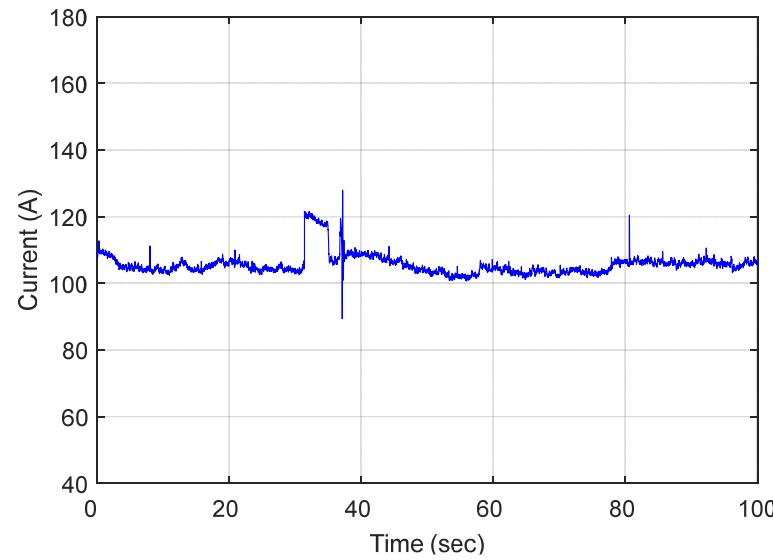


## Event Signature

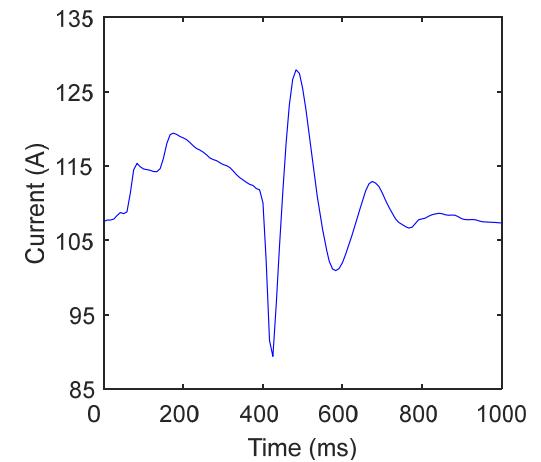
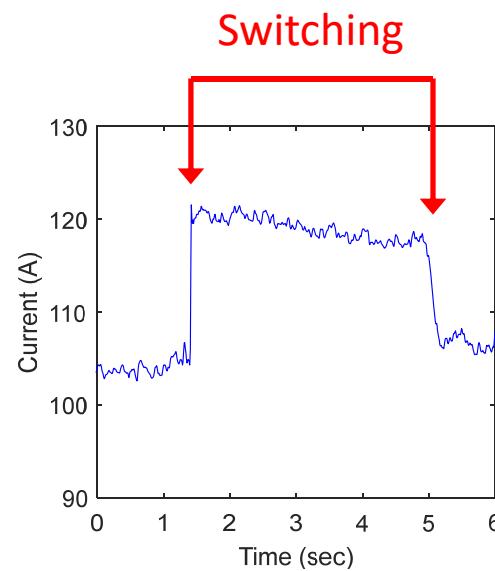
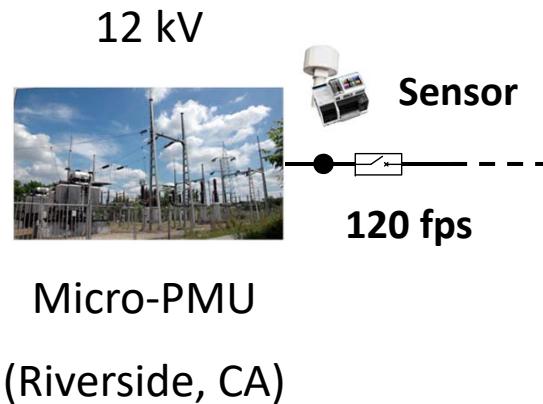
- Current ( $I$ )
- Voltage ( $V$ )
- Active Power ( $P$ )
- Reactive Power ( $Q$ )



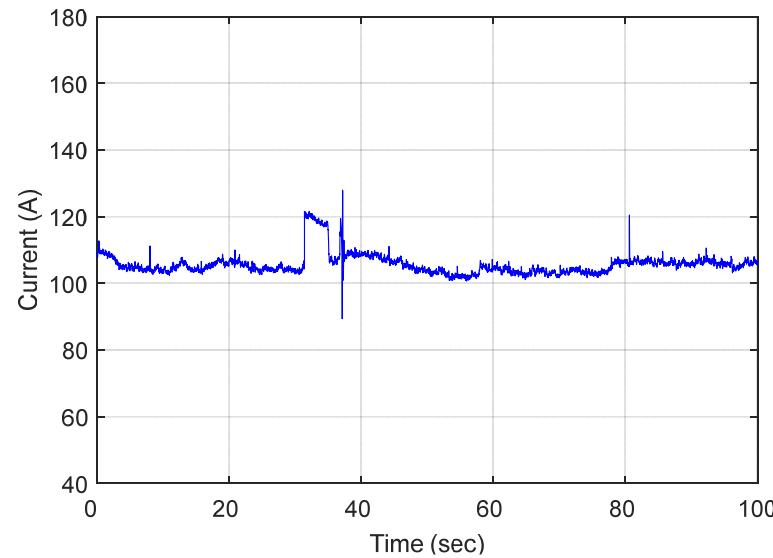
# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams



**On Average: 500 Events Per Day Per Feeder**

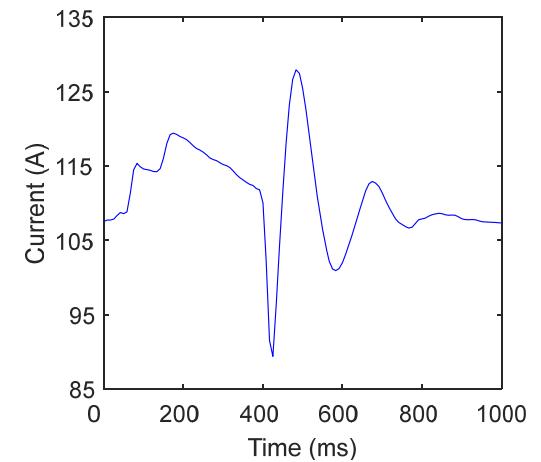
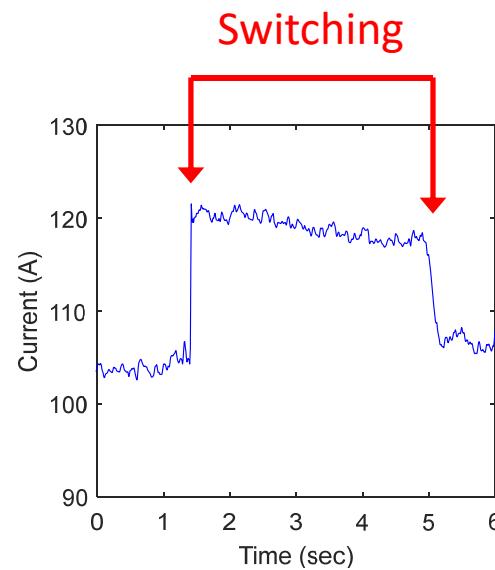
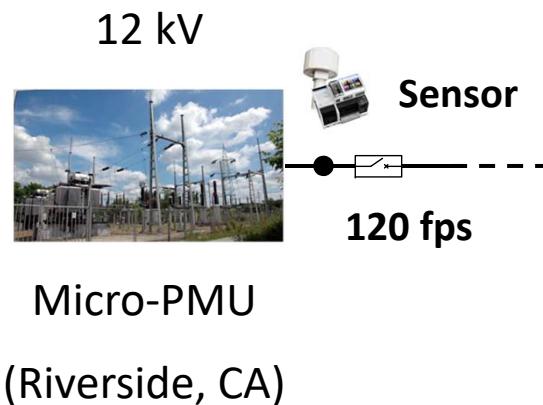


# Background: Events in Micro-PMU Data Streams



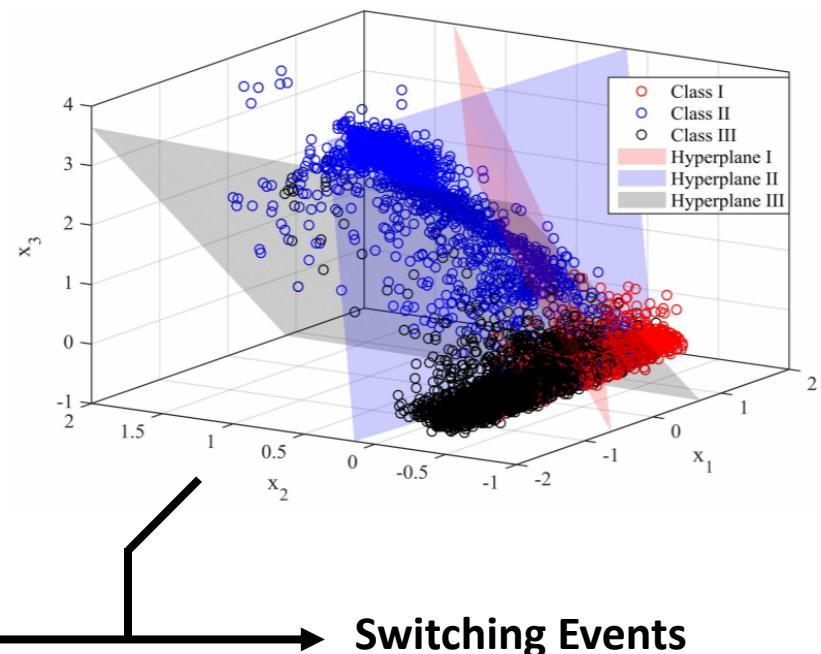
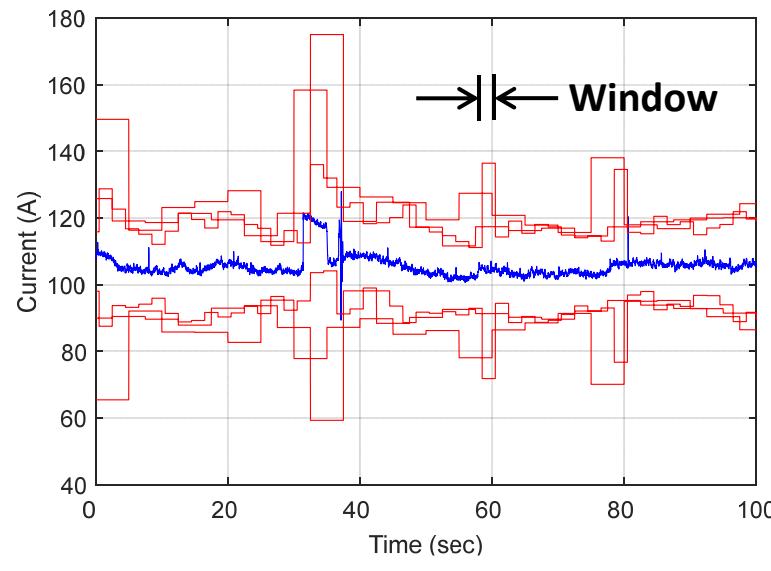
~~Data Stream~~

**On Average: 500 Events Per Day Per Feeder**



# Previous Results

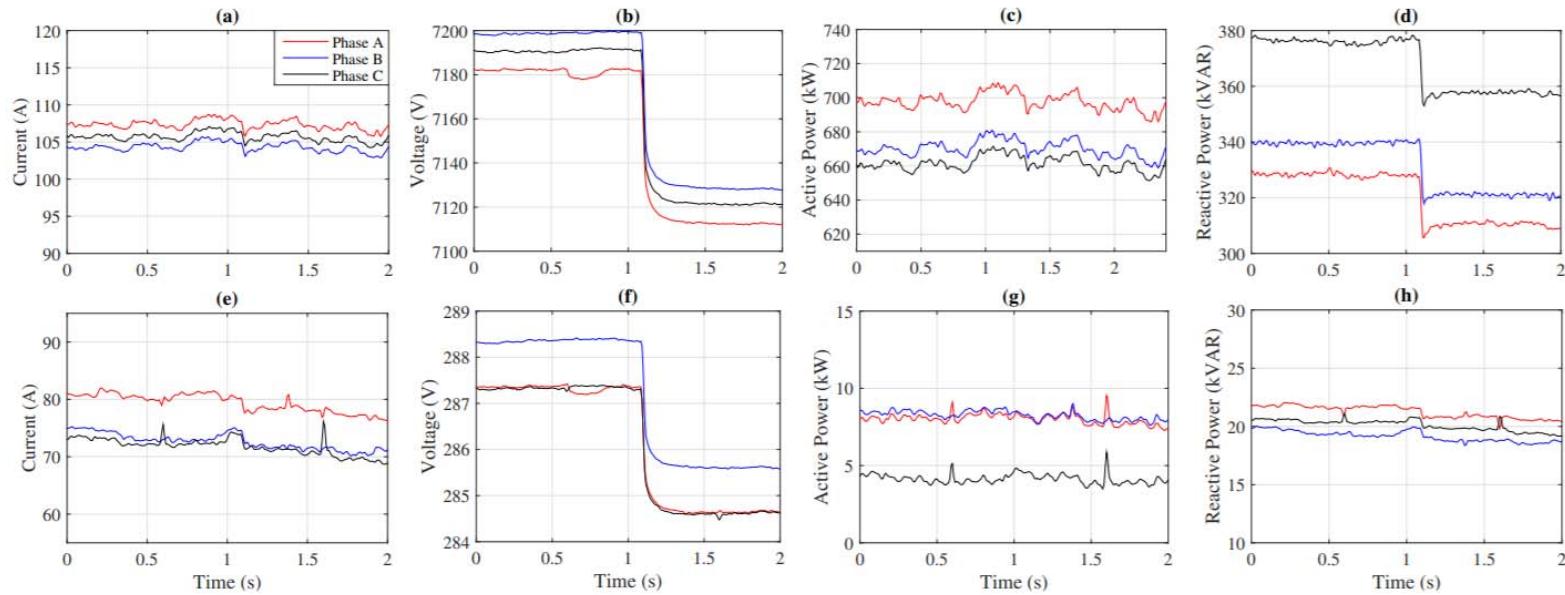
## 1. Event Detection and Event Classification (Machine Learning):



[1] A. Shahsavari, M. Farajollahi, E. Stewart, E. Cortez, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Situational Awareness in Distribution Grid Using Micro-PMU Data: A Machine Learning Approach," *IEEE Trans. on Smart Grid*, Nov 2019.

# Previous Results

## 1. Event Detection and Event Classification (Machine Learning):

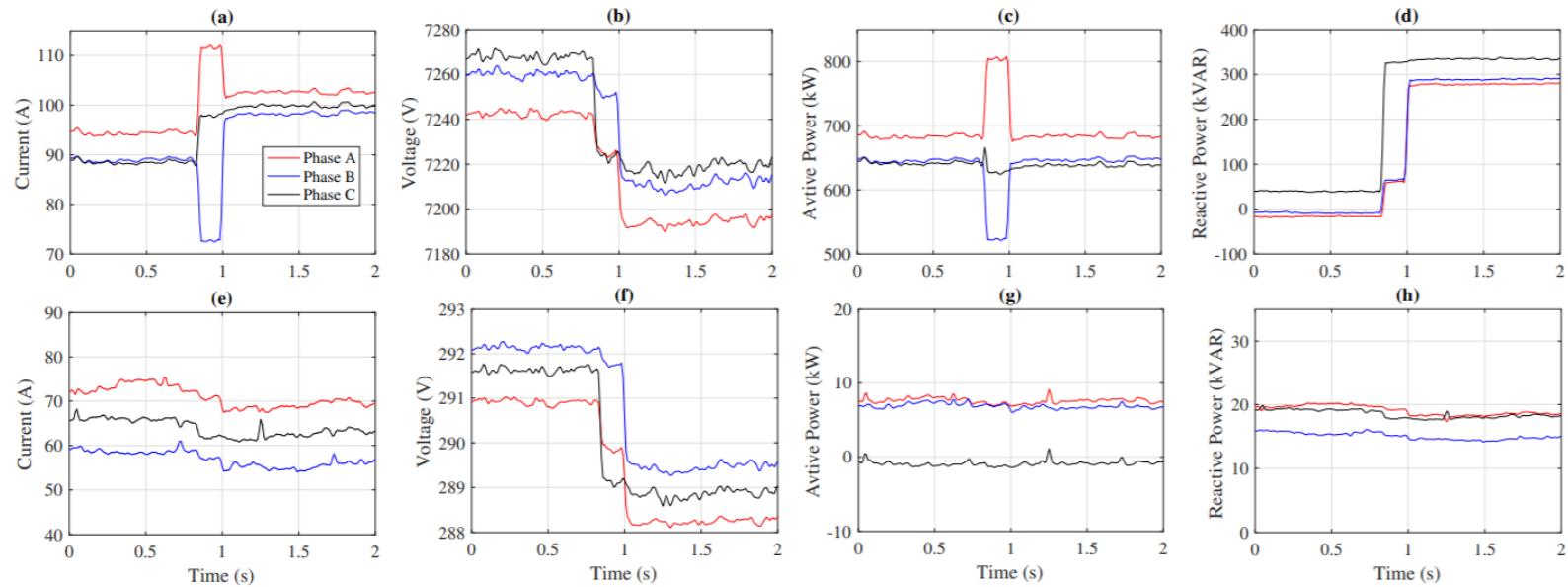


**Upstream Event (Sub-transmission or Transmission)**

[1] A. Shahsavari, M. Farajollahi, E. Stewart, E. Cortez, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Situational Awareness in Distribution Grid Using Micro-PMU Data: A Machine Learning Approach," *IEEE Trans. on Smart Grid*, Nov 2019.

# Previous Results

## 1. Event Detection and Event Classification (Machine Learning):

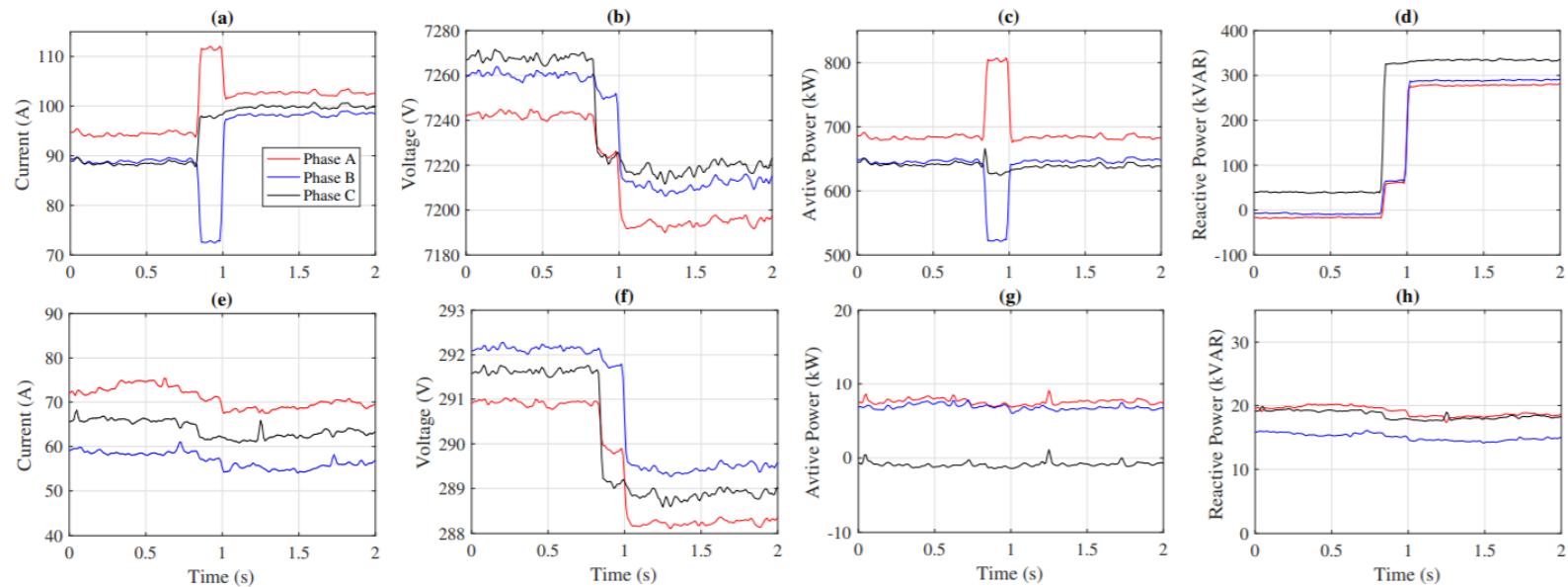


**Switching Event (Distribution)**

[1] A. Shahsavari, M. Farajollahi, E. Stewart, E. Cortez, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Situational Awareness in Distribution Grid Using Micro-PMU Data: A Machine Learning Approach," *IEEE Trans. on Smart Grid*, Nov 2019.

# Previous Results

## 1. Event Detection and Event Classification (Machine Learning):

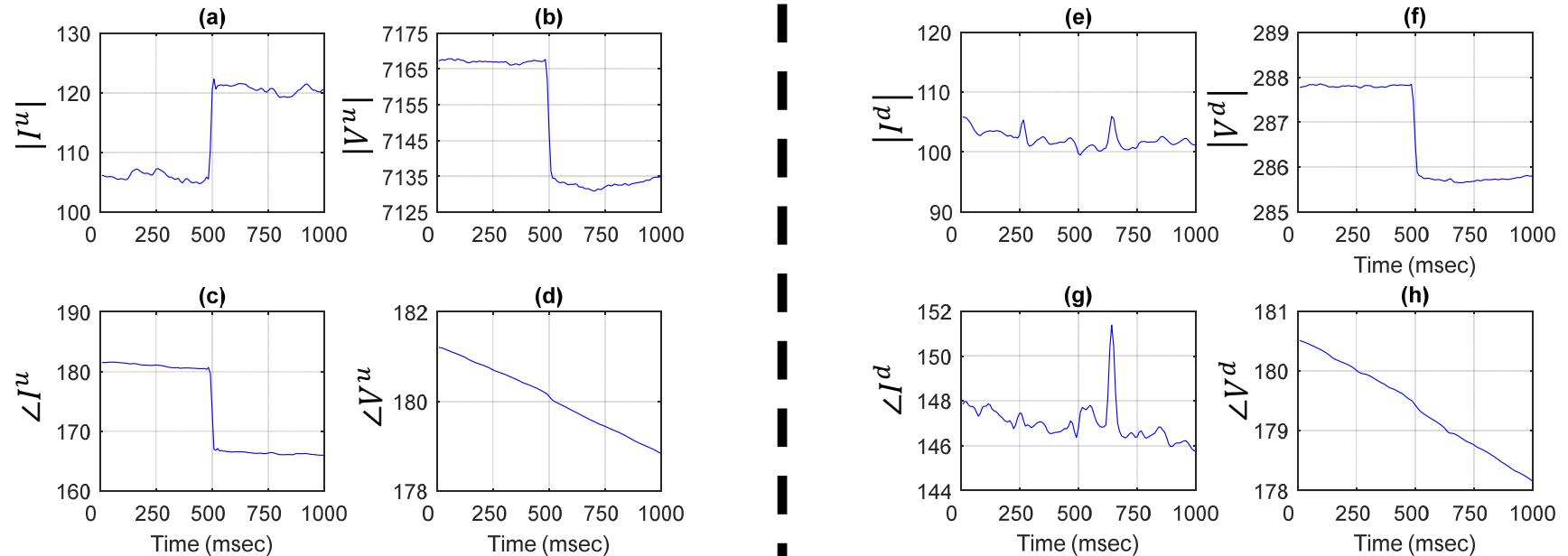


Switching Event (Distribution)

[1] A. Shahsavari, M. Farajollahi, E. Stewart, E. Cortez, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Situational Awareness in Distribution Grid Using Micro-PMU Data: A Machine Learning Approach," *IEEE Trans. on Smart Grid*, Nov 2019.

# Previous Results

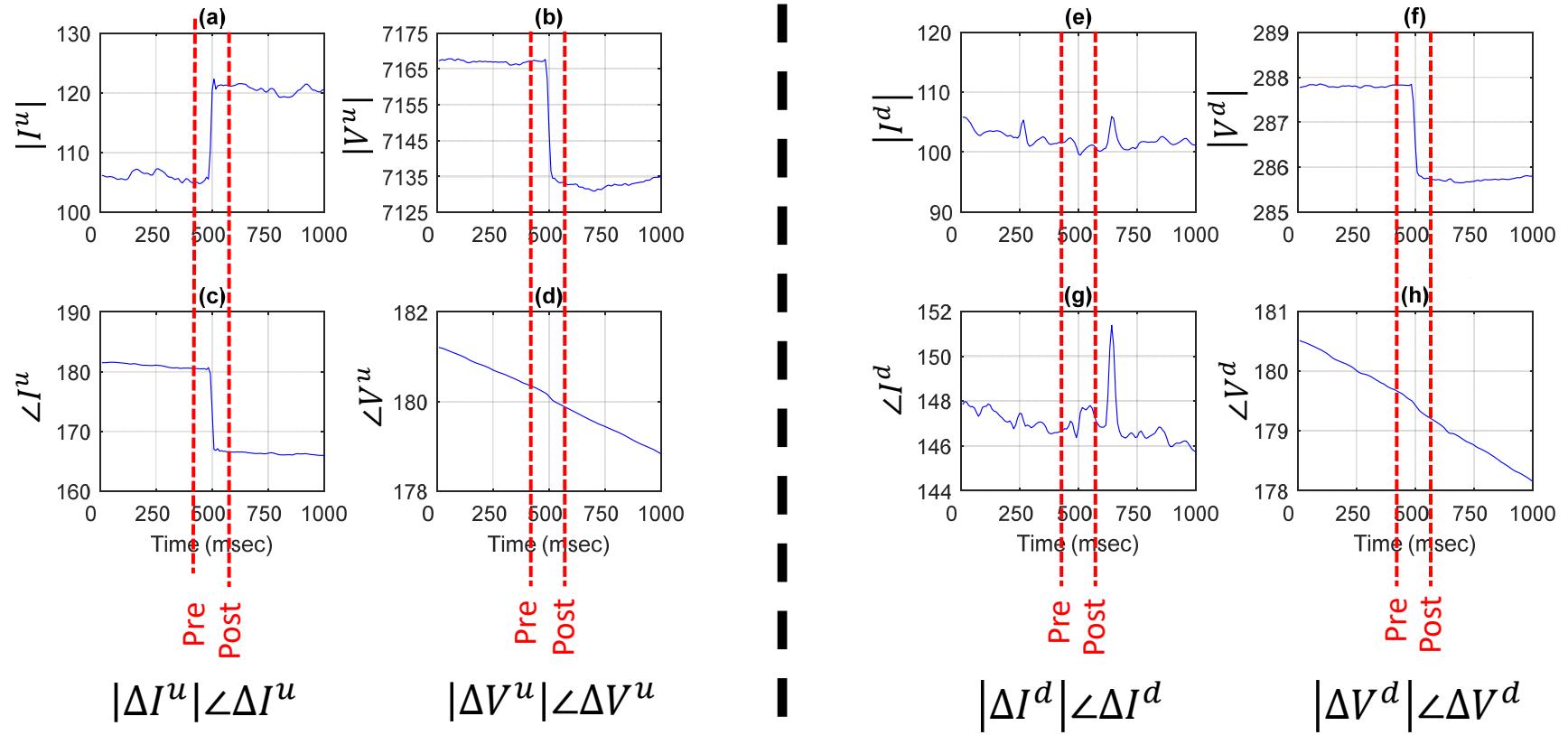
## 2. Event Location Identification (Hybrid Model-Based):



[2] M. Farajollahi, A. Shahsavari, E. Stewart, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Locating the Source of Events in Power Distribution Systems Using Micro-PMU Data," *IEEE Trans. on Power Systems* vol. 33, no. 6, Nov. 2018.

# Previous Results

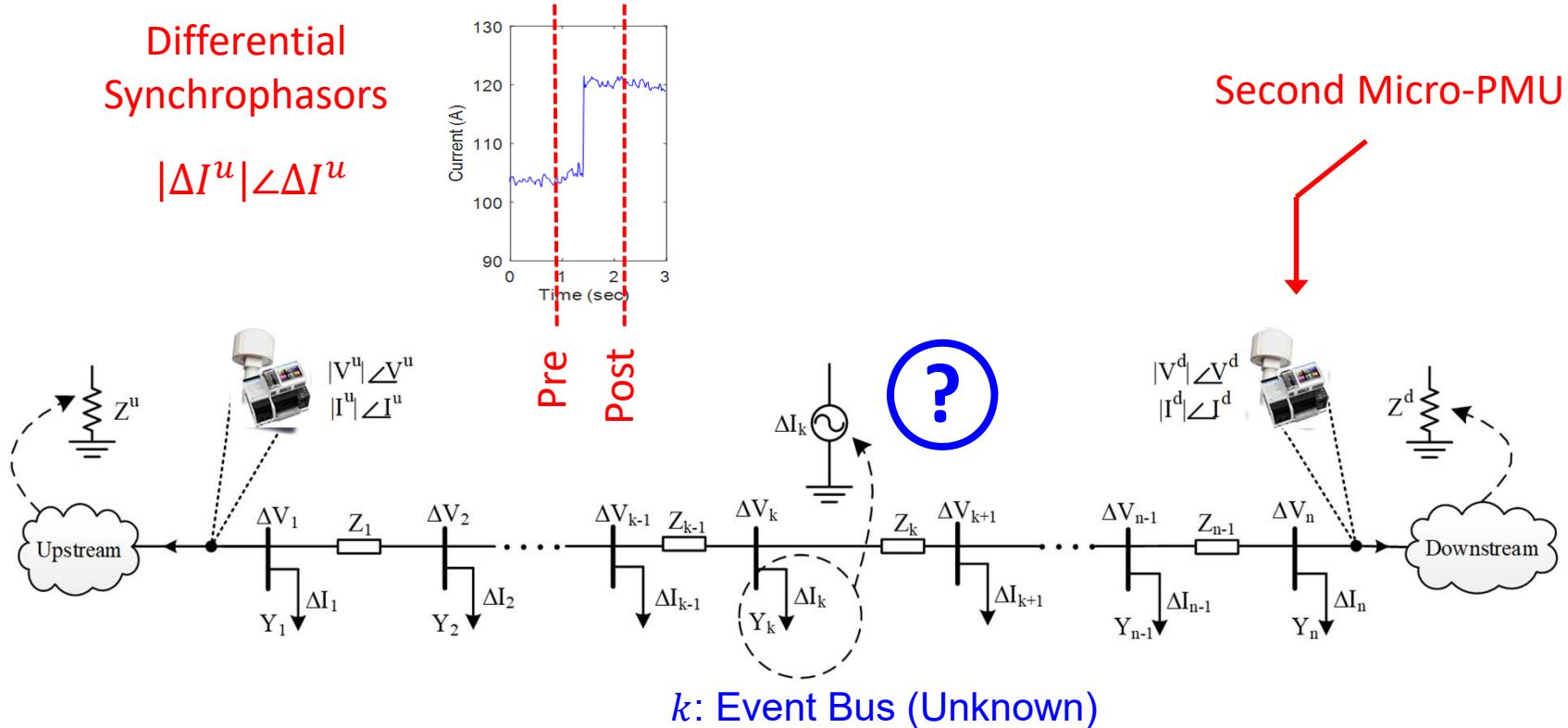
## 2. Event Location Identification (Hybrid Model-Based):



[2] M. Farajollahi, A. Shahsavari, E. Stewart, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Locating the Source of Events in Power Distribution Systems Using Micro-PMU Data," *IEEE Trans. on Power Systems* vol. 33, no. 6, Nov. 2018.

# Previous Results

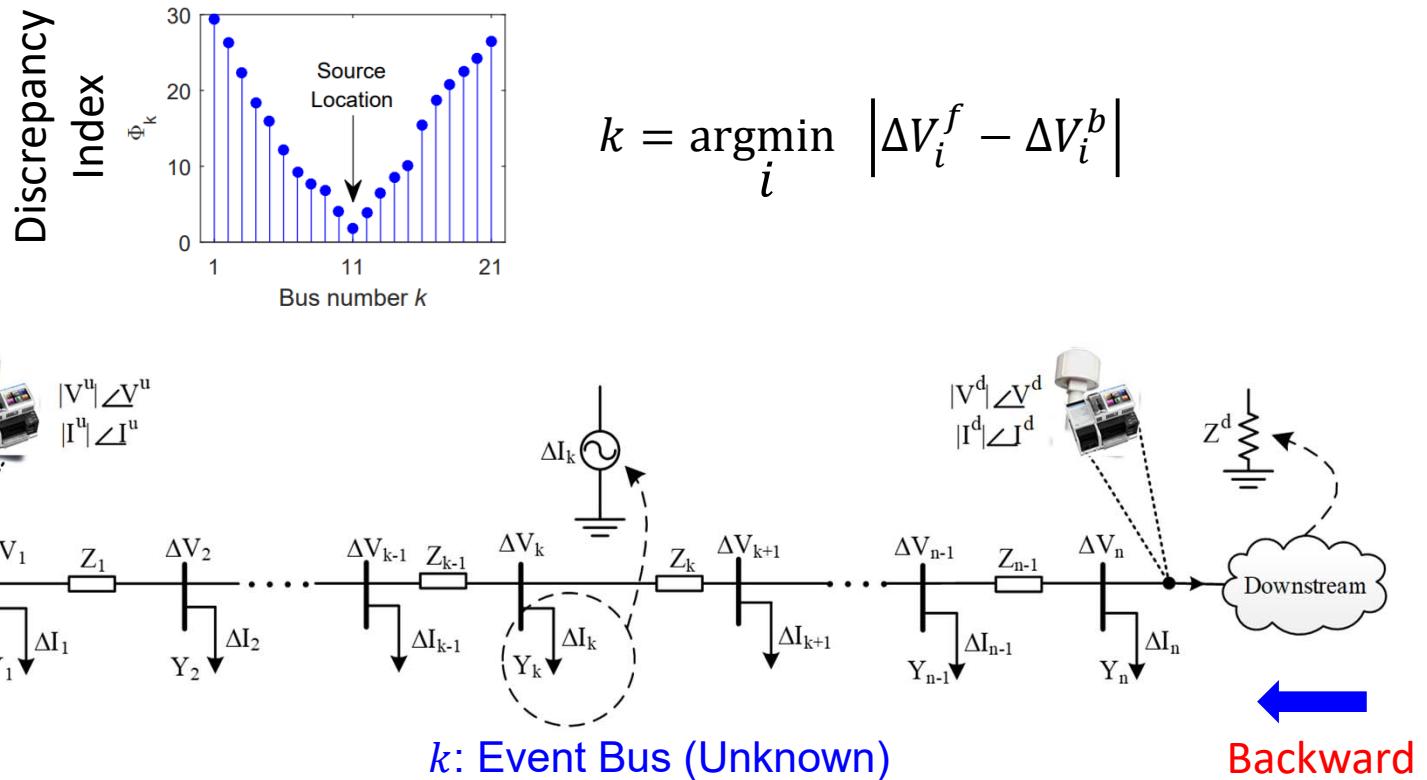
## 2. Event Location Identification (Hybrid Model-Based):



[2] M. Farajollahi, A. Shahsavari, E. Stewart, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Locating the Source of Events in Power Distribution Systems Using Micro-PMU Data," *IEEE Trans. on Power Systems* vol. 33, no. 6, Nov. 2018.

# Previous Results

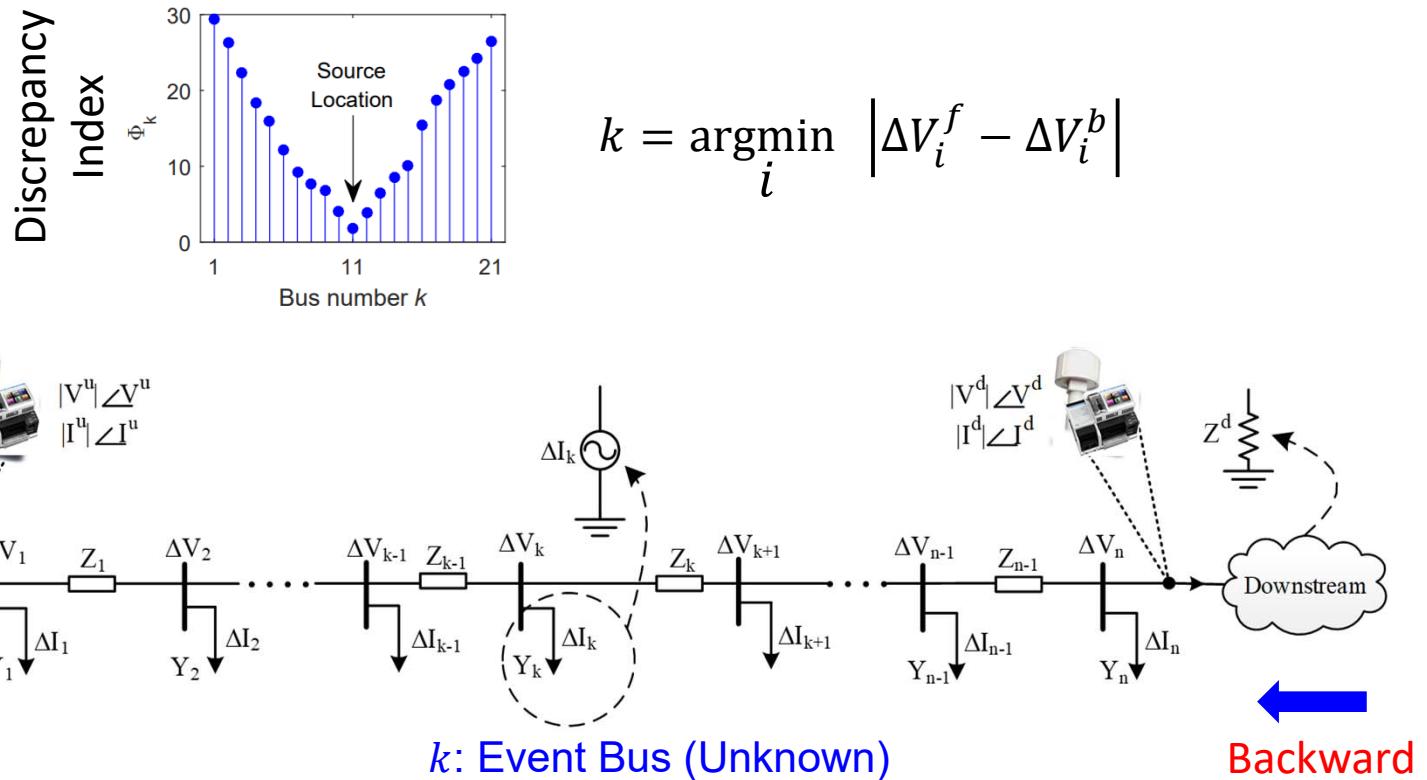
## 2. Event Location Identification (Hybrid Model-Based):



[2] M. Farajollahi, A. Shahsavari, E. Stewart, H. Mohsenian-Rad, "Locating the Source of Events in Power Distribution Systems Using Micro-PMU Data," *IEEE Trans. on Power Systems* vol. 33, no. 6, Nov. 2018.

# Previous Results

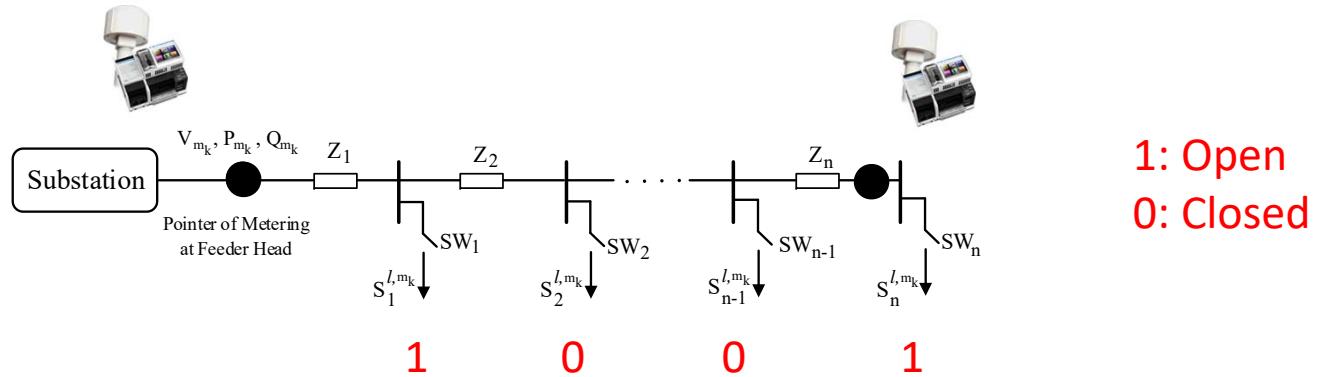
## 2. Event Location Identification (Hybrid Model-Based):



[2] M. Farajollahi, A. Shahsavari, E. Stewart, H. Mohsenian-Rad, 'Locating the Source of Events in Power Distribution Systems Using Micro-PMU Data,' *IEEE Trans. on Power Systems* vol. 33, no. 6, Nov. 2018.

# Observations

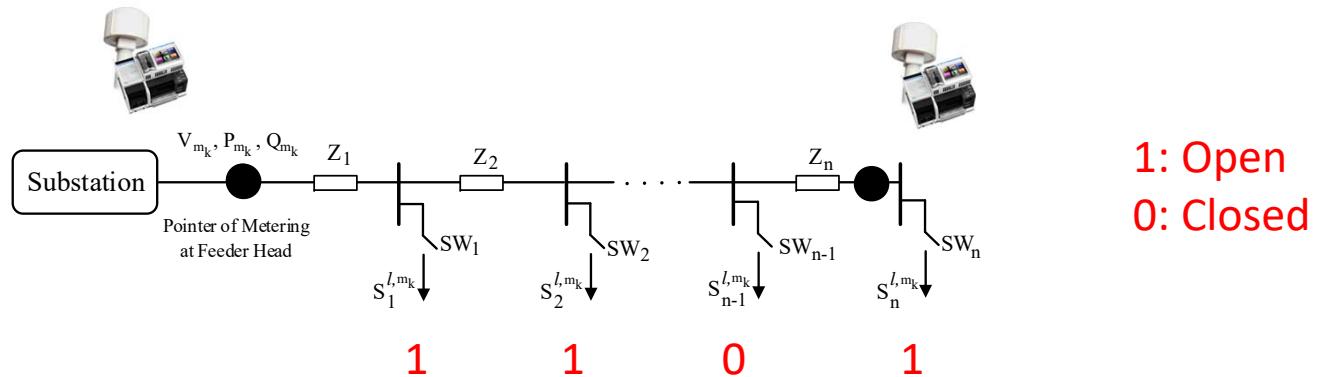
- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely** and **automatically** monitor all **load switching events**



- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

# Observations

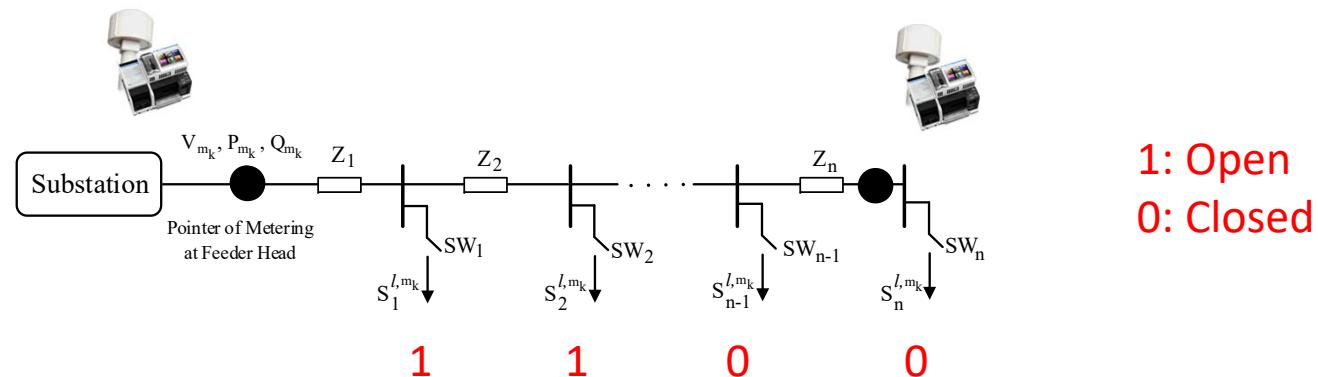
- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely** and **automatically** monitor all **load switching events**



- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

# Observations

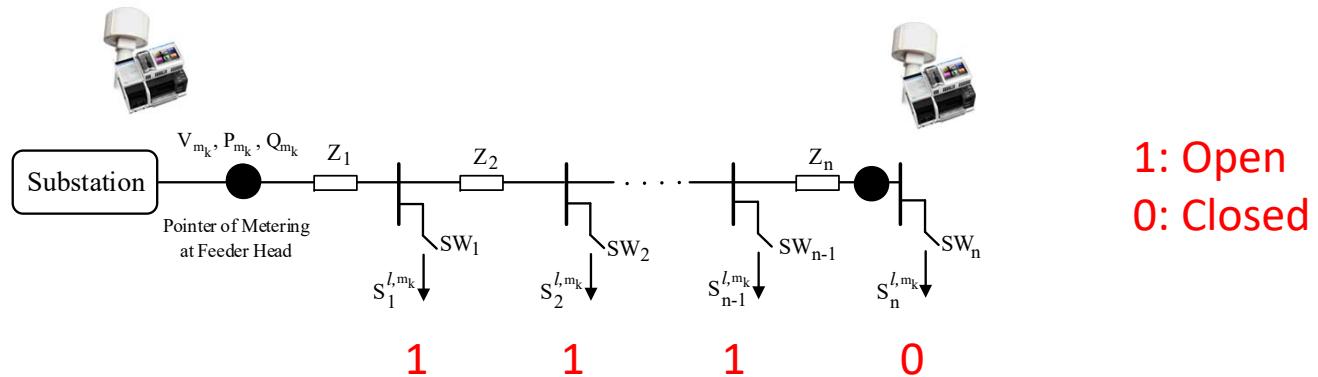
- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely** and **automatically** monitor all **load switching events**



- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

# Observations

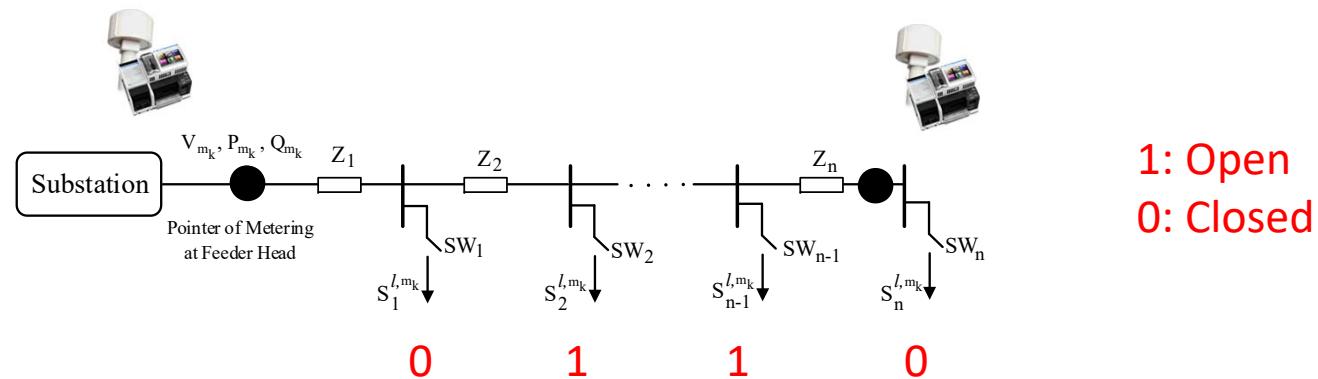
- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely** and **automatically** monitor all **load switching events**



- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

# Observations

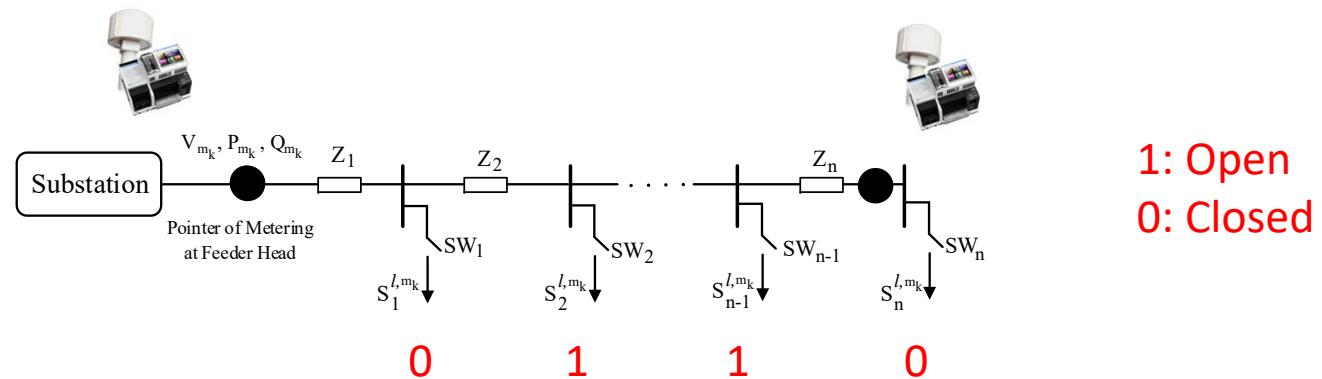
- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely** and **automatically** monitor all **load switching events**



- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

# Observations

- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely** and **automatically** monitor all **load switching events**

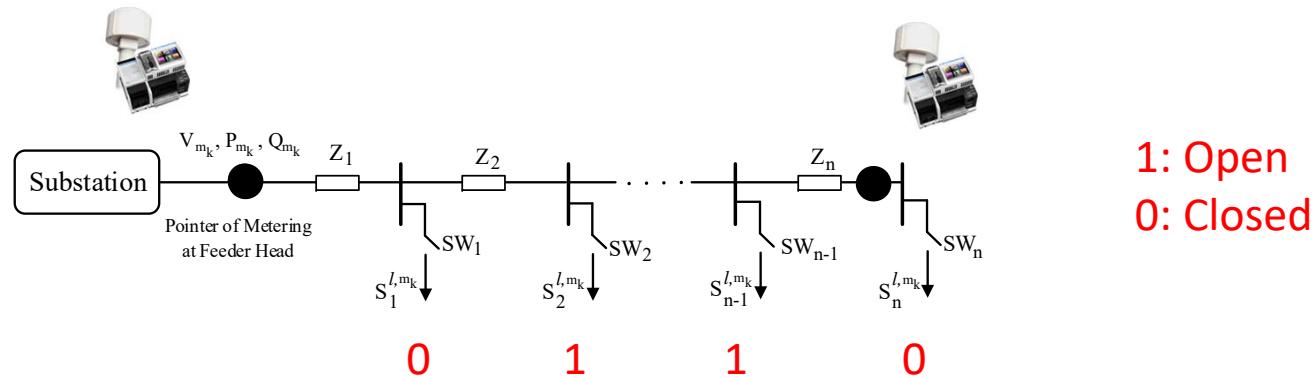


- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

**Q: What can we do with this?**

# Observations

- We used only two micro-PMUs
- We can **remotely and automatically** monitor all **load switching events**



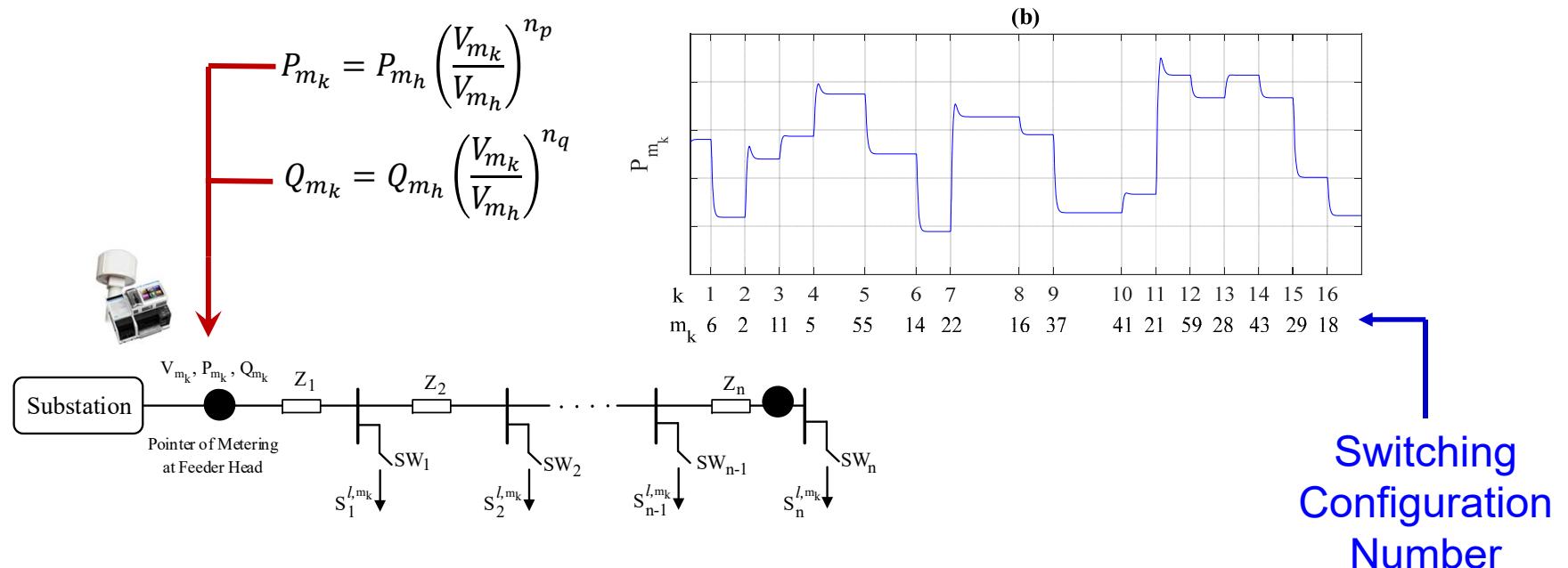
- Therefore, we can keep track of switching configurations.

**Q: What can we do with this?**

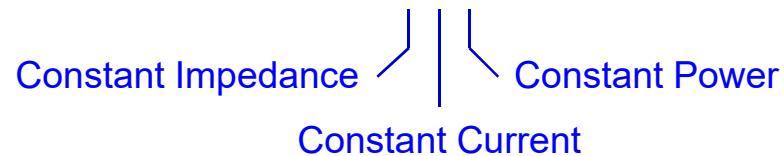
**A: Nonintrusive Load Modeling**

# Nonintrusive Load Modeling

- **Feeder Aggregated Load Model:**

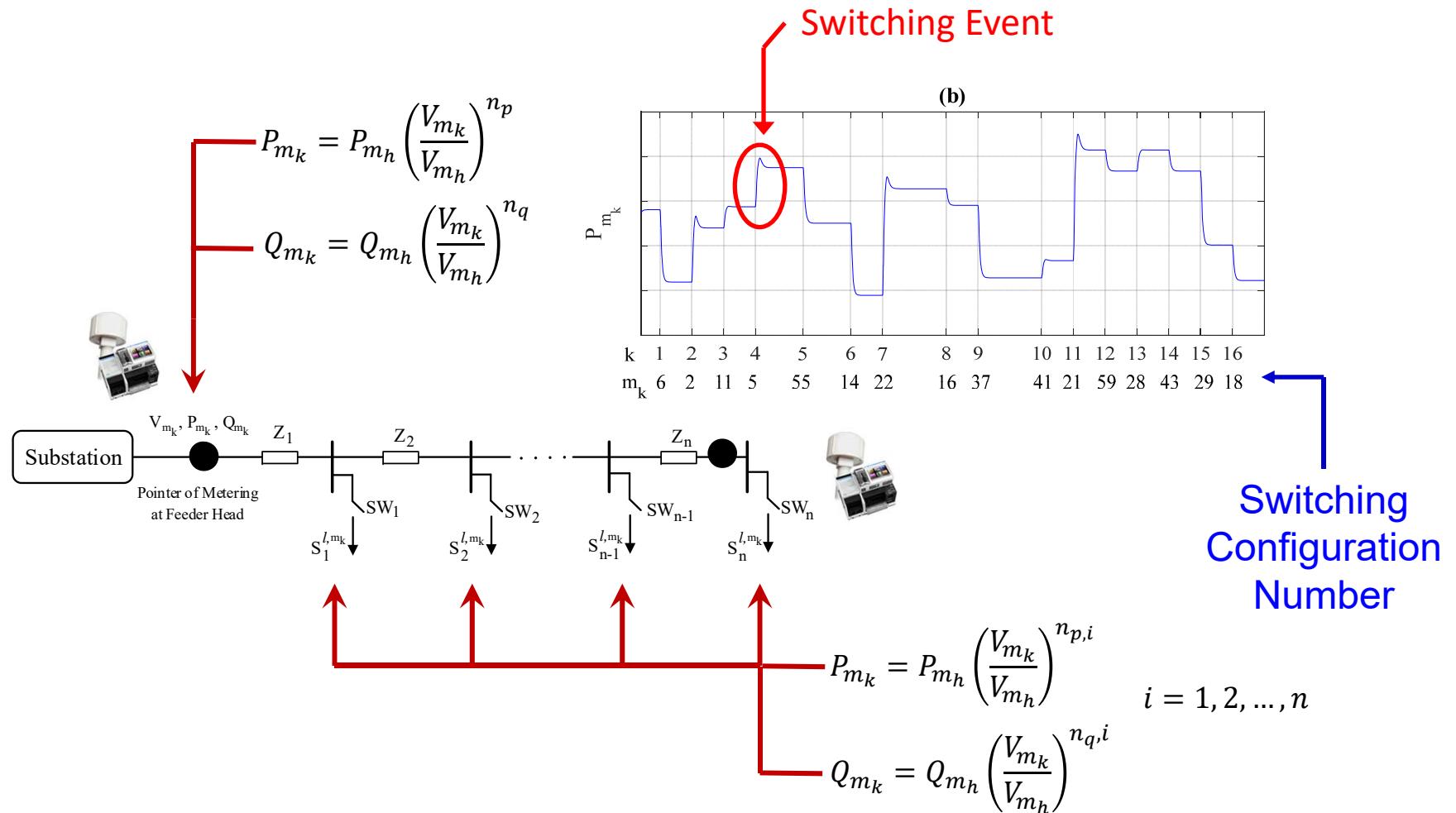


A Variation of the “ZIP Model”.



# Nonintrusive Load Modeling

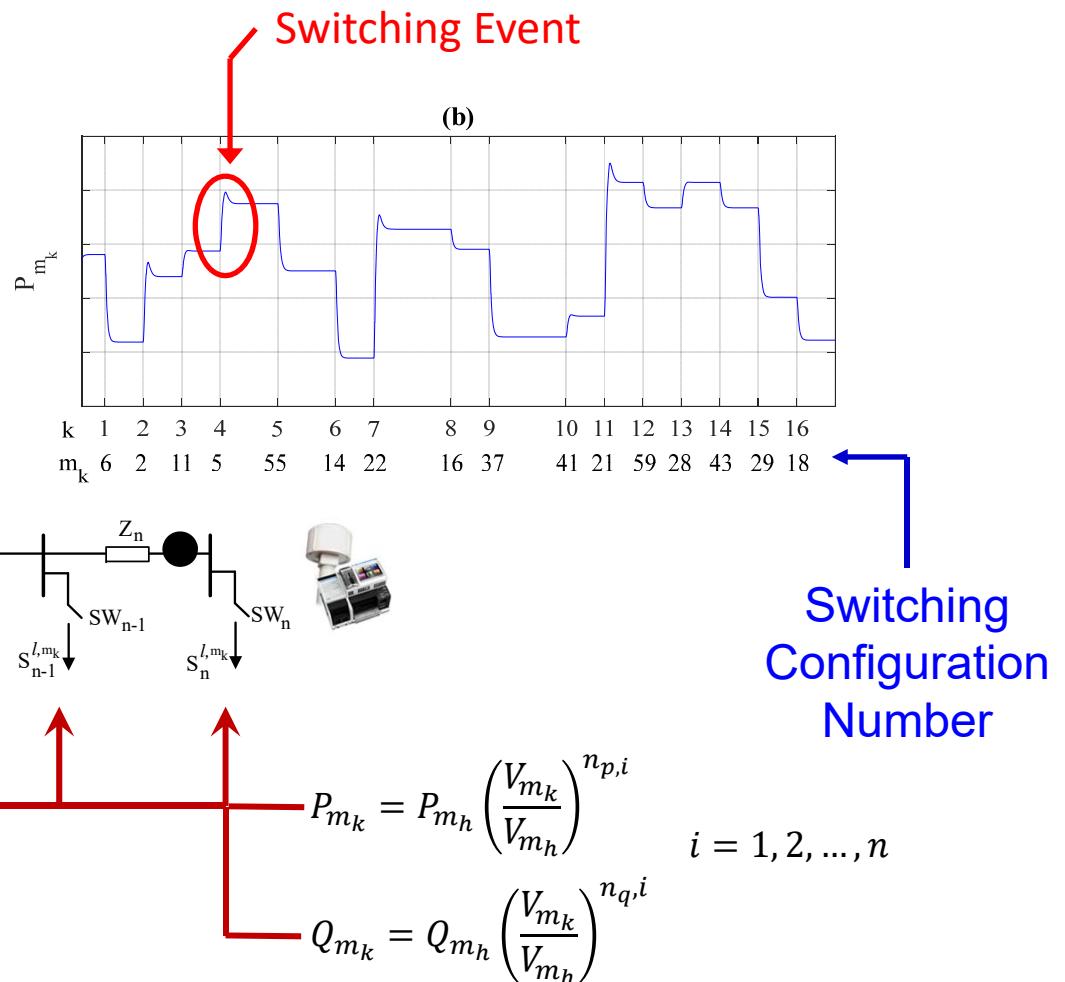
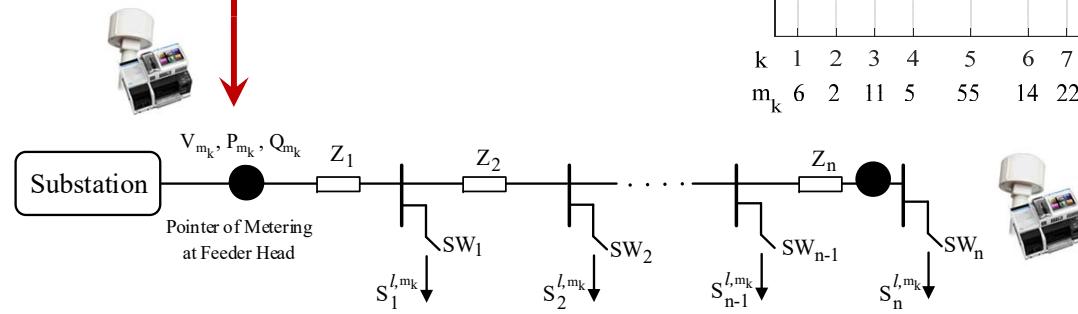
- Individual Load Models:



# Nonintrusive Load Modeling

- **Individual Load Models:**

$$P_{m_k} = P_{m_h} \left( \frac{V_{m_k}}{V_{m_h}} \right)^{n_p}$$
$$Q_{m_k} = Q_{m_h} \left( \frac{V_{m_k}}{V_{m_h}} \right)^{n_q}$$



# Step 1: Circuit Model Equations

- **Complex Power Conservation:**

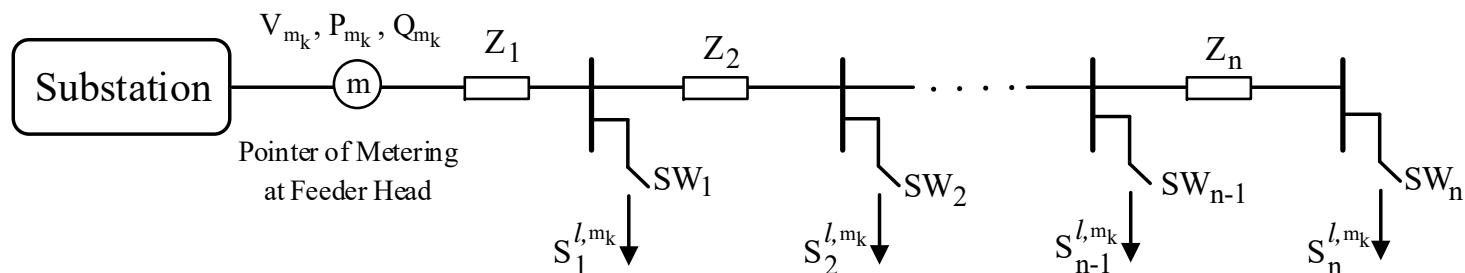
$$S_{m_k} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( S_i^{l,m_k} SW_i^{m_k} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j \left| \sum_{d=j}^n \left( \frac{S_d^{l,m_k}}{V_d^{l,m_k}} \right)^* \times SW_d^{m_k} \right|^2$$

Current in Line  $j$

Switching Configuration

Total Load                      Total Loss

# of Equations = 1



Parameter  $SW_i^{m_k}$  is one if the individual load  $i$  is turned on during switching configuration  $m_k$ ; and zero otherwise

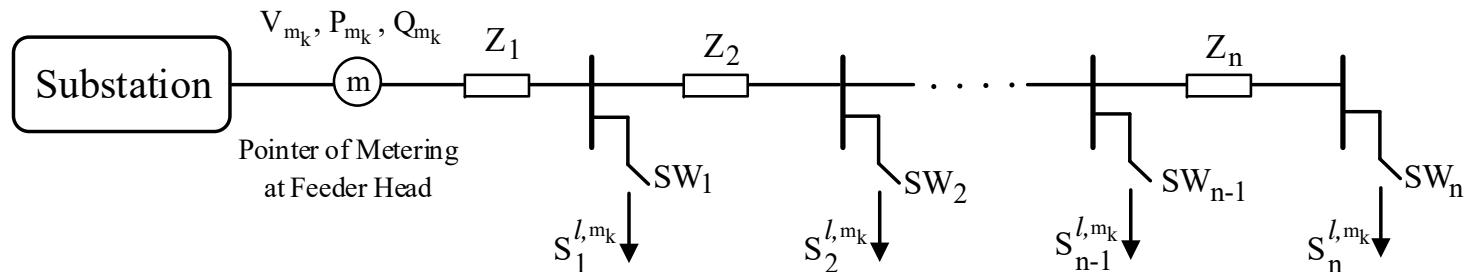
# Step 1: Circuit Model Equations

- **KVL:**

Voltage at Substation

$$V_i^{m_k} = V_{m_k} - \sum_{j=1}^i Z_j \left( \underbrace{\sum_{d=j}^n \left( \frac{S_d^{l,m_k}}{V_d^{l,m_k}} \right)^* S W_d^{m_k}}_{\text{Voltage Drop at Line } j} \right)$$

# of Equations = n



# Step 1: Circuit Model Equations

- **Combined Equations:**

$$S_{m_k} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( S_i^{l,m_k} SW_i^{m_k} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^n Z_j \left| \sum_{d=j}^n \left( \frac{S_d^{l,m_k}}{V_d^{l,m_k}} \right)^* \times SW_d^{m_k} \right|^2$$

$$V_i^{m_k} = V_{m_k} - \sum_{j=1}^i Z_j \left( \sum_{d=j}^n \left( \frac{S_d^{l,m_k}}{V_d^{l,m_k}} \right)^* SW_d^{m_k} \right), i = 1, \dots, n$$

**Unknowns:**  $S_i^{l,m_k}$  and  $V_i^{m_k}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

- **For any switching configuration  $m_k$ :**

Number of Equations:

$$n + 1$$

Number of Unknowns :

$$< n + \sum_{i=1}^n SW_i^{m_k}$$

## Step 2: Load Model Equations

- **For any two distinct switching configurations  $m_k$  and  $m_h$ :**

$$S_i^{l,m_k} = P_i^{l,m_h} \left( \frac{|V_i^{m_k}|}{|V_i^{m_h}|} \right)^{n_{p_i}} + j Q_i^{l,m_h} \left( \frac{|V_i^{m_k}|}{|V_i^{m_h}|} \right)^{n_{q_i}}$$

**Necessary Condition:**  $\sum_{k=1}^c SW_i^{m_k} \geq 2$

**Additional Unknowns:**  
 $n_{s_i} = n_{p_i} + j n_{q_i}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

## Step 3: Solving the System of Equations

- Given  $c$  distinct switching configurations:

# of Unknowns:

$$n \times c + \sum_{k=1}^c \sum_{i=1}^n SW_i^{m_k} + n$$

# of Equations:

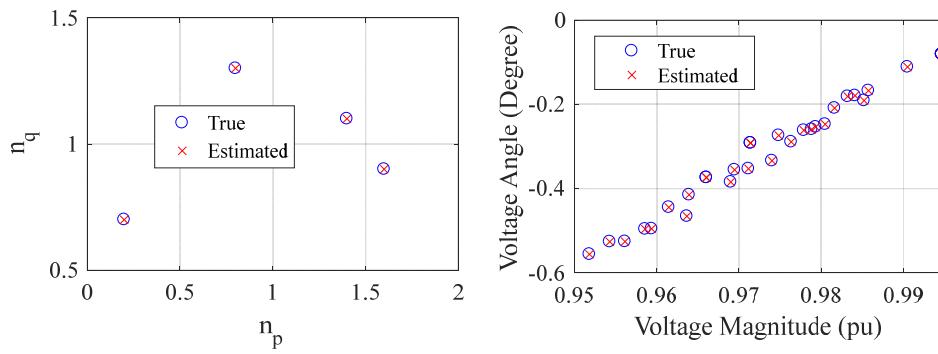
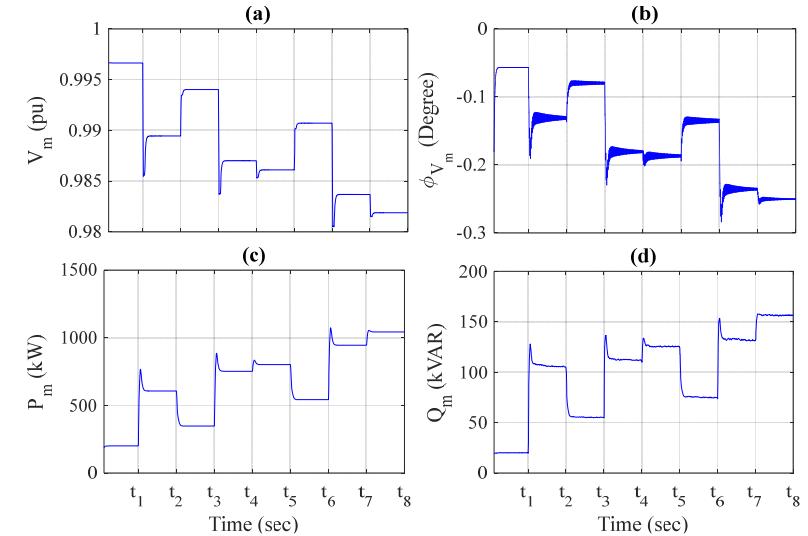
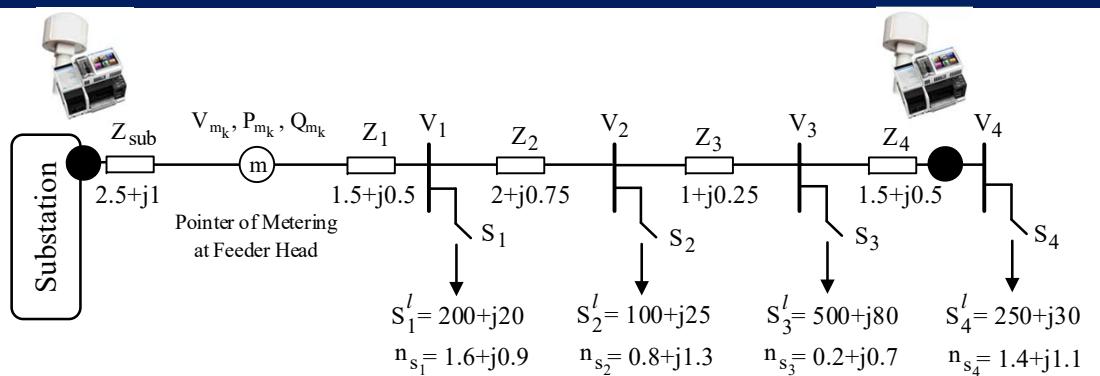
$$c \times (n + 1) + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^c SW_i^{m_k} - n$$

**Theorem:** We need to observe at least  $c_{min} = 2n$  distinct switching configurations to solve the nonintrusive individual load modeling problem.

# Illustrative Example

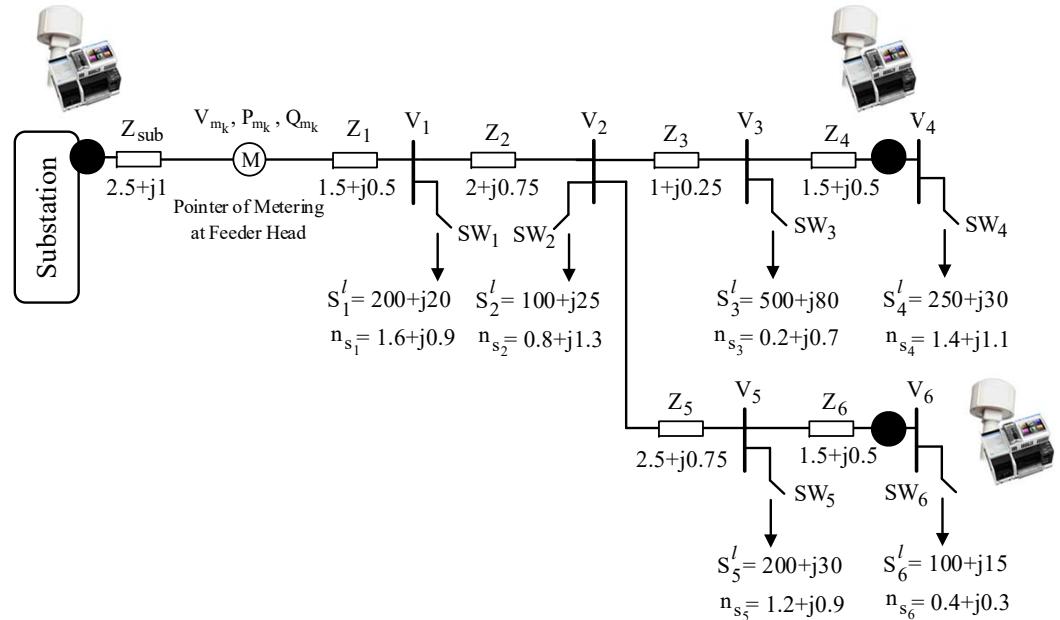
Configuration	$SW_1$	$SW_2$	$SW_3$	$SW_4$	Time
$m_1$	1	0	0	0	$[0, t_1]$
$m_2$	0	1	1	0	$[t_1, t_2]$
$m_3$	0	1	0	1	$[t_2, t_3]$
$m_4$	0	0	1	1	$[t_3, t_4]$
$m_5$	1	1	1	0	$[t_4, t_5]$
$m_6$	1	1	0	1	$[t_5, t_6]$
$m_7$	1	0	1	1	$[t_6, t_7]$
$m_8$	1	1	1	1	$[t_7, t_8]$

	# of Equations	# of Unknowns
Circuit Model	40	52
Load Model	16	4
Combined	56	56

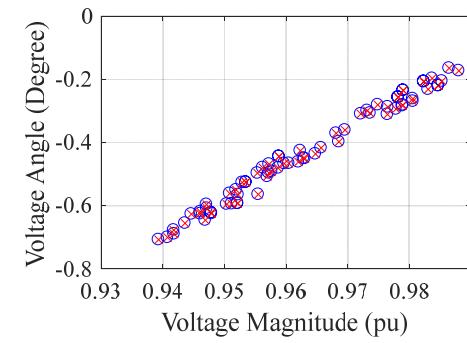
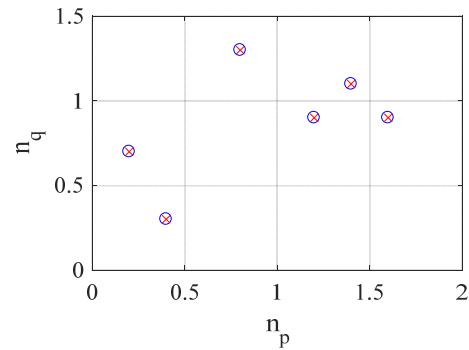


# Extension 1: Distribution Feeder with Laterals

Configuration	$SW_1$	$SW_2$	$SW_3$	$SW_4$	$SW_5$	$SW_6$	Time
$m_1$	1	0	0	1	0	0	$[0, t_1]$
$m_2$	1	0	0	1	0	1	$[t_1, t_2]$
$m_3$	1	1	0	0	1	0	$[t_2, t_3]$
$m_4$	0	0	1	1	0	1	$[t_3, t_4]$
$m_5$	0	1	1	1	0	1	$[t_4, t_5]$
$m_6$	1	1	0	0	1	1	$[t_5, t_6]$
$m_7$	0	1	1	0	1	1	$[t_6, t_7]$
$m_8$	1	0	1	1	1	0	$[t_7, t_8]$
$m_9$	0	1	1	1	1	1	$[t_8, t_9]$
$m_{10}$	1	1	1	0	1	1	$[t_9, t_{10}]$
$m_{11}$	1	1	1	1	1	0	$[t_{10}, t_{11}]$
$m_{12}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	$[t_{11}, t_{12}]$

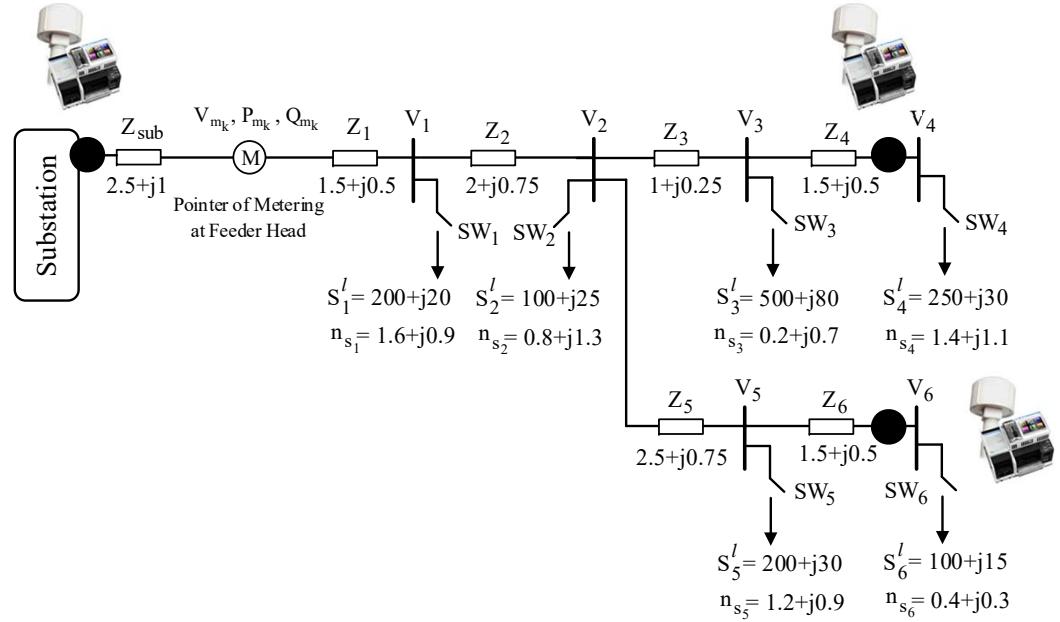


	# of Equations	# of Unknowns
Circuit Model	84	120
Load Model	42	6
Combined	126	126



# Extension 2: Redundant Switching Configurations

Configuration	$SW_1$	$SW_2$	$SW_3$	$SW_4$	$SW_5$	$SW_6$	Time
$m_1$	1	0	0	1	0	0	$[0, t_1]$
$m_2$	1	0	0	1	0	1	$[t_1, t_2]$
$m_3$	1	1	0	0	1	0	$[t_2, t_3]$
$m_4$	0	0	1	1	0	1	$[t_3, t_4]$
$m_5$	0	1	1	1	0	1	$[t_4, t_5]$
$m_6$	1	1	0	0	1	1	$[t_5, t_6]$
$m_7$	0	1	1	0	1	1	$[t_6, t_7]$
$m_8$	1	0	1	1	1	0	$[t_7, t_8]$
$m_9$	0	1	1	1	1	1	$[t_8, t_9]$
$m_{10}$	1	1	1	0	1	1	$[t_9, t_{10}]$
$m_{11}$	1	1	1	1	1	0	$[t_{10}, t_{11}]$
$m_{12}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	$[t_{11}, t_{12}]$



- We solve an “estimation” problem.

## Error in Line Impedances

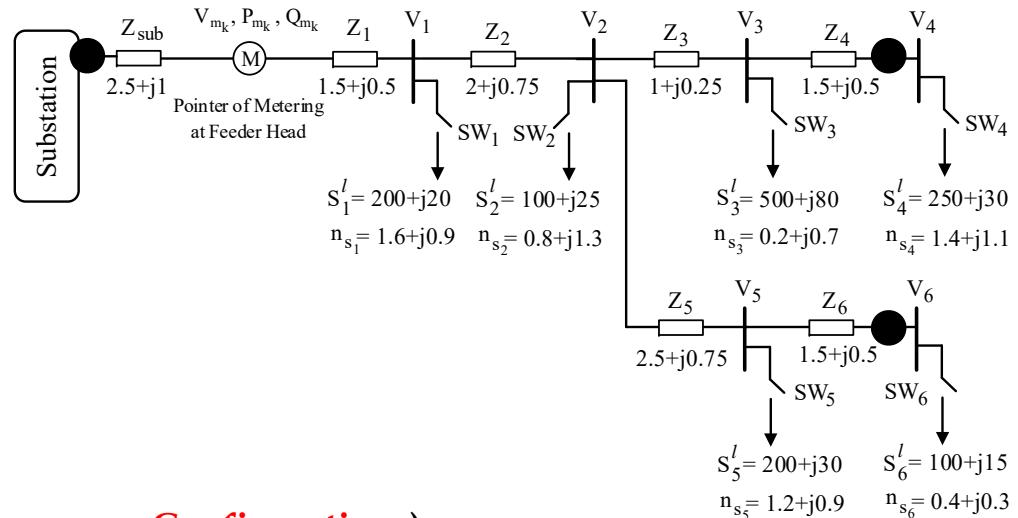
Error in Line Impedance	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%
Error in Estimating $n_p$	0.09	0.93	1.30	1.98	2.54	3.38
Error in Estimating $n_q$	0.78	1.95	3.23	5.34	9.16	11.87

- # of Equations: 258
- # of unknowns: 246

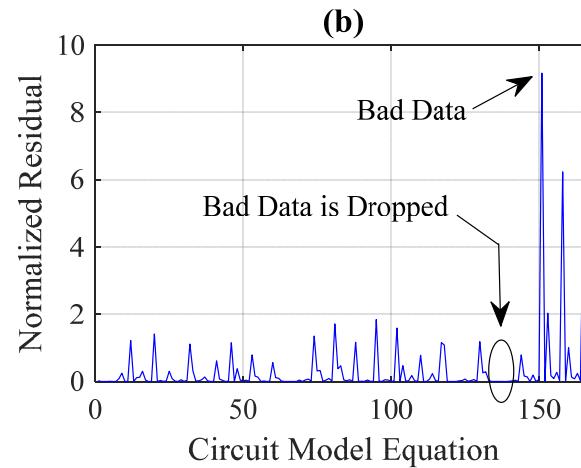
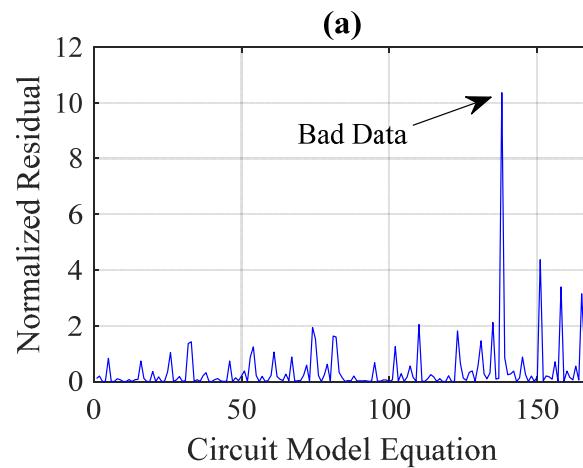
## In Presence of Error in Measurements

# Extension 3: Identifying Erroneous Switching Status

Configuration	$SW_1$	$SW_2$	$SW_3$	$SW_4$	$SW_5$	$SW_6$	Time
$m_1$	1	0	0	1	0	0	$[0, t_1]$
$m_2$	1	0	0	1	0	1	$[t_1, t_2]$
$m_3$	1	1	0	0	1	0	$[t_2, t_3]$
$m_4$	0	0	1	1	0	1	$[t_3, t_4]$
$m_5$	0	1	1	1	0	1	$[t_4, t_5]$
$m_6$	1	1	0	0	1	1	$[t_5, t_6]$
$m_7$	0	1	1	0	1	1	$[t_6, t_7]$
$m_8$	1	0	1	1	1	0	$[t_7, t_8]$
$m_9$	0	1	1	1	1	1	$[t_8, t_9]$
$m_{10}$	1	1	1	0	1	1	$[t_9, t_{10}]$
$m_{11}$	1	1	1	1	1	0	$[t_{10}, t_{11}]$
$m_{12}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	$[t_{11}, t_{12}]$



- Residual Test (In Presence of Two Erroneous Configurations):



# Conclusions

- Install a few micro-PMUs at feeder head and end buses.
- Remotely and automatically Identify:
  - ZIP Model for all individual loads across the distribution feeder.
- AMI / Smart Meters:
  - Not Available:      Our Approach is a Replacement
  - Available:           Our Approach is an Oversight
    - AMI Failure
    - Electricity Theft
    - Cybersecurity
    - ...

Non-Intrusive

# Further Reading

IEEE T. on Power Systems 2018

Hamed Mohsenian-Rad

# Nonintrusive Load Modeling Using Micro-PMUs

This article has been accepted for publication in a future issue of this journal, but has not been fully edited. Content may change prior to final publication. Citation information: DOI 10.1109/TSG.2018.2870000; Transactions on Smart Grid

# Situational Awareness in Distribution Grid Using Micro-PMU Data: A Machine Learning Approach

Alinra Shabavari, *Student Member, IEEE*, Mohammad Farajollahi, *Student Member, IEEE*,  
Emma Stewart, *Senior Member, IEEE*, Ed Cortez, Hamed Mohsenian-Rad, *Senior Member, IEEE*

**Abstract**—The recent development of distribution-level phasor measurement units, a.k.a. micro-PMUs, has been an important step toward achieving situational awareness in distribution networks. The challenge however is to transform the large amount of data that is generated by micro-PMUs to actionable information and then match the information to use cases with practical value to system operators. This open problem is addressed in this paper. First, we propose a novel *data-driven event detection* technique to pick up a novel set of events from extremely large raw micro-PMU data. Subsequently, a *data-driven event classifier* is developed to effectively classify power quality events. Importantly, we field expert knowledge and utility records to conduct an extensive *data-driven event labeling*. Moreover, a novel framework is proposed and adopted as an additional feature to move it into the classifier model. In this regard, a multi-class support vector machine (multi-SVM) classifier is trained and tested over 15 days of real-world data from two micro-PMUs on a distribution feeder in Riverside, CA. In total, we analyze 1.2 billion measurement points and 16,700 events. The performance of the event classifier is compared with prevalent multi-class classification methods, including k-nearest neighbor method as well as decision-tree method. Importantly, two real-world use-cases are presented for the proposed data analytics tools, including remote asset monitoring and distribution-level oscillation analysis.

**Keywords:** Machine learning, distribution synchronophase, situational awareness, event detection, event classification, Big Data.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The proliferation in distributed energy resources, electric vehicles, and controllable loads has introduced new and unpredictable sources of disturbance in distribution networks. This calls for developing new monitoring systems that can support achieving situational awareness at distribution-level; thus, allowing the distribution system operator to make the best operational decisions in response to such disturbances.

Traditionally, there have been three major challenges in achieving situational awareness in power distribution systems. First is the lack of high resolution measurements. Metering in distribution systems is often limited to supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) at substations with minute reporting intervals. As for smart meters, their report measurements once every 15 minutes or hourly. Second is the lack of accurate and up-to-date models for practical distribution circuits. Third, due to the lower voltage and the larger number and

A. Shabavari, M. Farajollahi, and H. Mohsenian-Rad are with the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA. E. Stewart was with the Infrastructure Systems, Cyber and Physical Resilience, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA, USA. E. Cortez is with the University of California, Riverside, CA, USA. This work is supported by UCOP grant LFR-14-540175, DoE grant DE-EE0008061, and NASA MRO grant NN15A1P90A. The corresponding author is H. Mohsenian-Rad, e-mail: hams@eece.ucr.edu.

variety of utility and customer equipment, distribution systems are subject to a huge number of events on a daily basis.

The first challenge above has recently been resolved by the advent of micro-PMUs [1]. A typical micro-PMU is connected to single- or three-phase distribution circuit to measure GPS time-referenced magnitudes and phase angles of voltage and current phasors at 120 readings per second. Since 2015, several micro-PMUs have been installed at pilot test sites in the state of California, including some in the city of Riverside [2].

This paper makes use of real-world micro-PMU data from a feeder in Riverside, CA, see Fig. 1. It seeks to address the second and the third challenges listed above. Specifically, we propose a novel *model-free* situational awareness framework for power distribution systems to turn micro-PMU data in to actionable information for tangible use cases. This is done by introducing a novel *data-driven event detection* technique as well as a novel *data-driven event classification* technique. Event detection is applied to eight non-linearly dependent data streams for each micro-PMU, including voltage magnitude, current magnitude, active power, and reactive power. Event classification is done by extracting the inherent features of detected events, and by constructing an algorithm that can learn from and make predictions of various events. The main contributions in this paper can be summarized as follows:

- 1) A novel situational awareness framework is introduced for power distribution systems using micro-PMU data, that is model-free; it works by going through a sequence of *event detection*, *event classification*, and *event scrutinization* efforts to transform the large amount of measurement data from micro-PMUs to information that are useful for distribution system operators.
- 2) The approach in this paper makes use of field expert knowledge and utility records in order to conduct an extensive *data-driven event labeling* for micro-PMU data. The detected events are labeled according to *event zone* and *event type*. As for the event detection phase prior to event labeling, our approach is comprehensive; it involves moving windows to help compensate the lack of information about the *start time* of each event. It also involves dynamic window sizes to help compensate the lack of information about the *duration* of each event.
- 3) Different feature selection approaches and different classification methods are examined and compared, including multi-SVM, k-nearest neighbor, and decision-tree, with considering certain aspects of events from micro-PMUs, e.g., uneven data rates and features of *multi-stream* signals. It is shown that the use of the proposed detection features, such as detection window and detection indicator, is critical, regardless of the method of classification.

IEEE T. on Smart Grid 2019

UC Riverside

17 / 18

# Further Reading (Cont.)

## Application of Load Switching Events in Steady-State Load Modeling in Power Distribution Networks

Alineza Shahsavari, Mohammad Farajollahi, and Hamed Mohsenian-Rad  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA

**Abstract**—A novel event-oriented method is proposed to conduct steady-state load modeling in power distribution systems. It has two fundamental differences with the comparable methods in the literature. First, the proposed method is event-oriented, while the existing event-oriented load modeling methods use upstream voltage events as the main enabler for load modeling. In contrast, here we use the load switching events across the distribution feeder itself. Second, the objective of the analysis is different. The existing event-oriented load modeling methods are intended to obtain a model for the aggregate load of the entire distribution feeder. The application of such feeder-aggregated load models is in analysis of sub-transmission and transmission systems. In contrast, here we seek to obtain a ZIP model for each individual load across the feeder. The application of such individual load models is in analysis of the distribution system itself, such as with respect to the creation of distributed energy resources. The performance of the proposed method is examined on a test-feeder under various operating scenarios by considering the impact of errors in feeder-head measure by considering the impact of errors in feeder-head measure.

**Keywords:** Event-oriented method, steady-state load modeling, distribution system analysis, load switching events.

### I. INTRODUCTION

A recent CIGRE report in [1] has found that the majority of the utilities use measurement-based methods to estimate the parameters of their load models. Measurement-based load modeling can be classified static and dynamic. Our focus in this paper is on static load modeling, where the goal is to estimate the parameters of the so-called ZIP load models.

An important class of measurement-based static load modeling methods is *event-oriented*, i.e., they analyze certain events and the responses of the loads to those events in order to estimate the load modeling parameters. When it comes to event-oriented static load modeling at distribution-level, one can identify two common features for the existing methods. First, they are concerned with obtaining a ZIP model for the entire load of the feeder as seen by the distribution substation, such as the methods in [2]–[7]. Second, they use the *appearances* events to enable load modeling, such as voltage events that come from outside the distribution feeder, e.g., see [2]–[7].

In this paper, we explore making use of a different type of events and seek to achieve a different load modeling objective. Specifically, we seek to investigate the load switching events on the distribution feeder itself in order to obtain models for the individual loads that exist across the feeder that is being studied. Accordingly, the methodology in this paper is inherently different compared to the existing event-oriented static load modeling approaches, such as those in [2]–[7].

This work was supported by NSF grants 1462530 and 1253516; DoE grant EE-000801; and NASA MIR0 grant NNX15AP90A. The corresponding author is H. Mohsenian-Rad, e-mail: hamed@eece.ucr.edu

1

Fig. 1. A distribution feeder with three loads, corresponding to the illustrative example in Section II. (a) the single-line diagram of the feeder; (b) and (c) the measured voltage and active power at the feeder-head, respectively.

(a)

(b)

(c)

IEEE T. on Power Systems 2019

# Distribution Synchrophasors

By Hamed Mohsenian-Rad,  
Emma Stewart, and Ed Cortez

IN THE EVOLUTION OF ADVANCED SENSING TECHNOLOGIES, transmission systems have led distribution. The visibility and diagnostics of the transmission grid have been transformed over the past decade with the systematic deployment of phasor measurement units (PMUs). Similar and even more advanced new information sources are now becoming available at the distribution grid, using distribution-level PMUs, also called *micro-PMUs* ( $\mu$ PMUs).  $\mu$ PMUs provide voltage and current measurements at higher resolution and precision to facilitate a level of visibility into the distribution grid that is currently not achievable. However, mere data availability in itself will not lead to enhanced situational awareness and operational intelligence. Data must be paired with useful analytics to translate these data to actionable information. In this article, we explore some of the opportunities to leverage  $\mu$ PMU data, combined with data-driven analytics, to help electrical distribution system planners and operators to get out in front of problems as they evolve.

The data generated by  $\mu$ PMUs are a prominent example of big data in power systems. Each  $\mu$ PMU generates 124,416,600 readings per day. Therefore,  $\mu$ PMUs installed on a handful of utility distribution feeders can generate terabytes of data on daily basis. Because  $\mu$ PMUs

stream their measurements continuously, the data must be collected, cleansed, and processed, all in real time.

The collected  $\mu$ PMU data must then be dissected into descriptive, predictive, and prescriptive analytics. While descriptive analytics focuses on what happened in the past, predictive analytics aims at what may happen in the future. Both are stepping stones toward prescriptive analytics—optimizing the future with informed decisions. Here, we consider case studies in both descriptive and predictive analytics and provide a sampling of the benefits derived from  $\mu$ PMU data.

Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TPS.2018.2790818  
Date of publication: 10 April 2018

26 IEEE power & energy magazine

1540-7977/18/020201\$18.00 © 2018 IEEE

May/June 2018

IEEE PES Magazine 2018