



# Oscillation Detection and Source Location Based on Synchronized Point-on-Wave Measurements

A graphic featuring a blue rounded rectangle with a white border. Inside, the text "Together... Shaping the Future of Energy®" is written in white. The background of the graphic shows a blurred image of two people in hard hats looking at a screen.

Together...  
Shaping the  
Future of Energy®

Presenter: Lin Zhu ([lzhu@epri.com](mailto:lzhu@epri.com))

Team members:

Evangelos Farantatos<sup>1</sup>, Yan Wen<sup>2</sup>, Hao Fu<sup>2</sup>, Wenpeng Yu<sup>2</sup>, Yilu Liu<sup>2,3</sup>

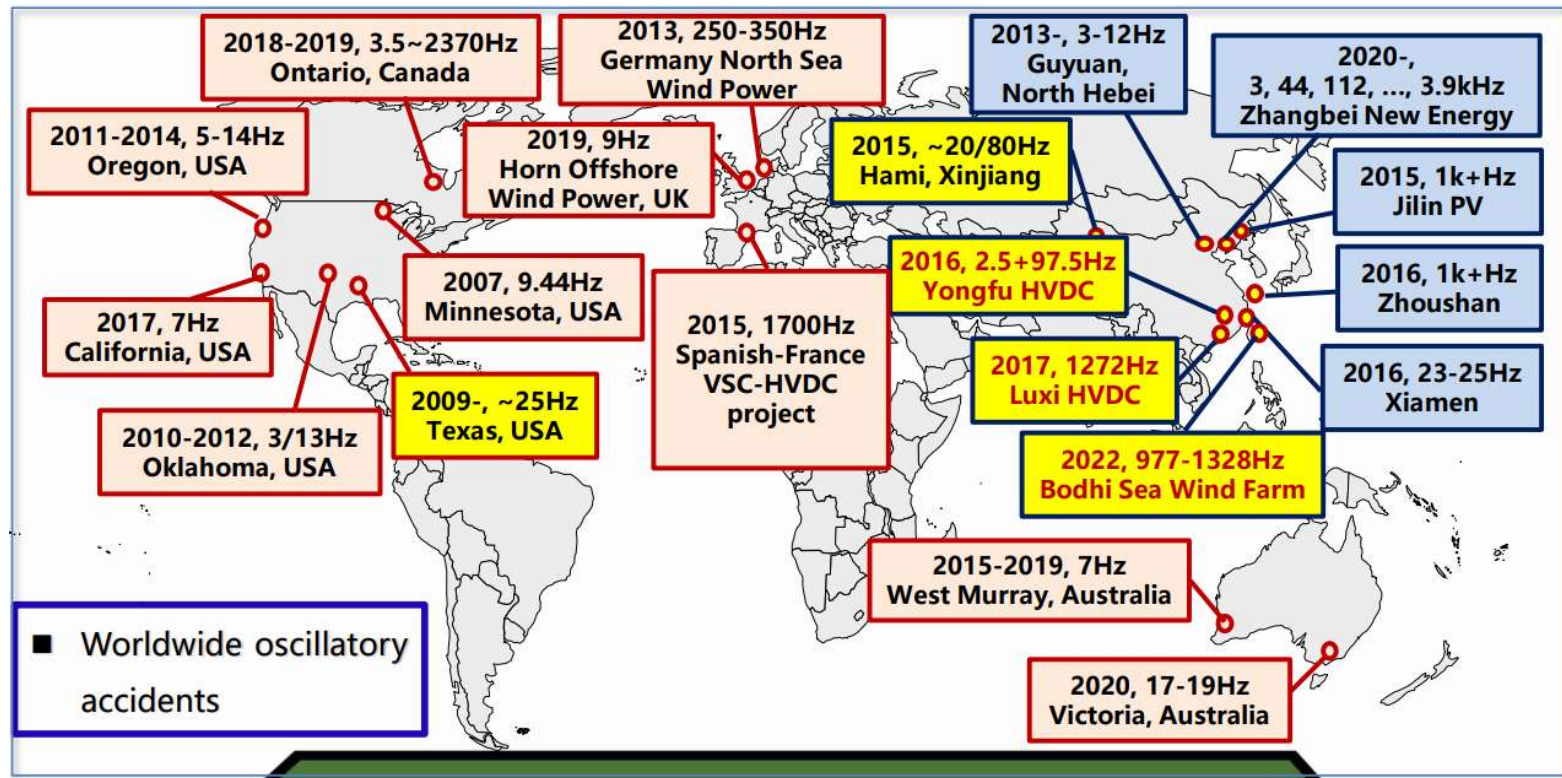
1. Electric Power Research Institute
2. University of Tennessee at Knoxville
3. Oak Ridge National Laboratory

1<sup>st</sup> Point-on-Wave Application Conference

Chattanooga, TN  
October 7-8, 2025

# Background

- Increasing number of reported inverter-induced oscillation events
- Wide-band high-frequency oscillations

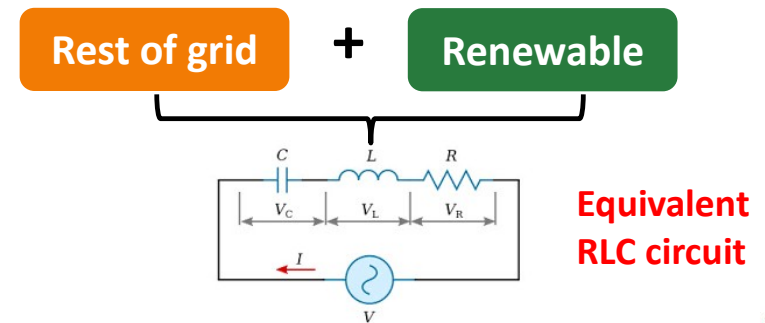


**Recent worldwide oscillation incidents**

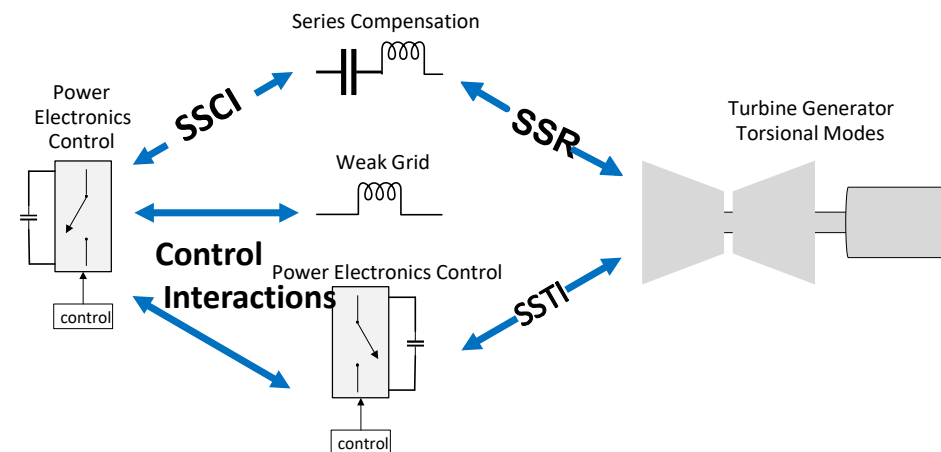
Source: IEEE PELS seminar: Analysis and control of oscillatory stability in renewable power systems: China's Experience

# Sub-Synchronous Oscillations (SSOs)

- Adverse interactions between power system components resulting in oscillations in sub-synchronous range (e.g., < 60 Hz)
- Torsional mode interactions**
  - Sub synchronous resonance ([SSR](#))
  - Sub-synchronous torsional interactions ([SSTI](#))
- Control interactions**
  - Resonant interactions between series compensated lines and Type 3 wind plants due to IGE (also known as sub-synchronous control interactions or [SSCI](#))
  - Non-resonant interactions due to [weak grid](#)
  - Other [control interactions](#) (non-resonant) among power electronic devices – *not limited to sub-synchronous frequencies*



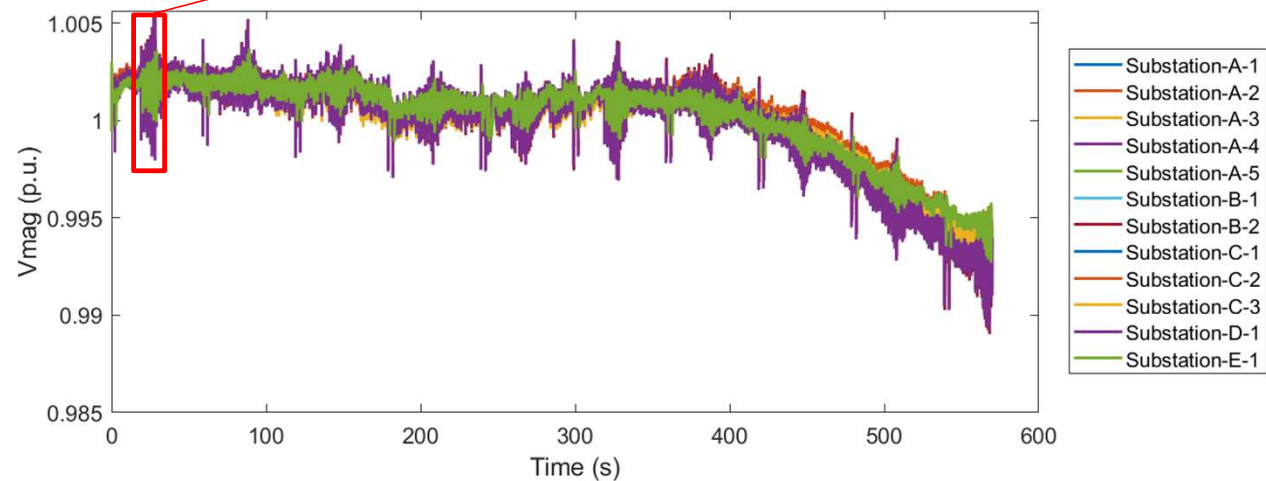
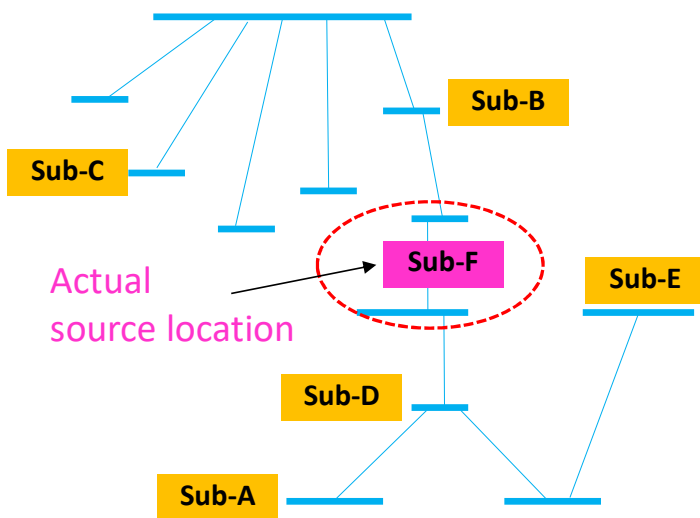
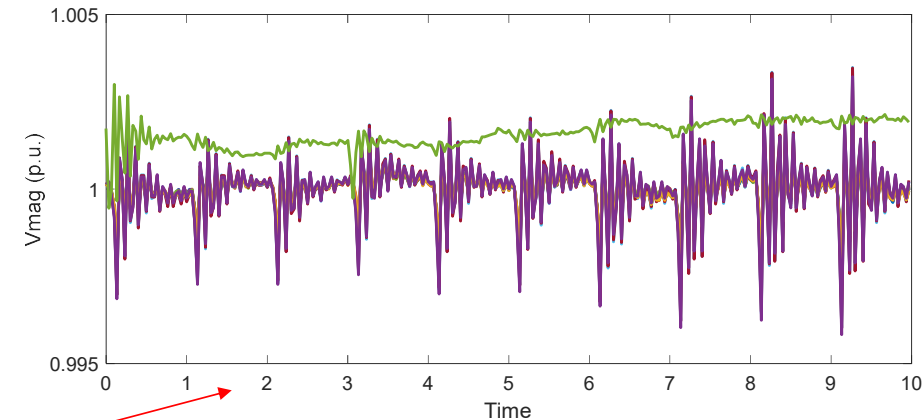
- $R \leq 0$  to excite oscillation
- Frequency:  $f_o = \frac{1}{2\pi\sqrt{LC}}$



SSO encompasses many different types of inter-element interactions within power system

# SSO Event in Dominion Territory

- Oscillation observed by PMUs in 5 substations
- Voltage oscillation mag:  $\sim 0.01$  pu peak-to-peak
- $\sim 11$  Hz,  $\sim 5\%$  damping ratio
- Reinitiated every 1s: Load synchronized to GPS
- Actual source: Data center

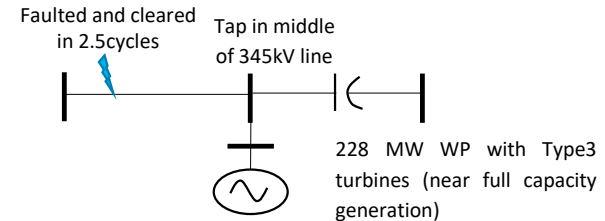


Substations with PMUs

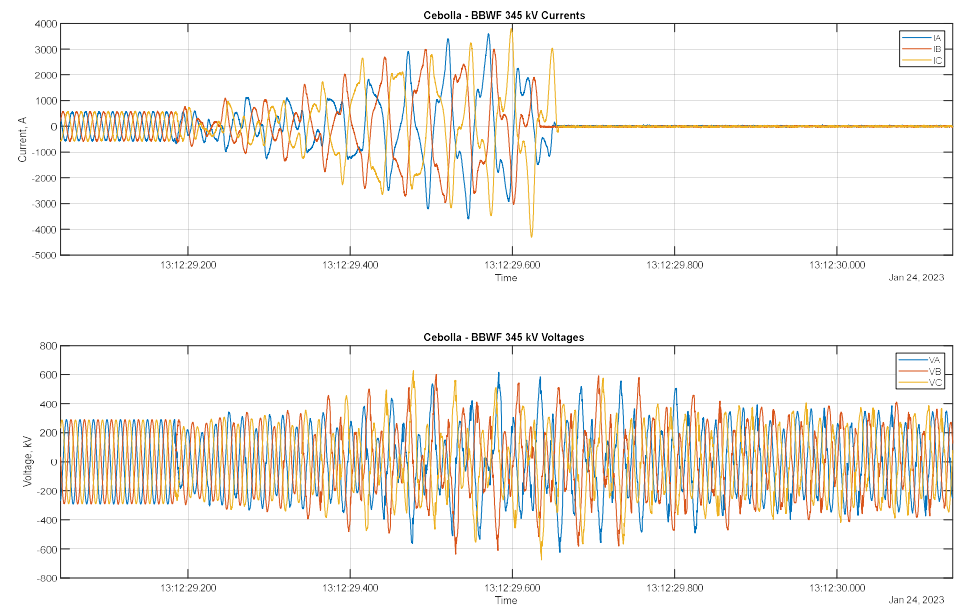
# SSO Event in AEP Territory

- **Cause:** Fault caused Type 3 Wind Plant to go radial to series compensated transmission line
- **Effect:**
  - High peak magnitude line currents (4000+ Amp peak)
  - High peak magnitude line voltages (600+ kV peak)
  - Dominant sub-synchronous frequency of 21 Hz obtained from frequency spectrum of wind plant phase currents while radial through series cap
  - Wind plant tripped in slightly less than 0.5 seconds due to high main power transformer differential current

Schematic of wind plant location relative to series compensation and fault location



Recorded ABC phase currents and voltages during event at the Wind Plant

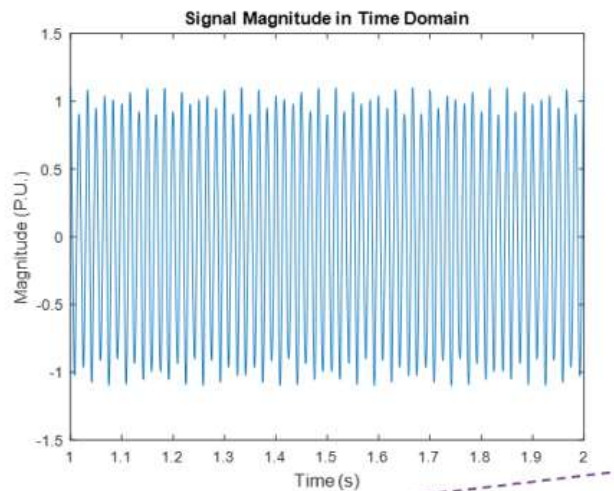


Rob O Keefe, "January 24 & March 10, 2023 SSO Events in AEP," EPRI SSO Workshop, Charlotte, April 20, 2023

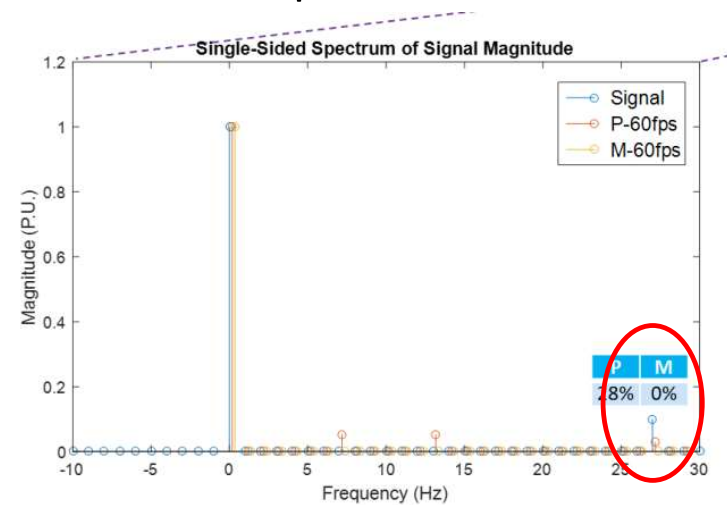
# PMU Limitations in Monitoring High-Frequency Oscillations

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- PMU was originally designed to report phasor of fundamental frequency
- Limitations in monitoring fast dynamics: PMU reporting rate, PMU nonideal digital low-pass filter, etc. -> Far below the theoretical Nyquist frequency
- High-resolution synchronized waveform measurements are required



27 Hz dynamic added to the fundamental frequency



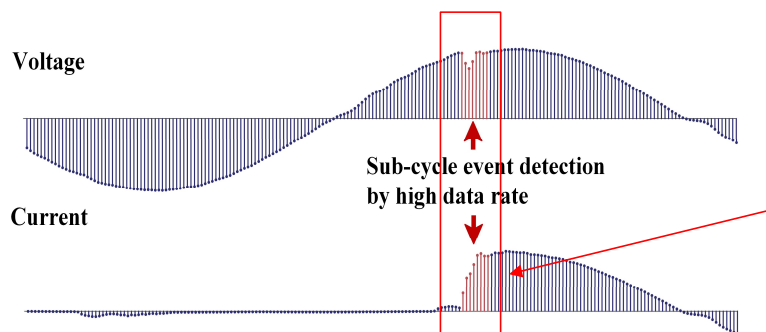
27 Hz dynamic is **NOT** visible with 60 Hz PMU

Source: H. Hooshyar, A. Haddadi, E. Farantatos and M. Patel, "Investigation of PMU Limitations in Monitoring Fast Dynamics Through Real-Time Hardware-In-The-Loop Experiments," 2022 SGSM, Split, Croatia, 2022.

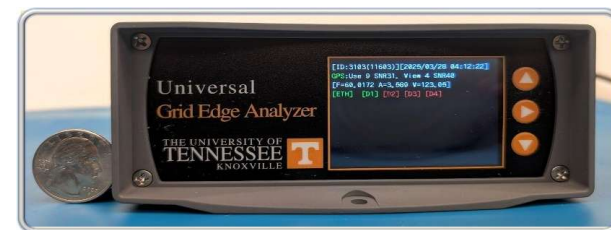


# Waveform Measurement Unit: Universal Grid Analyzer (UGA)

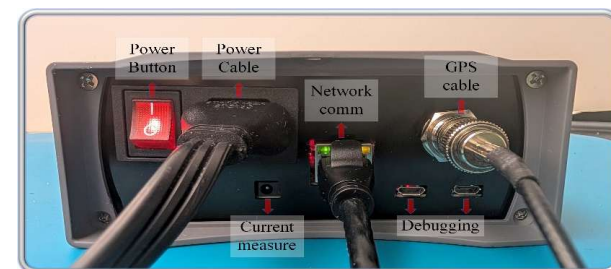
- Real-time synchronized waveform
  - Sampling/Resolution: 1440 per second (240 per cycle)
  - Reporting rate: 10 Hz (144 data points per package)
- Local anomaly detection: Sub-cycle event detection
- Monitoring for various scenarios
  - Solar farm, data center, power cable, islanded grid, microgrid, etc.



**Sub-cycle event  
detection**



**Front Panel**



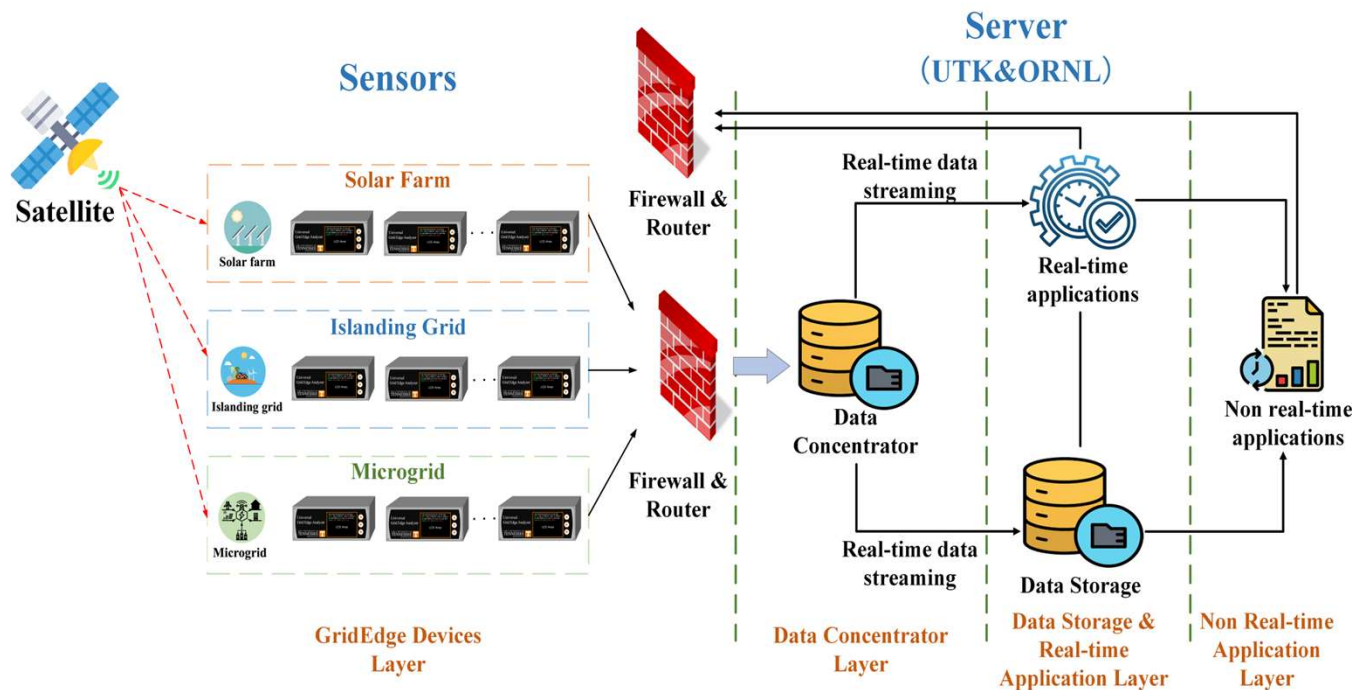
**Back Panel**

**Universal Grid Analyzer (UGA)**

**Continuous, High-Resolution Insights Into Power Grid Dynamics**

# Wide-Area Synchronized Waveform System

- Sensor: UGA
- Communication: Internet
- Advanced applications: e.g., sub-synchronous oscillations monitoring and analysis





# Oscillation Detection and Source Location Tool

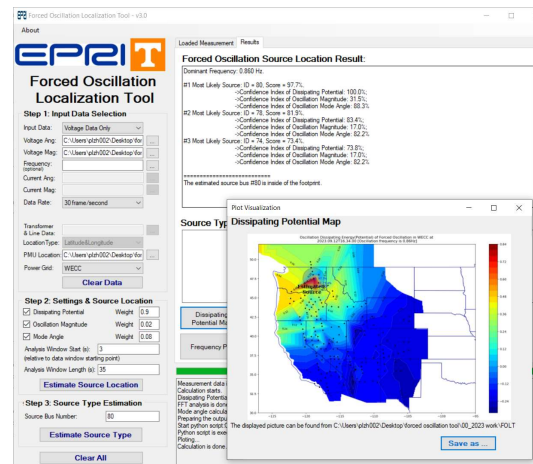
- Synthetic or recorded synchronized waveform measurements as input

## Configuration:

- Data reporting rate
- Data window selection
- Thresholds, etc.

## Input:

- Point-On-Wave Measurements
  - Three-phase voltage
  - Three-phase current
- Location: GPS coordinates

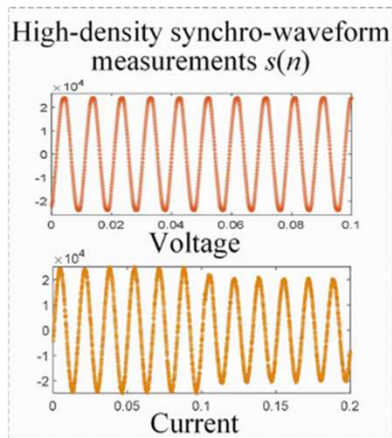


## Output:

- Estimated oscillation frequency
- Estimated oscillation starting time
- Estimated source location
- Intermediate results, e.g., FFT analysis results

# SSO Detection Using Synchronized Waveform

- Step 1: Cycle-to-cycle comparison (Time domain)
- Step 2: FFT analysis (Frequency domain), compare magnitude to that of fundamental frequency component



## Step1: Oscillation Alert Cycle-to-Cycle Waveform Comparison

Compute CycleDiff(t) over  
sliding windows

Compare to threshold → set  
anomalyFlag(t)

Detect first anomalyFlag →  
Record  $t_{\text{alert}}$

Compute onset time:  $t_{\text{onset}}$

## Step2: Oscillation Verification Sideband Detection using FFT Analysis

Initial SSO Frequency  
Estimation (FFT)

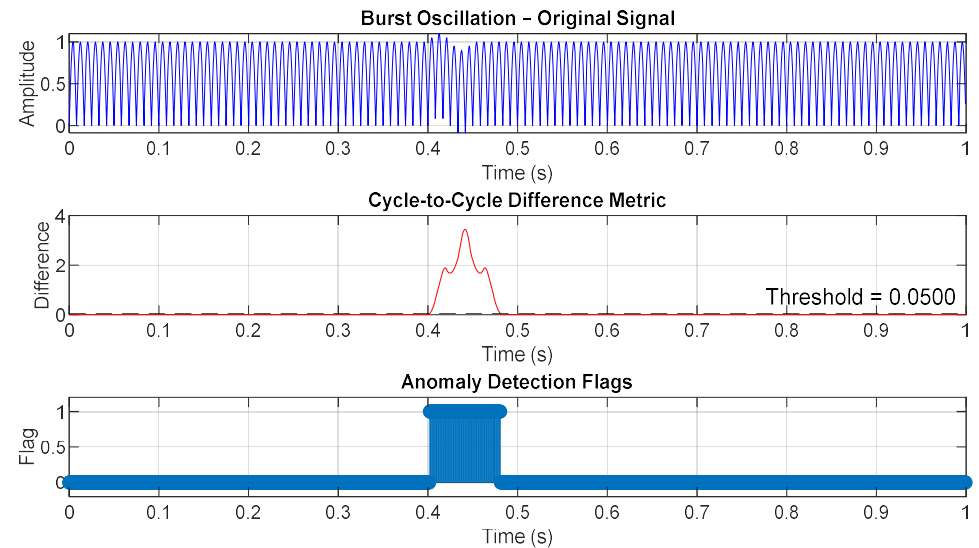
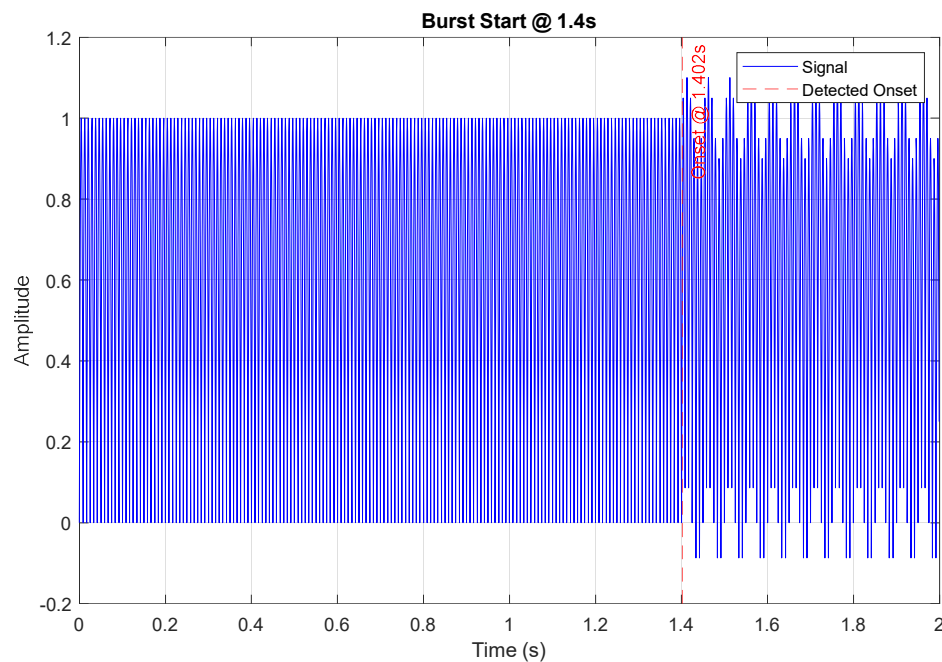
Identify Sidebands:  $f_{\text{lower}}$  &  
 $f_{\text{upper}}$  Hz

Estimate FO:  $(f_{\text{upper}} - f_{\text{lower}})/2$

Estimate SSO magnitude

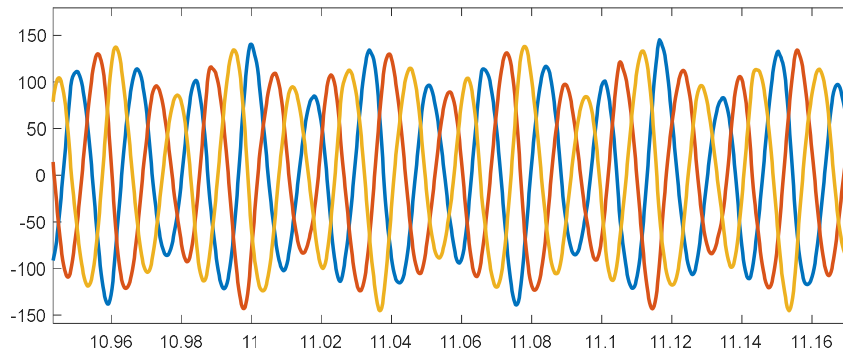
# SSO Detection Using Synchronized Waveform

- Synthetic measurements

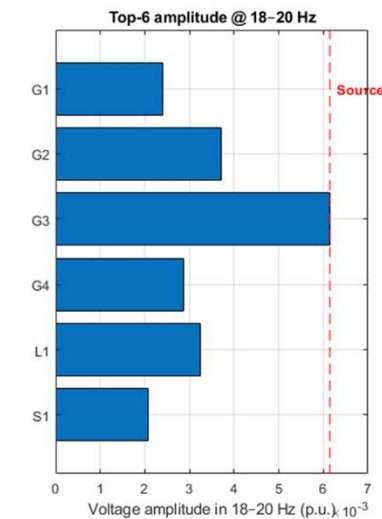


# SSO Source/Origin Estimation Using Synchronized Waveform

- Based on oscillation magnitude
  - SSOs are usually local oscillations
  - Location with the highest oscillation magnitude is considered source/origin



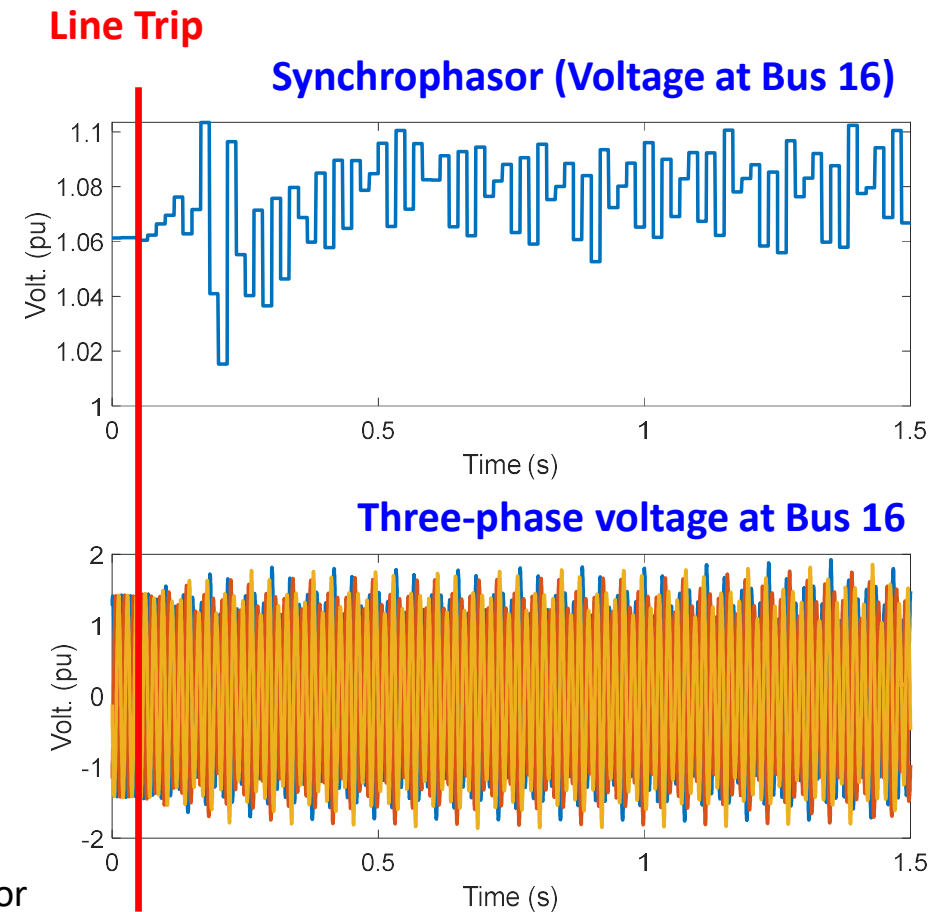
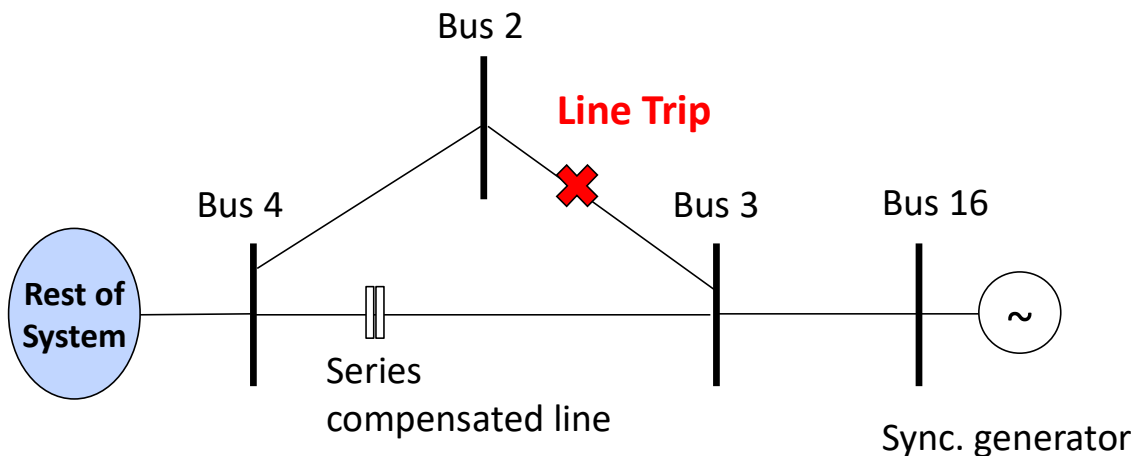
**Three-phase voltage or current  
waveform measurements**



**Compare oscillation magnitude  
at different locations**

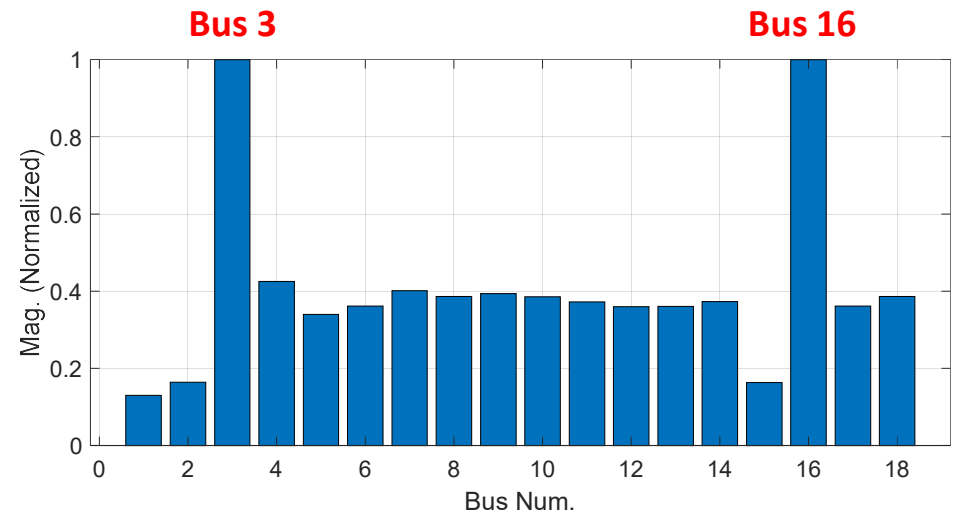
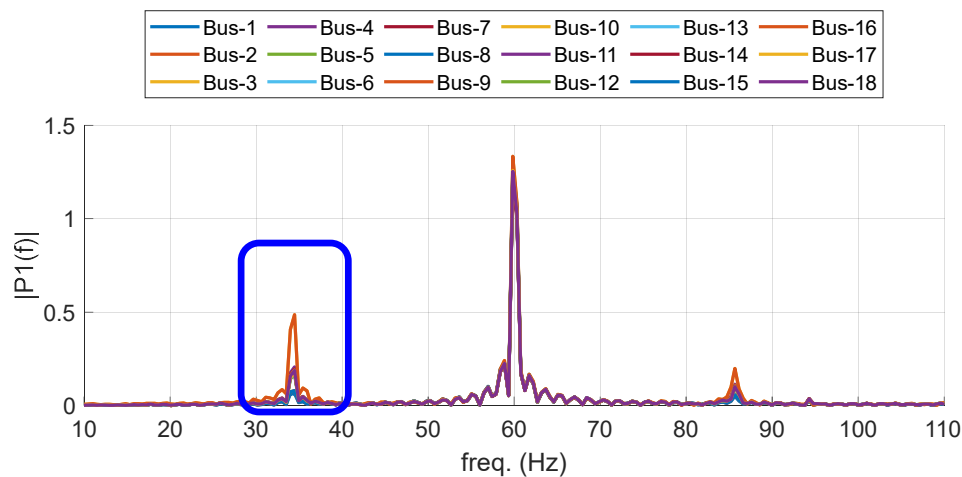
# Case Study on 18-Bus System

- PSCAD model
- Trip line between Bus 2 and Bus 3 (radial topology)
- Sub-synchronous resonance between series compensated line and synchronous generator
- ~25 Hz SSO



# SSO Detection and Source Location

- SSO can be detected: 25.69 Hz
- Bus 3 and Bus 16 can observe the highest magnitude at 25.69 Hz





## Summary and Future Work

- Integration of IBRs has led to high-frequency oscillations in power systems
- PMUs/Synchrophasors have limitations in monitoring high-frequency oscillations
- Developed oscillation detection and source location method based on synchronized waveform data
  - Oscillation detection: Cycle-to-cycle comparison + FFT analysis
  - Source location: Oscillation magnitude
- Case study with synthetic measurements of 18-bus system
- Future work:
  - Advanced methods for source location estimation
  - More case studies with actual synchrophasor and synchronized waveform data



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