

# **Slow Coherency Based Controlled Islanding in Large Power Systems**

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# Graduate students who worked on this project



- Guangyue Xu – PhD – Now works at Siemens Energy Systems, Plymouth, MN. Graduated from Xian Jiao Tong University
- Bo Yang – PhD – Now works at Siemens-PTI, Schenectady, NY. Graduated from Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- Xiaoming Wang – PhD – Now works at Midwest ISO Carmel, Indiana. Graduated from Tsinghua University
- Haibo You – PhD – Now works for Austin Electric, Austin, Texas. Graduated from Shanghai Jiao Tong University

# Motivation

- Power systems are under increasing stress as restructuring introduces several new economic objectives for operation
- When a power system is subjected to large disturbances, and the designed remedial action or protection system does not work, the system approaches a potential catastrophic failure
- Appropriate mitigation actions need to be taken to steer the system away from severe consequences, to **limit** the extent of the disturbance, and to **facilitate** power system restoration

# Mitigation Strategy

- In our approach, the system is first separated into several smaller islands at a slightly reduced capacity by a controlled islanding approach. Second, an adaptive load shedding scheme is deployed to bring back the frequency to an acceptable level
- The basis for forming the islands is to **minimize the load-generation imbalance** in each island, thereby facilitating the restoration process

# Slow Coherency Grouping Based Islanding Using Minimal Cutsets

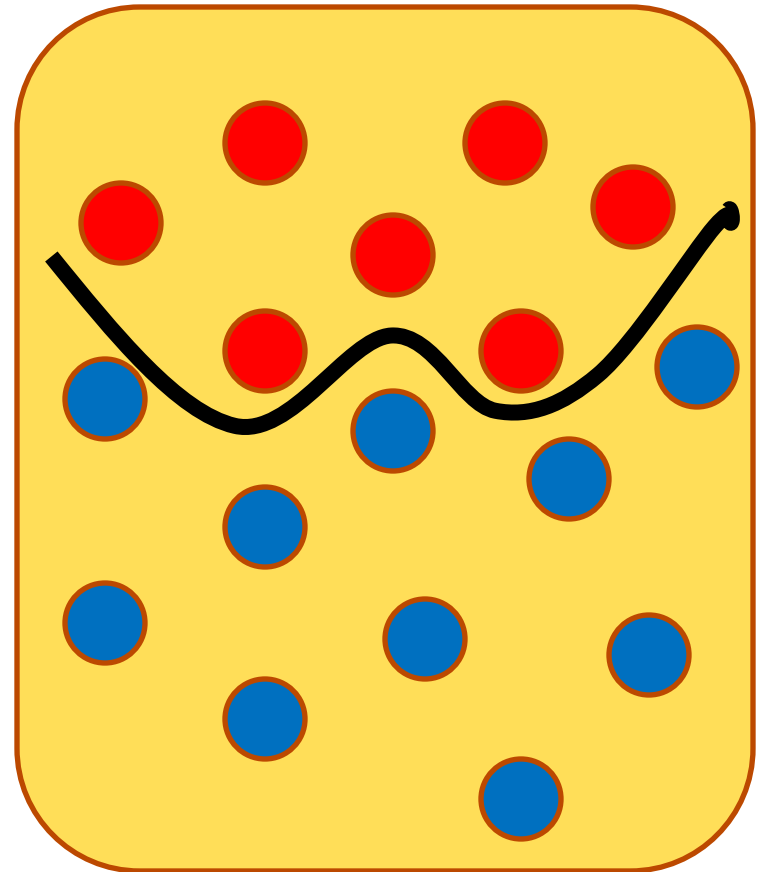
- Given a system operating condition we determine the **slowly coherent** groups of generators
- Depending on the disturbance location we then determine **minimal cutsets** using a graph theoretic approach which **minimizes load generation imbalance** in each island
- A **graph theoretic** method is applied to accurately determine the boundary of the island
  - A  $k$ -way partitioning technique is applied to decide the boundary of the island

# Why Do We Need Islanding?

- Cascading outages that rapidly spread across the power system could result in significant disruption and inconvenience to modern society, leaving millions of people in the dark
  - ❖ West Coast outages in 1996
  - ❖ The Aug. 14, 2003 blackout in the Eastern Interconnection
  - ❖ A recent massive power failure in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **Controlled islanding** provides an option of last resort to **prevent the spreading of cascading outages**
  - ❖ Intentionally separates a bulk power system into several self sustaining electrically isolated parts after a severe contingency
  - ❖ Loss of load and generation are limited in an acceptable range

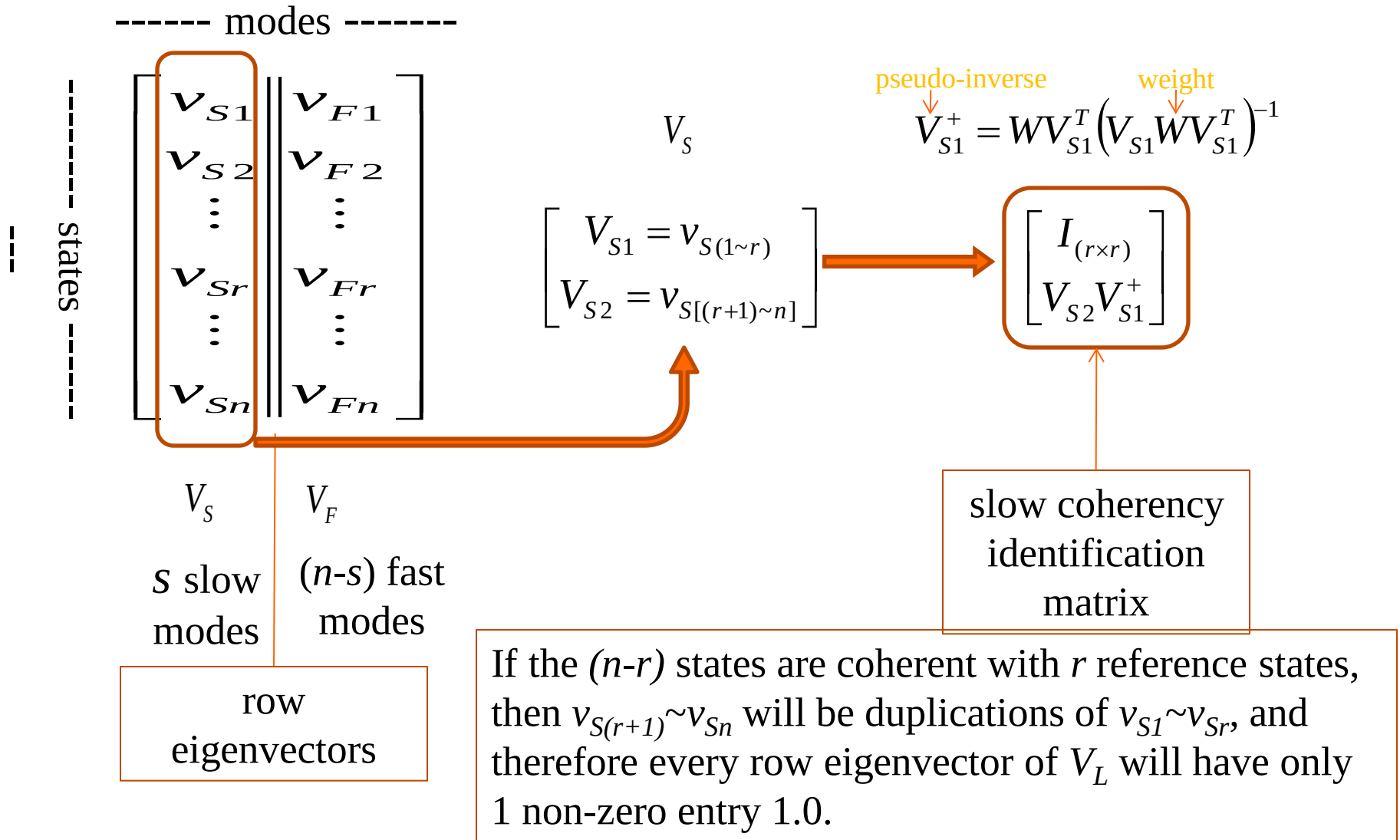
# How Do We Do Islanding?

- Identify slowly coherent generators
  - ❖ generators swinging together after a disturbance are said to be coherent
- Determine a cutset
  - ❖ involve the contingency lines
  - ❖ generators being identified to be slowly coherent are in isolated parts.
  - ❖ the impact of the imbalance power of each island is minimized.
- Build an islanding strategy
  - ❖ cutset determination
  - ❖ load shedding and generation tripping plan
  - ❖ when to island (another big problem)





# Coherency Identification Matrix



# How to Identify Coherent Machines?

- In power systems, when two machines are coherent exactly with  $r$  selected slow modes, the **row eigenvectors** related to the two machines of the  $r$  modes will be identical.

$$\begin{matrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.3 \\ 1 & 0.3 \\ 0.5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} x_1 \text{ and } x_2 \text{ are exactly} \\ \text{coherent to the two} \\ \text{slow modes} \end{matrix}$$

- In an actual power system, machines are nearly coherent.

$$\begin{matrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.3 \\ 1 & 0.35 \\ 0.5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} x_1 \text{ and } x_2 \text{ are nearly} \\ \text{coherent to the two} \\ \text{slow modes} \end{matrix}$$

generator internal reactance  $x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = 0.3 \text{ pu}$ ,  $x_4 = 0.22 \text{ pu}$ , inertia

$H_1 = H_2 = H_3 = H_4 = 6.5$ , machine base 900 MVA, system base 100 MVA.

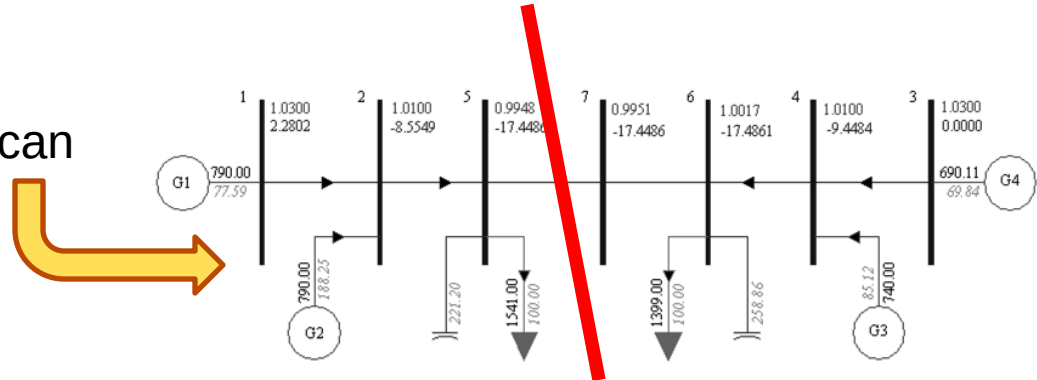
$$\begin{matrix} G1 \\ G3 \\ G2 \\ G4 \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0.9644 & 0.0356 \\ 0.0444 & 0.9556 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Grouping matrix of the four machine system

Generators G1 and G2 in one group.  
Generators G3 and G4 in the other group.  
The result is in accordance with intuition.

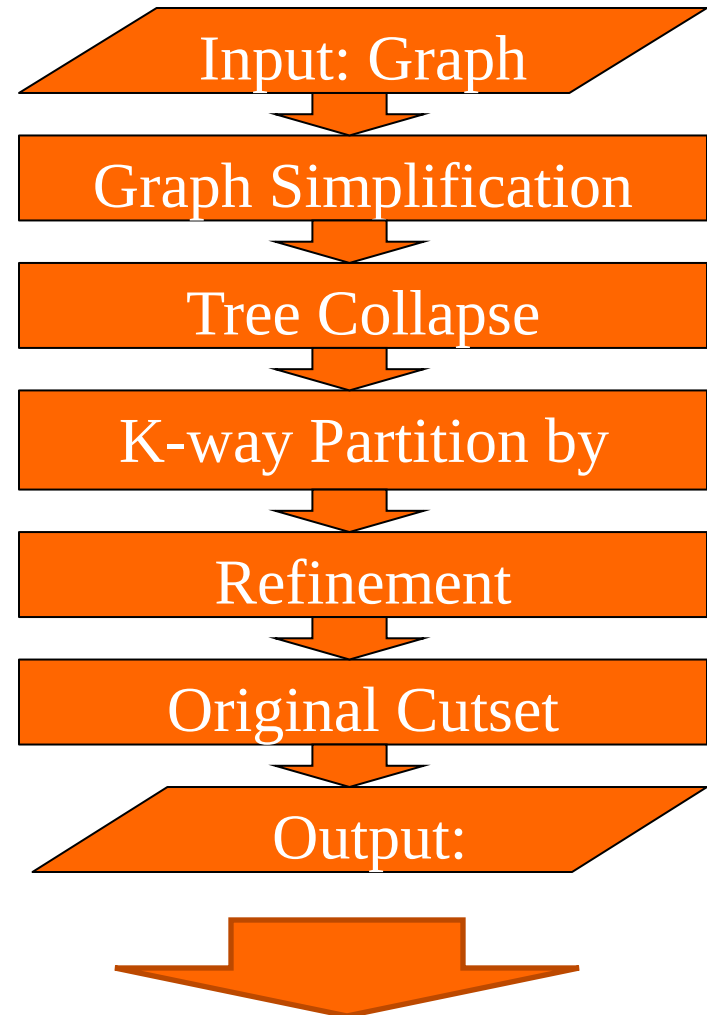
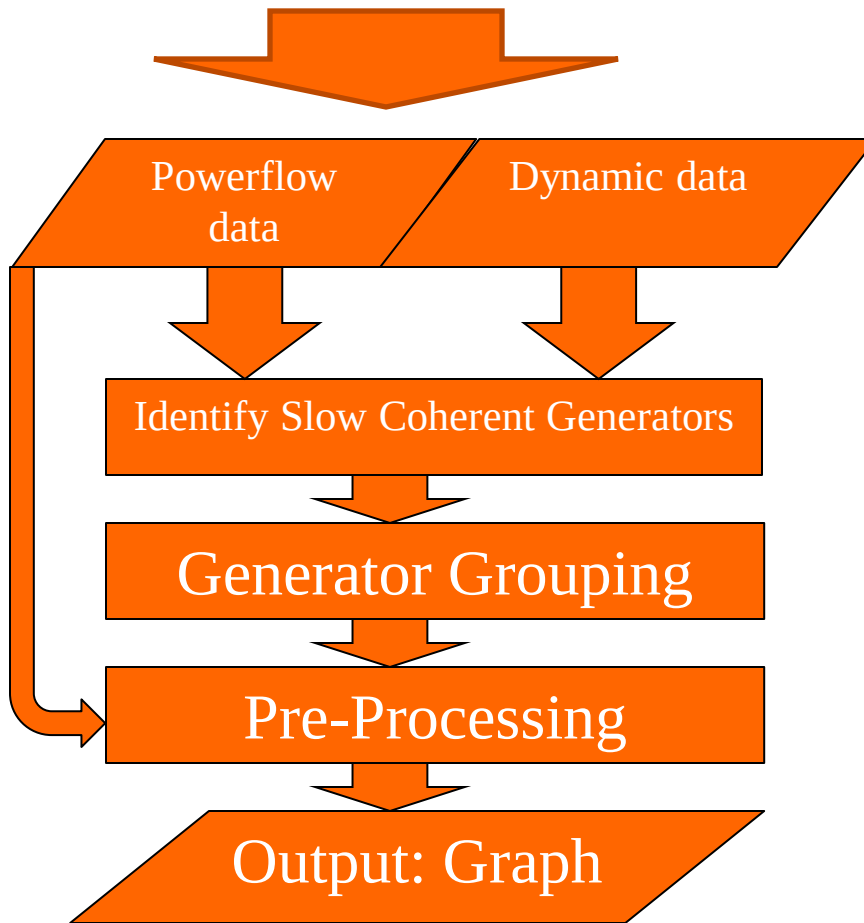
# Determine Cutsets for Coherent Generators

- For small systems, cutsets can be determined manually.

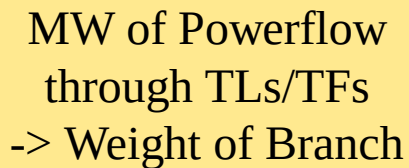


- For large power systems that contain thousands of buses and branches, an automatic cutset searching program becomes necessary when coherent groups have been provided

# Steps to Perform Cutset Search



Bus  $\rightarrow$  Node

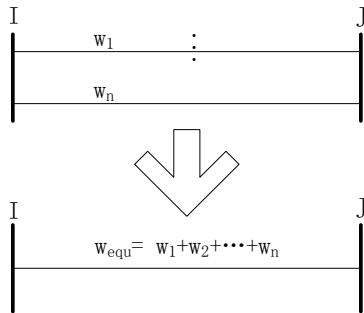


Transmission Line/Transformer  
-> Branch

14

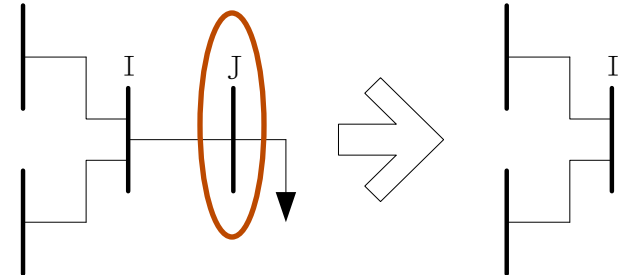
# Graph Simplification: 5 Steps

## 1. Equivalence of parallel lines

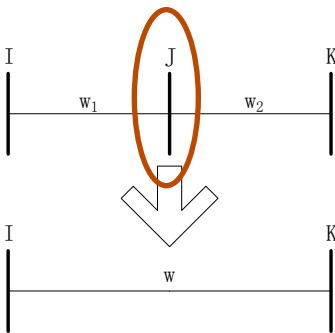


degree of graph:  
the degree of a node is  
equal the number of  
branches connected  
to that node.

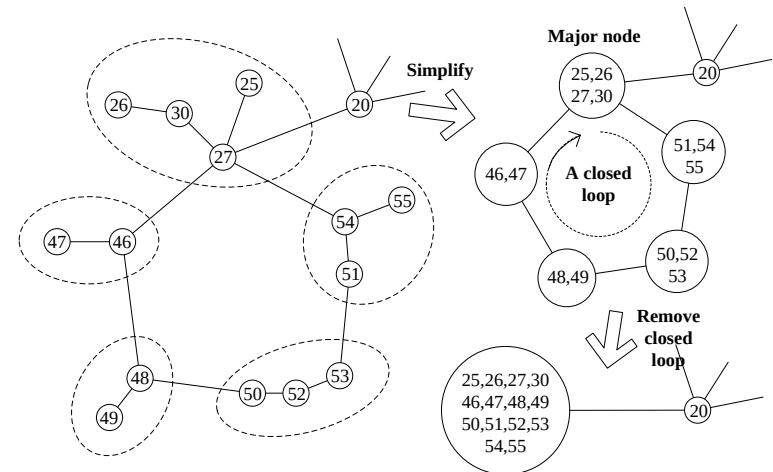
## 2. Removal of degree-one-nodes



## 4. Removal of step-up transformers



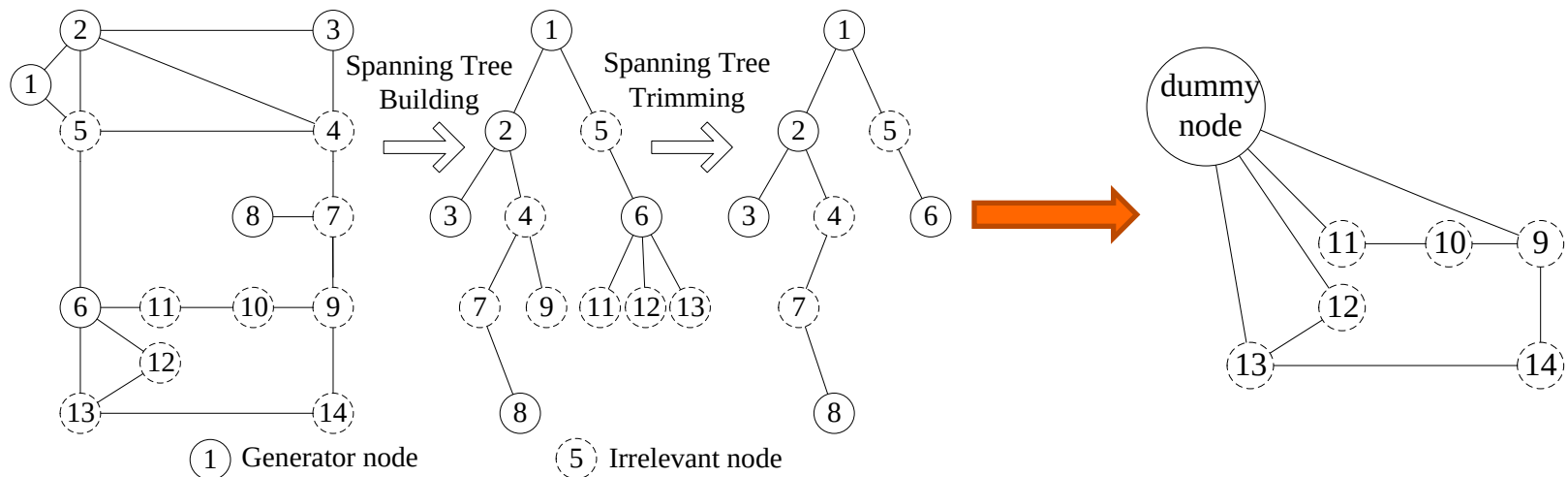
## 3. Removal of degree-two-nodes



## 5. Removal of closed loops

# Tree Collapse: Consolidate Coherent Machines

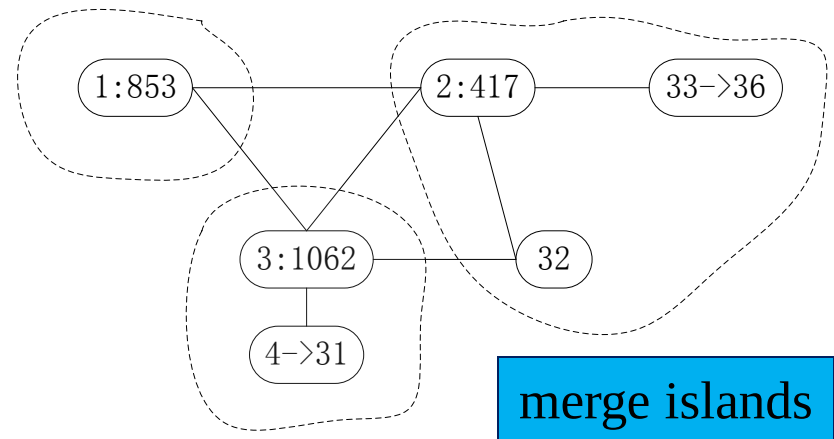
- **Purpose:** avoid generators in one coherent group being separated in different islands.
- **Method:** collapse generators in the same group into a large dummy node.
  - ❖ Building a spanning tree
  - ❖ Trim the spanning tree
  - ❖ Collapse of the minimum spanning tree





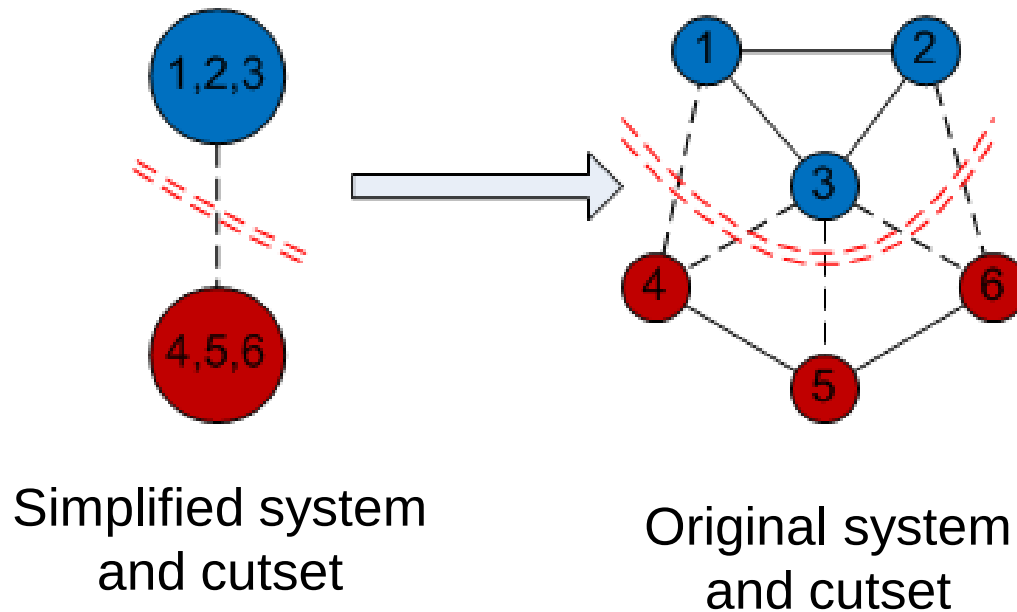
# Graph Splitting and Island Merging

- After tree collapse, a graph partition program METIS (Developed by Prof. Karypis' laboratory at the university of Minnesota) is employed to split the graph into specified number of parts
- Some extra islands will be formed in the splitting process, and an island merging module is invoked to merge minor islands to their adjacent major islands.



# Cutset Recovery

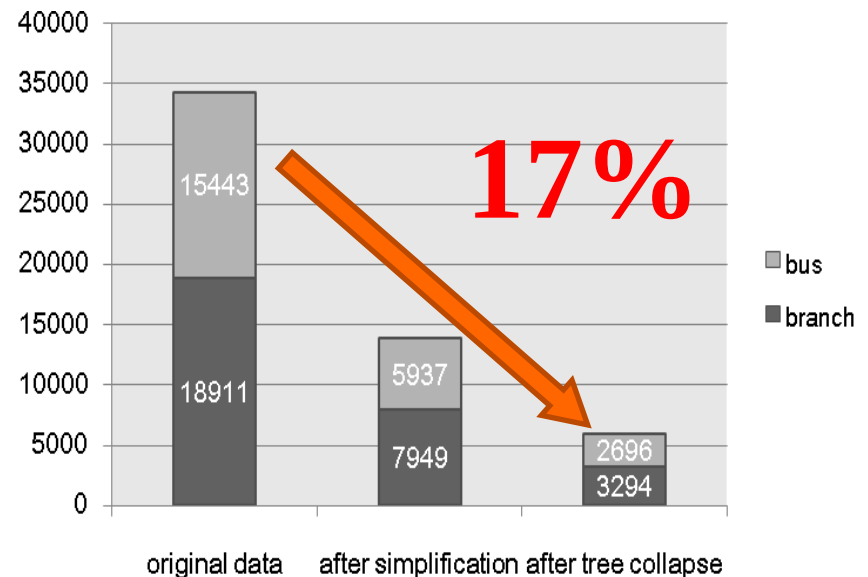
- A partition result of the highly simplified graph is given at this time.
- In all the previous processes, actions are recorded. Final cutset can be recovered from the results of simplified graph.



# Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Algorithm

- A software package is developed based on the algorithm. Test result:
  - Bus: 15000 +
  - Branch: 18000 +
  - PC configuration: Intel Core2 6700 2.66 GHz CPU and 2 GB memory
  - Speed: **less than 3 seconds**
- Graph simplification efficiency
 


- Effectiveness of cutsets from the algorithm will be tested by **time domain simulations**



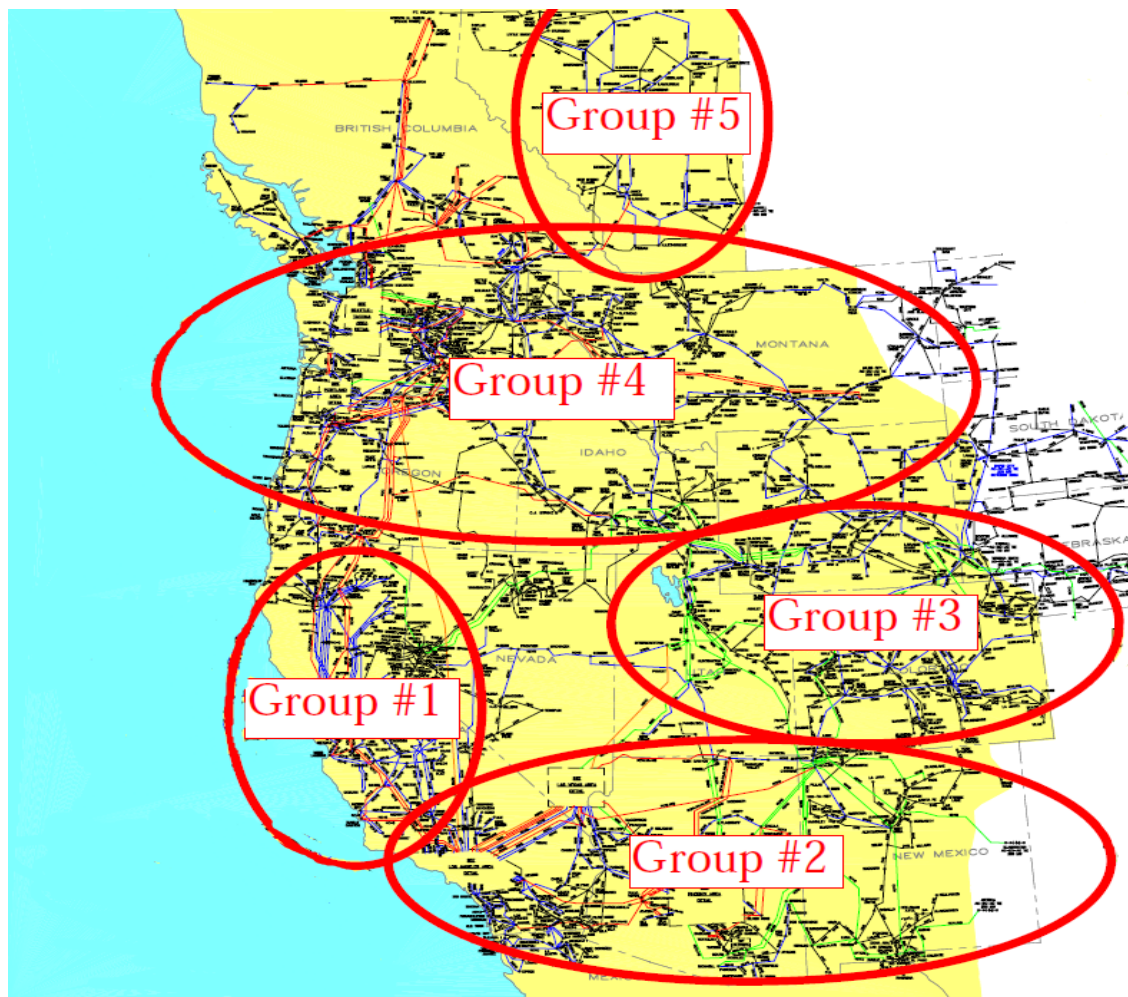
# Islanding Demonstrations on the WECC System

- **Simulation tools:** DSA Tools, especially PSAT and TSAT.
- **Simulation cases:** the WECC system under two different operating conditions: **heavy summer** (HS) case and **light winter** (LW) case
- **Contingencies:** **triple line outage** (TLO) and **severe double line outage** (SDLO) at California Oregon intertie (COI) and Path 15 (P15)

| Simulation Cases | Operating Conditions | Contingency Locations | Outages |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Case #1          | HS                   | COI                   | TLO     |
| Case #2          | HS                   | COI                   | SDLO    |
| Case #3          | LW                   | P15                   | TLO     |
| Case #4          | LW                   | P15                   | SDLO    |

COI: critical contingency to heavy summer case  
P15: critical contingency to light winter case

# Slowly Coherent Groups in the WECC



# Candidate Cutsets

## Candidate cutsets for HS COI Case

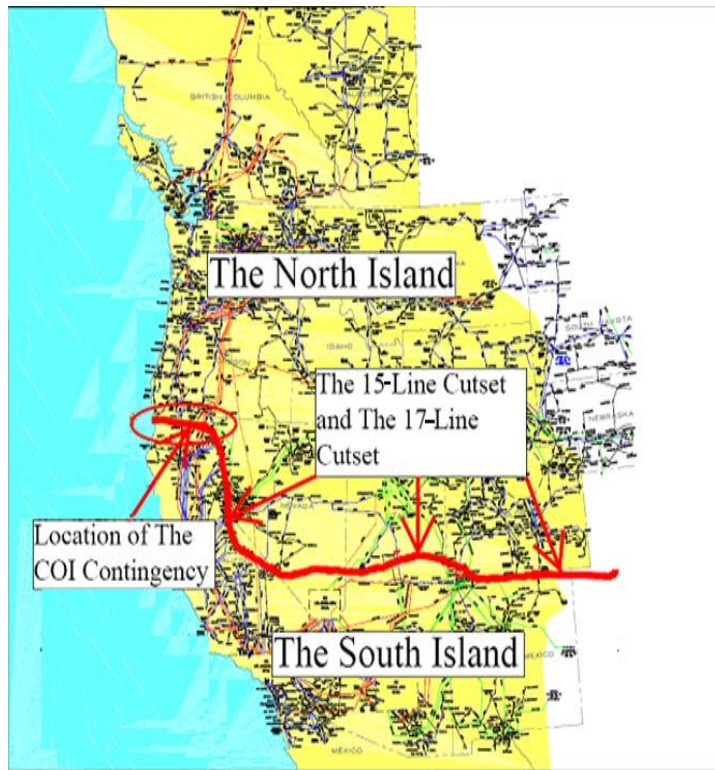
| No. of Islands | Slow Coherency Groups Contained | Load/Generation Imbalance (MW) | No. of Lines in Cutsets |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>2</b>       | <b>(1,2), (3,4,5)</b>           | <b>-5602/5602</b>              | <b>15</b>               |
| 3              | (1,2), (3,4), (5)               | -5602/5903/-301                | 18                      |
| 4              | (1), (2), (3,4), (5)            | -4748/-907/5957/-301           | 21                      |
| 5              | (1), (2), (3), (4), (5)         | -4748/-907/<br>-487/6444/-301  | 34                      |

## Candidate cutsets for LW P15 Case

| No. of Islands | Slow Coherency Groups Contained | Load/Generation Imbalance (MW) | No. of Lines in Cutsets |
|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>2</b>       | <b>(2), (1,3,4,5)</b>           | <b>6028/-6028</b>              | <b>15</b>               |
| 3              | (2), (1,3,4), (5)               | 6028/-6027/-1                  | 18                      |
| 4              | (2), (1,4), (3), (5)            | 6028/-5886/-141/-1             | 34                      |

# Locations of Contingencies and Cutsets

Two islanding strategies are built for the COI contingency and another two for the P15 contingency



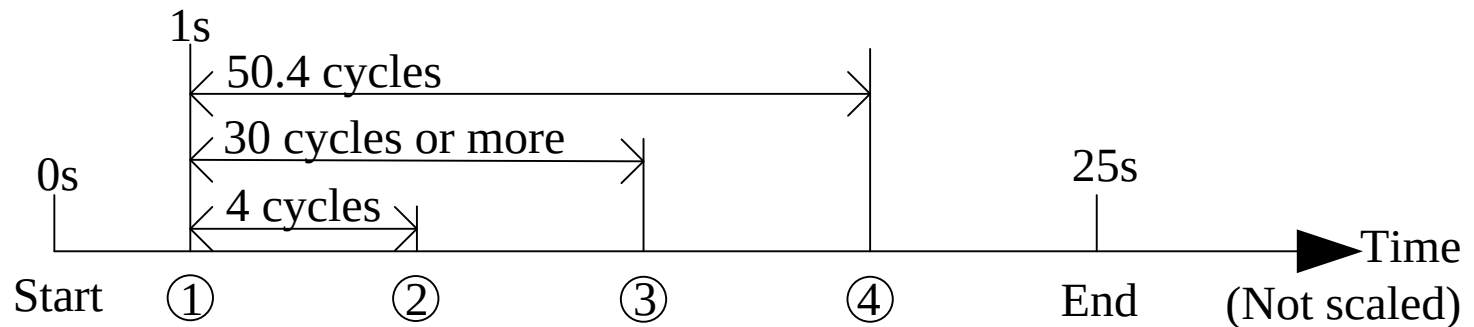
For HS COI cases



For LW P15 cases

# Time Sequence of HS COI TLO

Heavy Summer  
California Oregon Intertie  
Triple Line Outage



① 3- $\Phi$  fault at COI bus      ② Clear fault, open three COI lines, RAS start

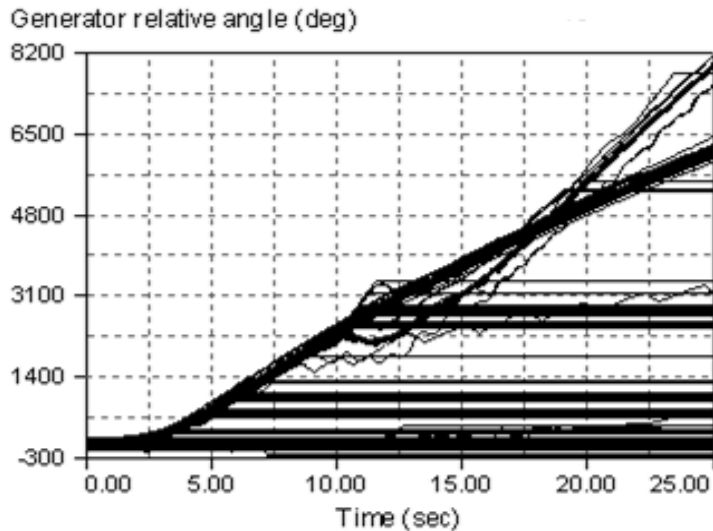
③ Implement islanding(\*)      ④ RAS end

(\*) Not employed in the uncontrolled islanding case

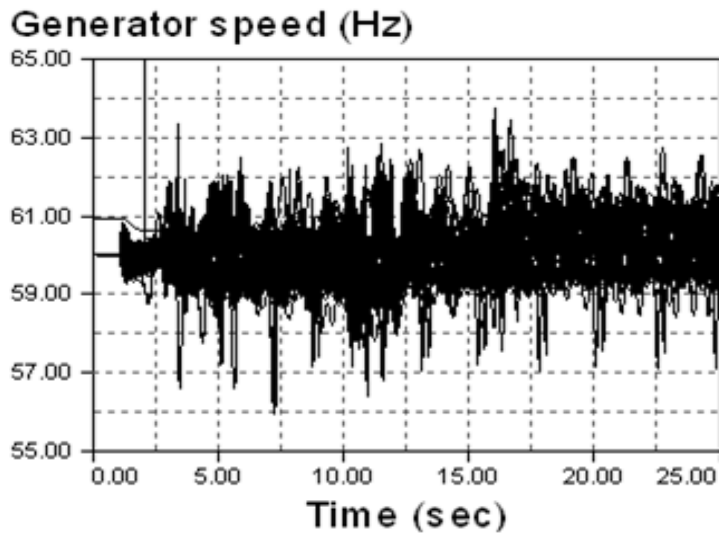
Note that RAS( remedial action schemes) are  
only employed in TLO cases.



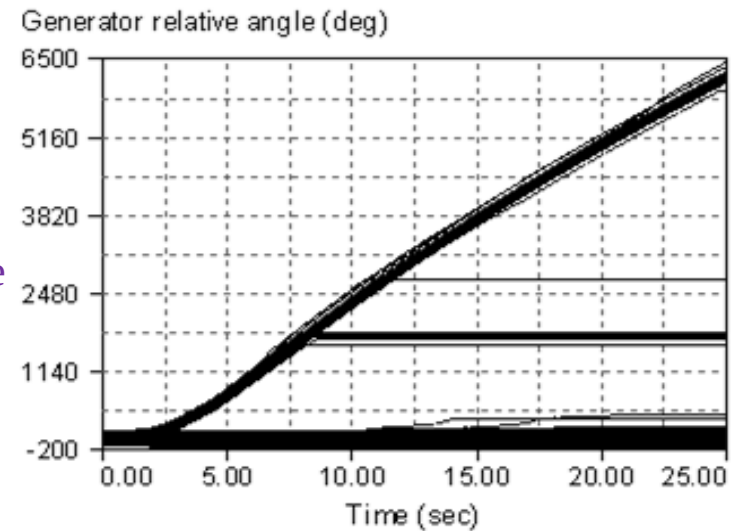
# The HS COI TLO Case: generator variables



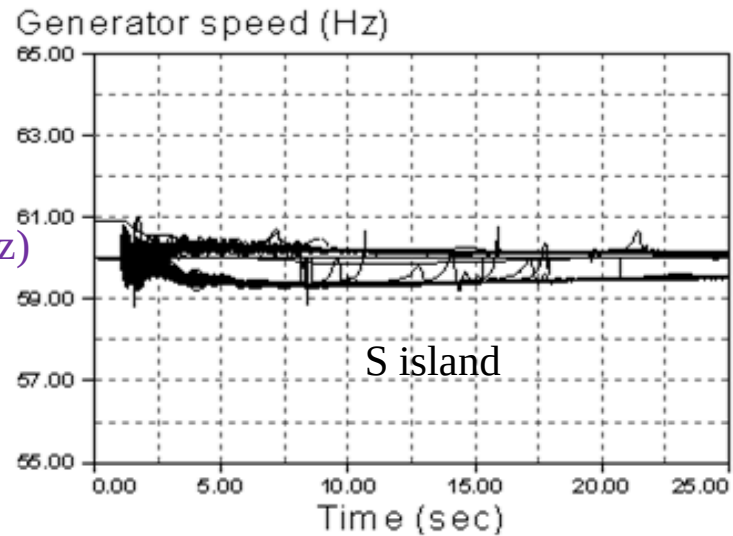
Relative  
rotor angle



Uncontrolled Islanding

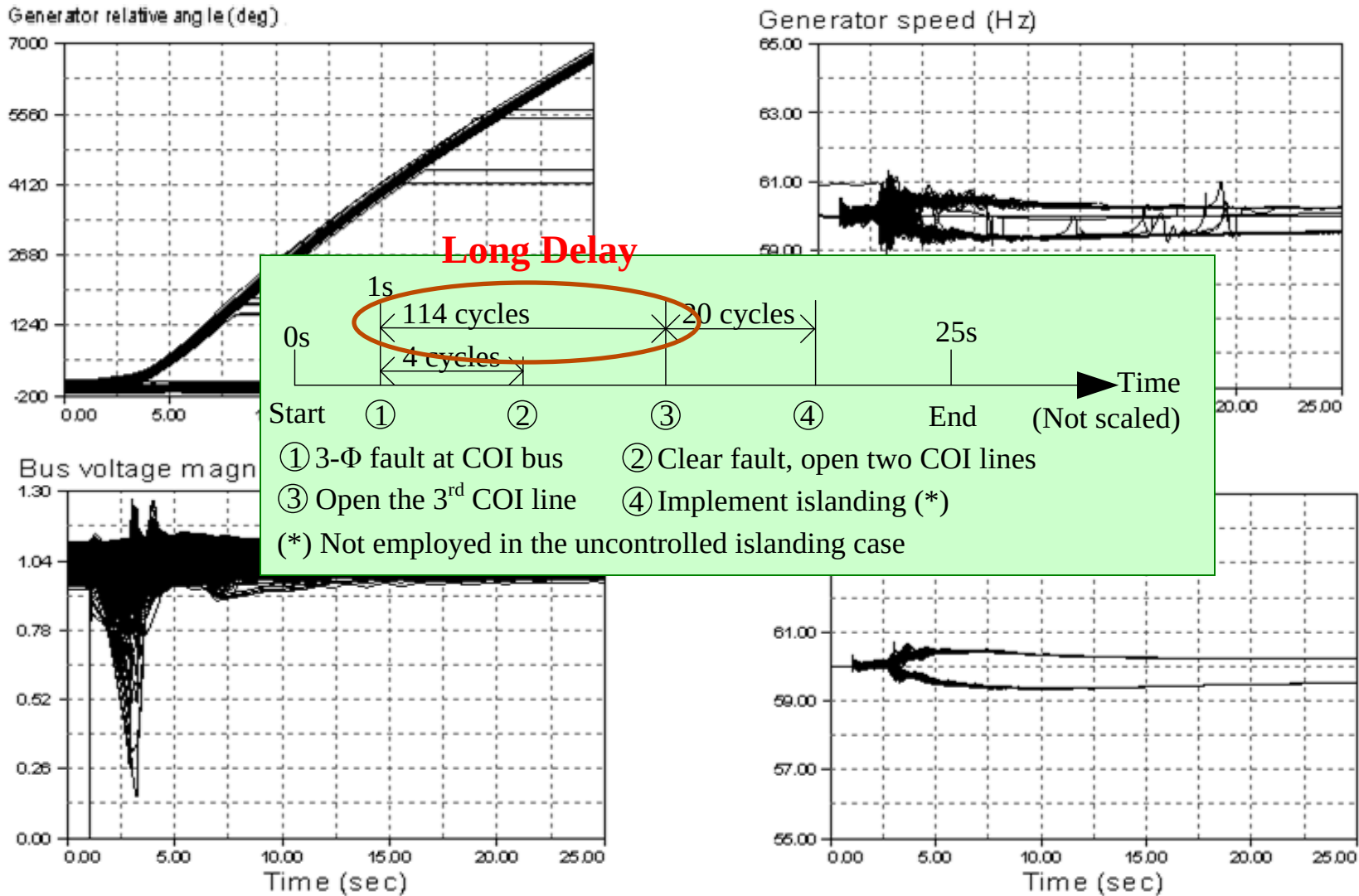


gen  
speed (Hz)



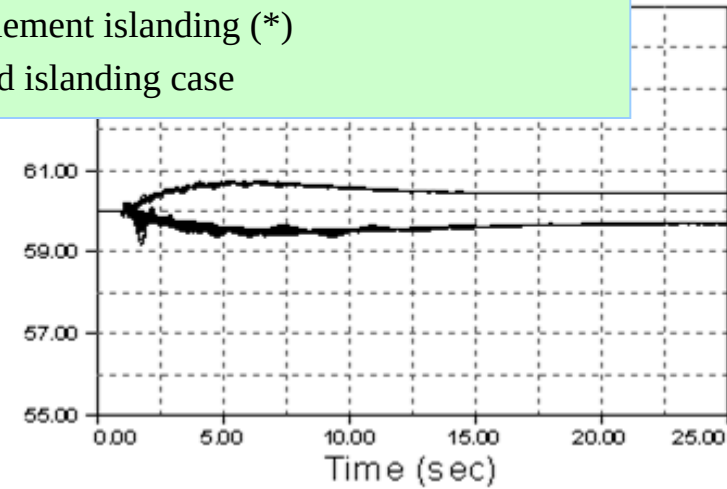
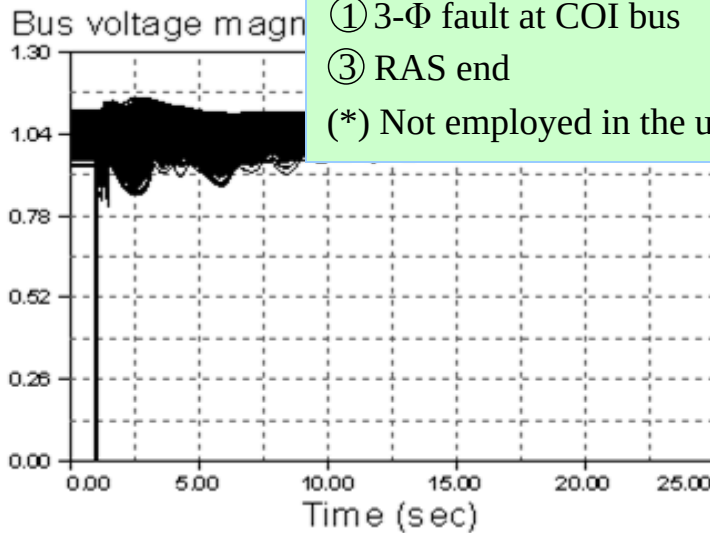
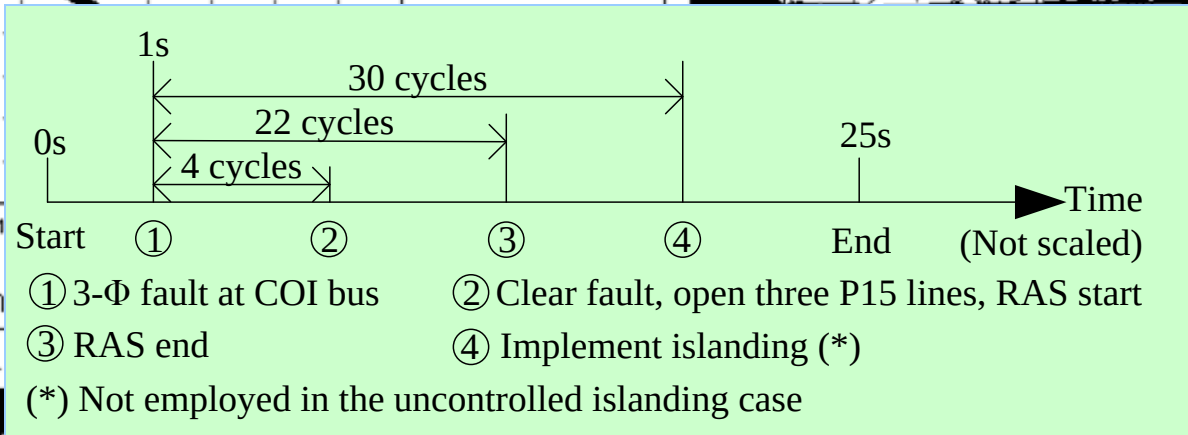
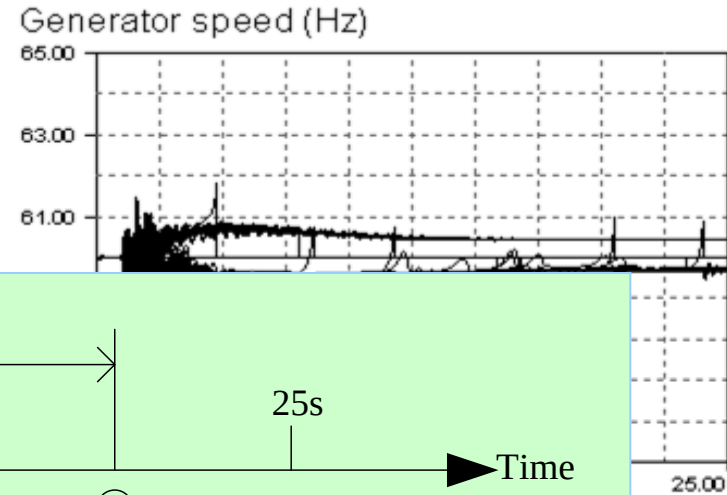
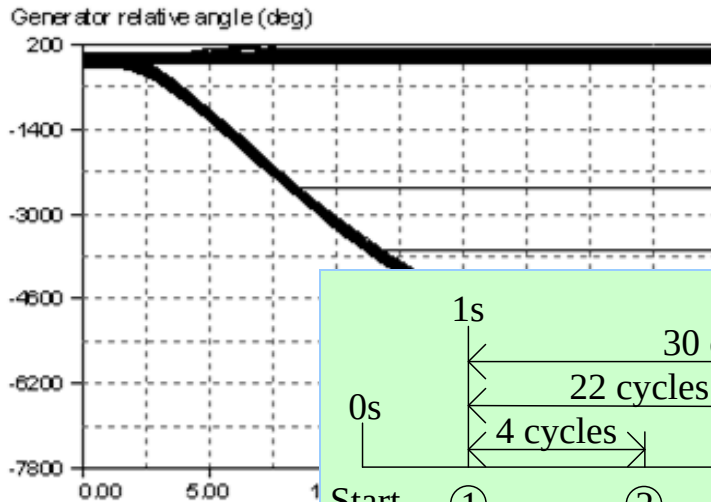
Controlled Islanding

# HS COI SDLO



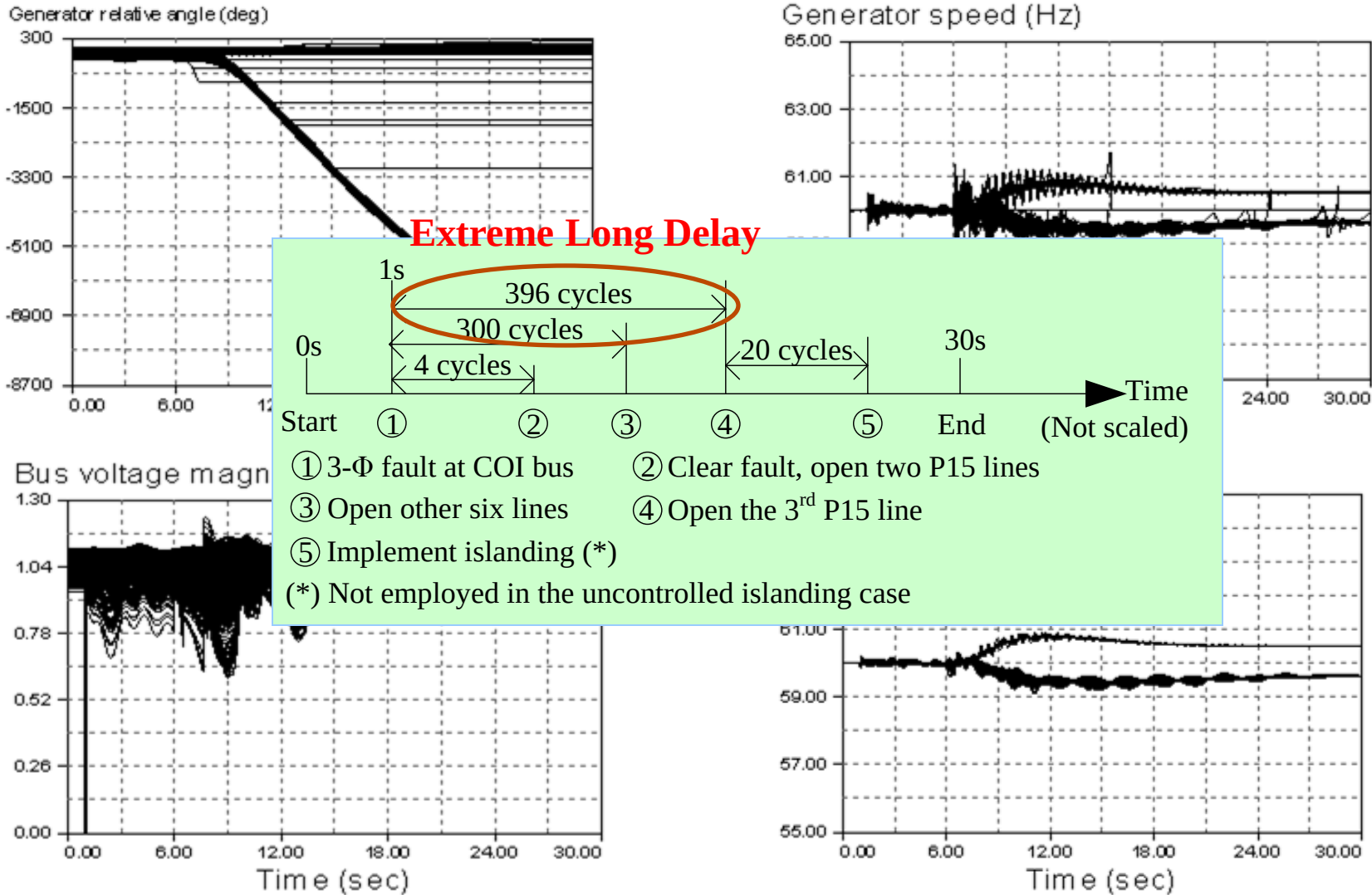
Only controlled islanding results are shown here

# LW P15 TLO



Only controlled islanding results are shown here

# LW P15 SDLO



Only controlled islanding results are shown here

# Simulation Results

| Features* |    |      | Stable | Islands Formed | Load Shedding (MW) | Gen Tripping (MW) |
|-----------|----|------|--------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| HS<br>COI | UI | TLO  | No     | 3              | 7500               | 14420             |
|           |    | SDLO | No     | 4              | 6300               | 11290             |
|           | CI | TLO  | Yes    | 2              | 1530               | 2770              |
|           |    | SDLO | Yes    | 2              | 1220               | 480               |
| LW<br>P15 | UI | TLO  | No     | 3              | 14730              | 5310              |
|           |    | SDLO | No     | 3              | 15930              | 3790              |
|           | CI | TLO  | Yes    | 2              | 2970               | 1020              |
|           |    | SDLO | Yes    | 2              | 2840               | 260               |

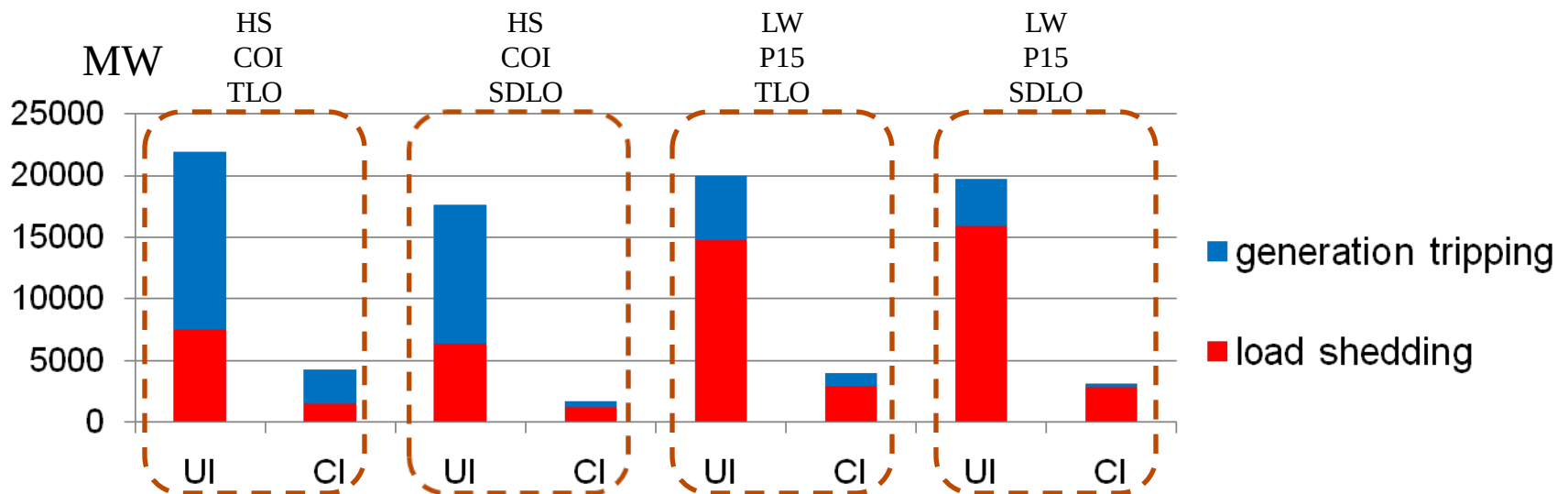
\* UI = uncontrolled islanding, CI = controlled islanding

- ❖ Existing RAS without separation are NOT effective enough to prevent the WECC system from cascading outages when TLO or SDLO occurred at COI or P15.
- ❖ Controlled islanding has a potential for preventing the formation of multiple asynchronous groups of generators and reducing load shedding and generation tripping after a severe contingency.
- ❖ Present armed RASs in the WECC system are not designed for controlled islanding operation, therefore some unwanted load shedding or generation tripping may occur after islanding.

# Simulation Results Analysis

| Stable?     | Uncontrolled Islanding | Controlled Islanding |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| HS COI TLO  | N                      | Y                    |
| HS COI SDLO | N                      | Y                    |
| LW COI TLO  | N                      | Y                    |
| LW COI SDLO | N                      | Y                    |

Stability  
during  
simulation



UI = uncontrolled islanding, CI = controlled islanding

# Conclusions

- Controlled islanding has proven to be effective in preventing system from losing synchronism after severe disturbances.
- In each island formed, frequencies and voltages in the transmission network are within an acceptable operating range, although services would be slightly degraded.
- Compared to uncontrolled islanding, controlled islanding results in less load shedding, in tripping of fewer generators, and in lower blackout probabilities.
- The algorithm works for large power system and is efficient.
- Several cutsets identified by the algorithm are effective in controlled islanding.

# Application to the August 14, 2003 Northeast Blackout

- It is the 2004 Summer Peak Load Case for the Eastern Interconnection.
- It has nearly 38,000 buses and nearly 5000 generators.
- All the modeling detail provided in the base case was retained without any change.
- The proposed approach was applied to the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003 scenario.



# Preparation of Case

- The conditions given in the joint US-Canadian final report were implemented in the base case obtained.
- The power flow was then obtained.
- **This shows the state of the system before the final set of disturbances occurred.**
- The details of changes implemented are shown in the next few slides.

# Preparation of Case

- Adjust generation from AEP to compensate for this loss of generation in FE
- Remove Columbus-Bedford 345 kV Line
- Remove Bloomington- Denois Creek 230 kV line
- Trip Eastlake 5 generation
- Remove Chamberlin – Harding 345 kV Line
- Remove Stuart-Atlanta 345 kV Line
- Remove Hanna- Juniper 345 kV Line
- Remove Star-South Canton 345 kV Line

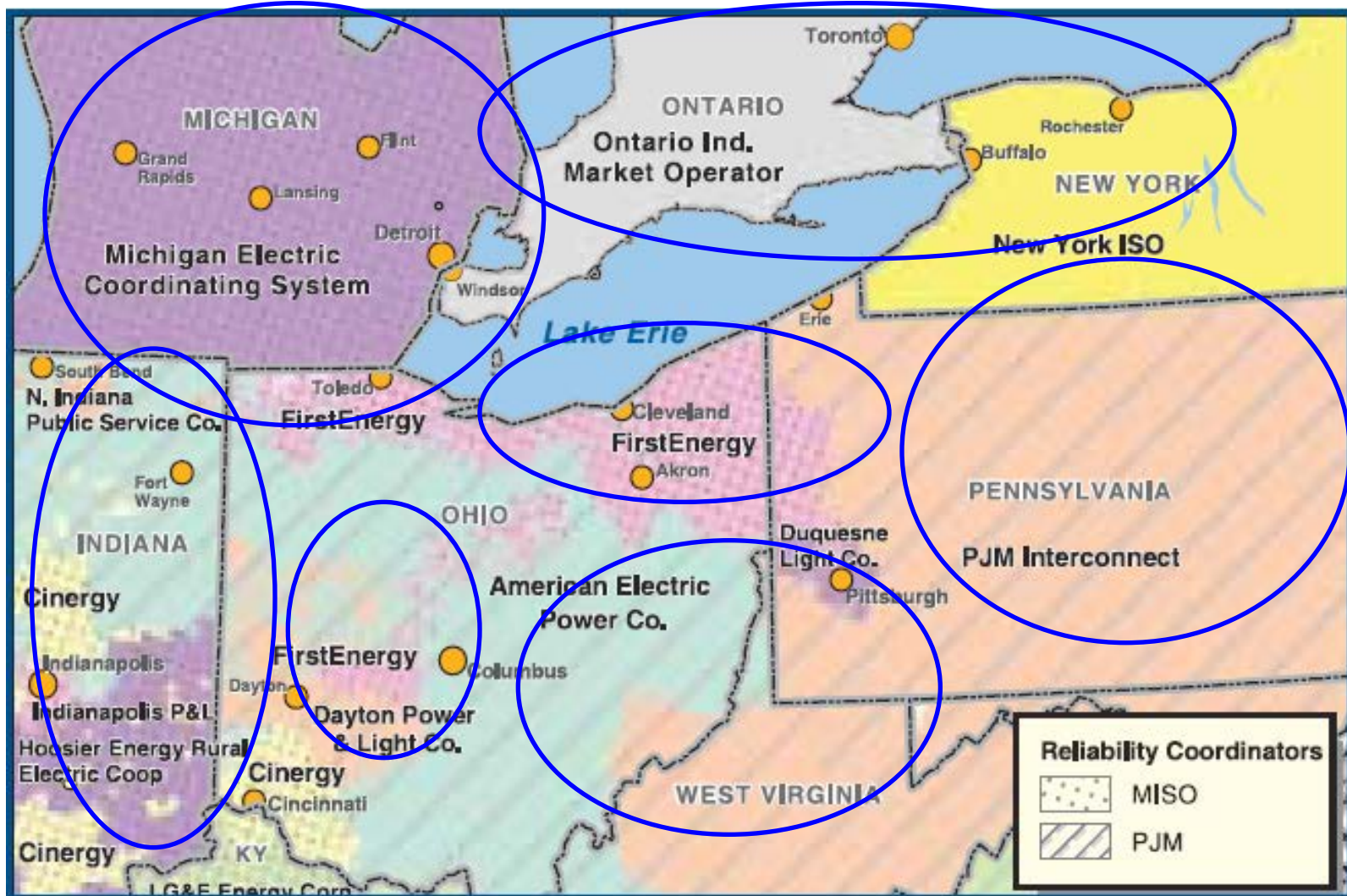
# Preparation of Case

- Remove the following 138 kV lines
  - Cloverdale-Torrey
  - E. Lima – New Liberty
  - Babb – W. Akron
  - W. Akron – Pleasant Valley
  - Canton Central Transformer
  - Canton Central – Cloverdale
  - E. Lima – N. Findlay
  - Chamberlin- W. Akron
  - Dale – W. Akron
  - West Akron-Aetna
  - West Akron-Granger-Stoney-Brunswick-West Medina
  - West Akron-Pleasant Valley
  - West Akron-Rosemont-Pine-Wadsworth

# Preparation of Case

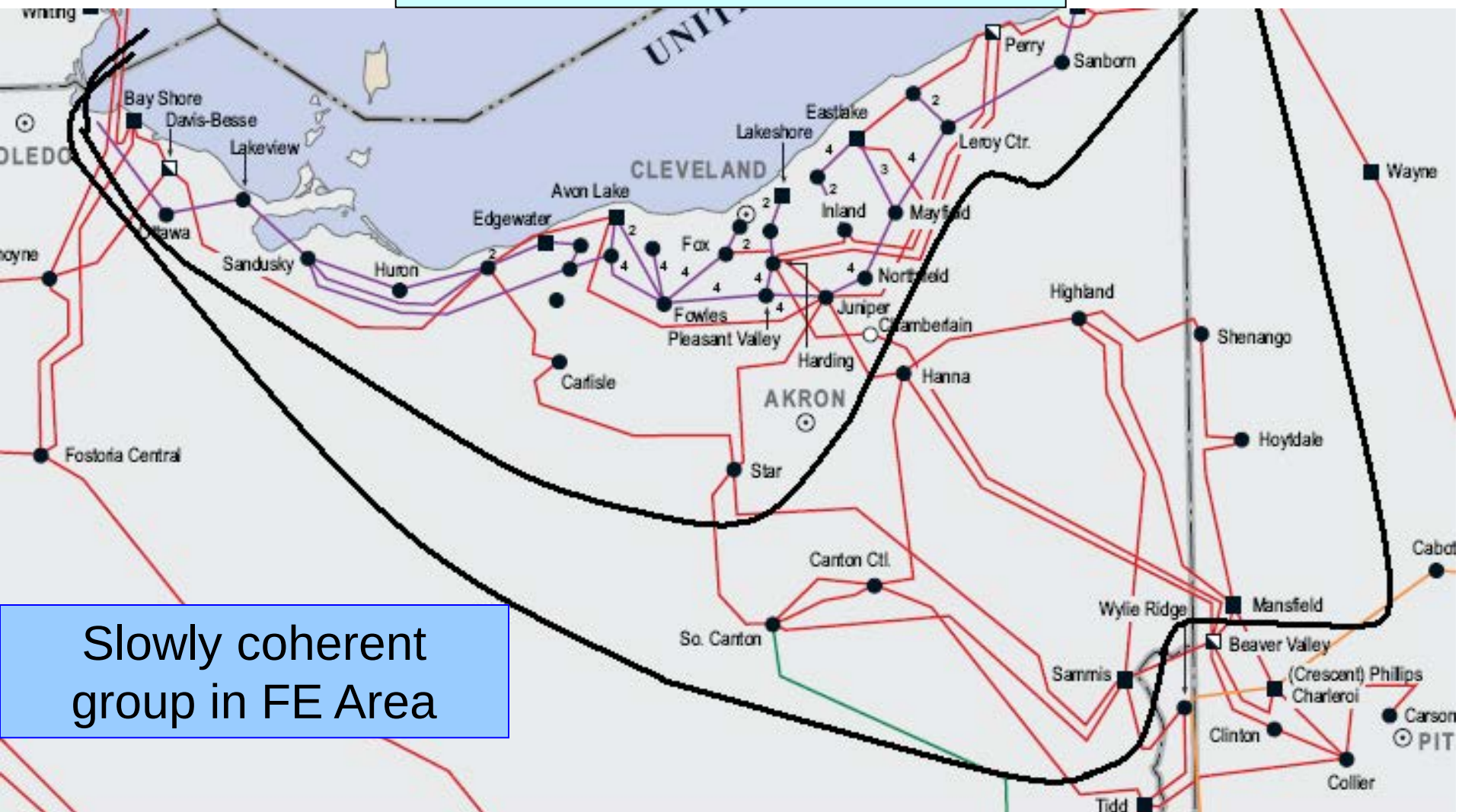
- The slow coherency program was then run using the solved power flow case and the dynamic data provided to obtain the **slowly coherent groups**.
- All the modeling details provided in the data were included.
- No simplifications were made.
- **One of the slowly coherent groups identified was the entire FE area.**

# Slowly Coherent Generator Groups





Island created by  
automatic islanding program



# August 14, 2003 Scenario

- The Dale-West Canton 138 kV line sags into a tree and trips.
- In 2s this led to the overloading of Sammis-Star 345 kV line which then tripped.
- This tripped on Zone 3.
- This was the start of the cascade.

# Creation of Island

- At time  $t=0s$  a three phase fault occurs at Dale and the Dale-West Canton 138 kV line is tripped.
- We then create an island near the Cleveland area.
- In order to create the island we have to trip 20 lines:
  - 7 - 345 kV lines
  - 9 – 138 kV lines
  - 4 – 69 kV lines
- This island has:
  - Total generation = **6259.23 MW**
  - Total load = **8309.07 MW**
- The rate of frequency decline base load shedding sheds **(23%)** or **1911 MW** of load in the island

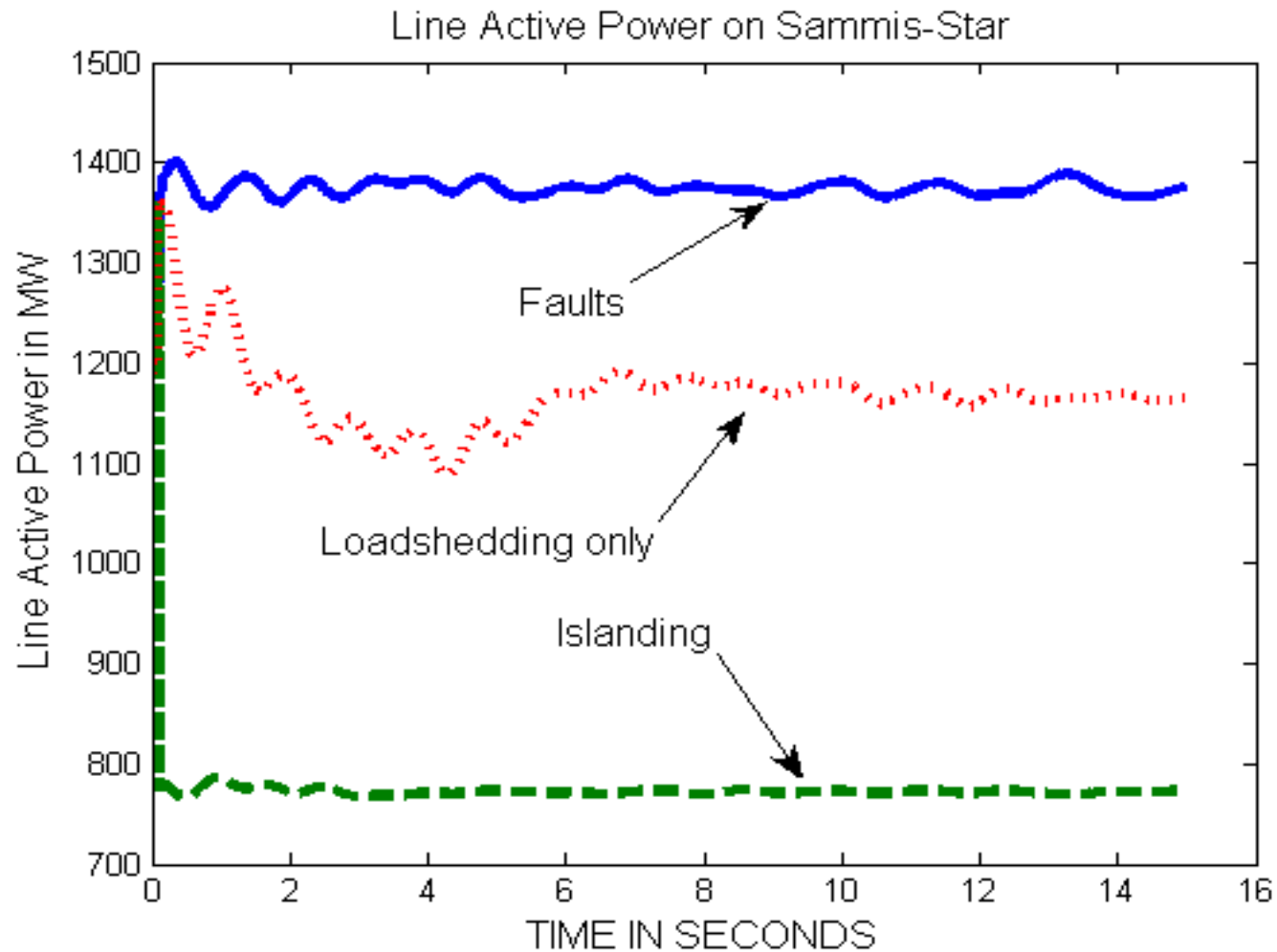


# Statement from Joint US-Canada Report

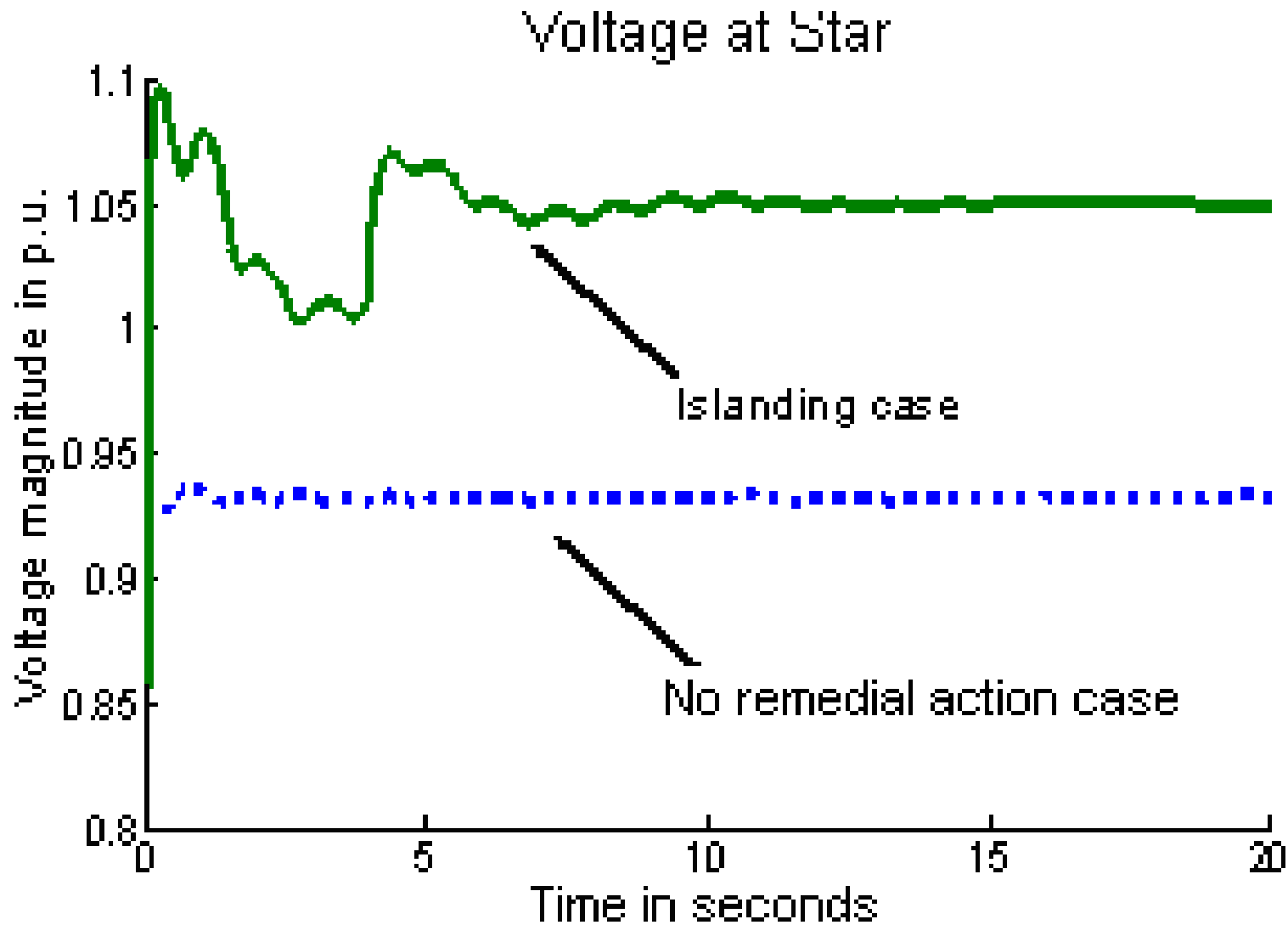


***“The team found that 1,500 MW of load would have had to be dropped within the Cleveland-Akron area to restore voltage at the Star bus from 90.8%(at 120% of normal and emergency ampere rating) up to 95.9%(at 101% of normal and emergency ampere rating).”***

# Line Flow Reduced on Sammis-Star



# Bus Voltage Improved at Star



## August 14, 2003 Analysis

- With the flow reduced on the Sammis – Star line and the voltage at start maintained at nominal values the line did not trip
- As a result the cascading outages did not occur
- The system remained intact and by shedding around 1900 MW of load in Cleveland and creating an island the rest of the system remained intact

# Publications

- You, H., V. Vittal, and Z. Yang, "Self-healing in power systems: an approach using islanding and rate of frequency decline based load shedding," *IEEE Trans. Power Systems*, Vol. 18, no. 1, pp.174-181, February 2003.
- You, H., V. Vittal, X. Wang, "Slow Coherency Based Islanding," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, Vol. 19, no. 1, pp 483-491, February 2004.
- Wang, X. , V. Vittal, G.T. Heydt, " Tracing Generator Coherency Indices Using the Continuation Method: A Novel Approach," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, Vol. 20, No. 3, pp 1510-1518, August 2005.
- Yang, B., V. Vittal, G.T. Heydt, "Slow Coherency Based Controlled Islanding – A Demonstration of the Approach on the August 14, 2003 Blackout Scenario," *IEEE Transaction on Power Systems*, Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 1840-1847, November 2006.
- Xu, G., V. Vittal, "Slow Coherency based Cutset Determination Algorithm for Large Power Systems," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp.877-884, May 2010.
- Xu, G., V. Vittal, A. Meklin, J.E. Thorman, "Controlled Islanding Demonstrations on the WECC System," *IEEE Transactions on Power Systems*, Vol. 26, No.3, pp.1426-1433, August, 2011.

*Thanks!*

*Questions?*