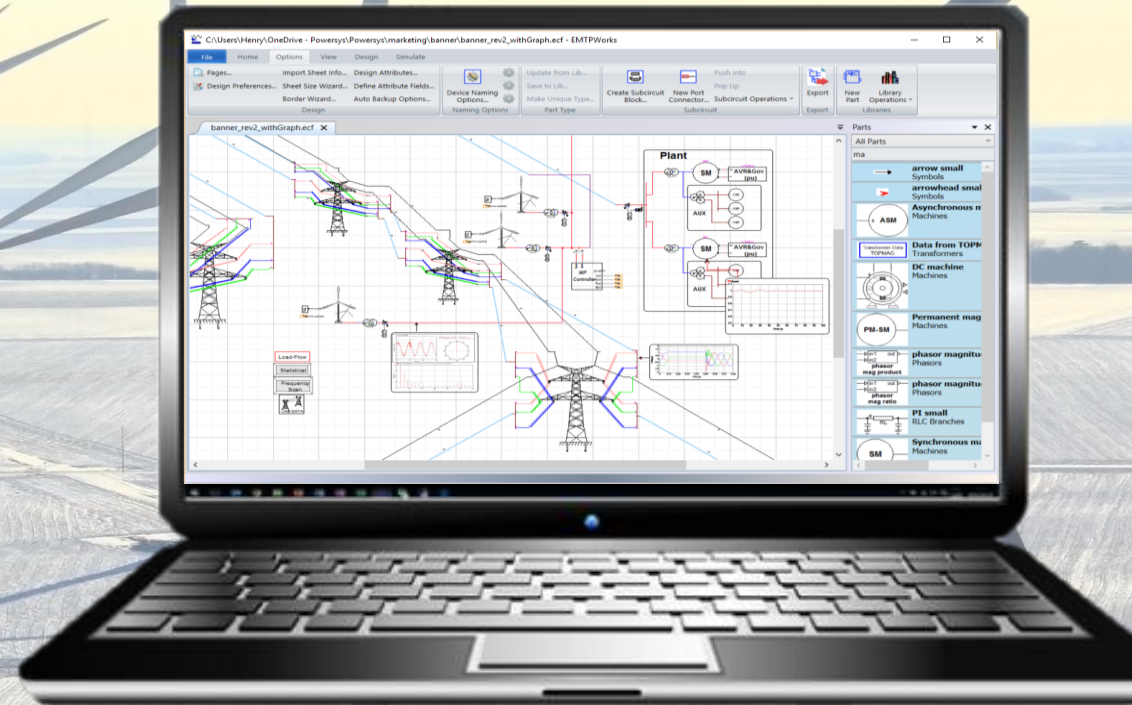


Online Dynamic Security Assessment (DSA) Based on EMT Simulations

Anton Stepanov, PhD
anton.stepanov@emtp.com



More info

www.EMTP.com

info@emtp.com

- EMTP: Electromagnetic Transients Program
- EMT tool developed to handle even very-large-scale simulations
 - Uses innovative matrix solution techniques
 - Solves network equations with exceptional speed
- Allows to use large time steps (500 μ s)
 - While maintaining accuracy
- Prevents numerical oscillations inherent to trapezoidal integration
 - No extraneous sawtooth jitter in waveforms
- Integrated load-flow solver
 - Allows to solve load-flow conditions in the same environment as EMT
 - Finds initial conditions and **automatically initializes EMT simulations (flat start)**

- DSA tool introduction
- Operating cycle
- System overview
 - Architecture
 - Contingencies design preparation
 - DSA controller
 - Client computers
 - Hardware requirements
 - Post-processing
- Simulations/timings
- Conclusions

➤ Dynamic Security Assessment (DSA)

- Evaluates if the grid at the current operating point remains stable after disturbances
- Run multiple simulations with different disturbances at regular time intervals
- Near-real-time process

➤ EMT-based Dynamic Security Assessment tool

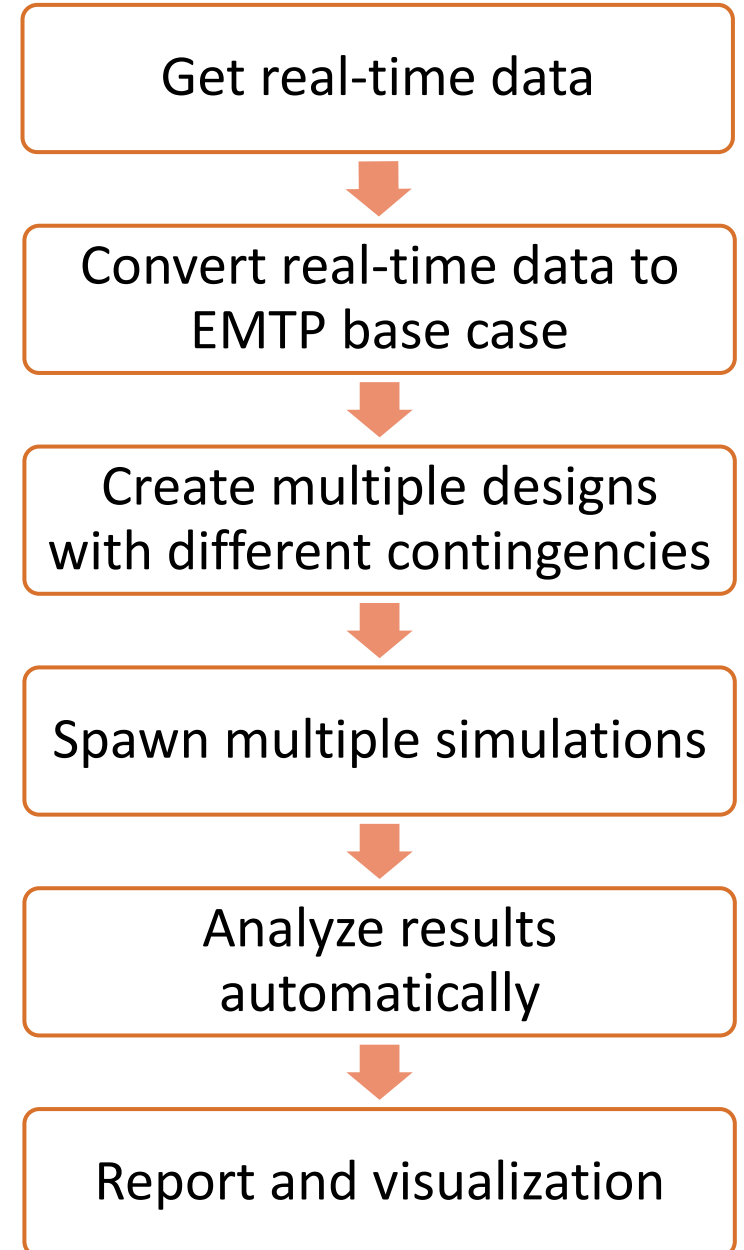
- Hardware and software architecture
- EMT simulations (high results reliability)
- Detailed models of IBRs, etc.
- Grid EMT model represents current operating conditions (“digital twin”)



➤ Intended users

- Operators in the System Operator control room (online monitoring)
- Engineers (detailed analysis)

- Cycle starts every 30-60 minutes
 - Real-time data about grid conditions must be ready
 - Generator setpoints, loads, ...
 - From SCADA, state estimator, ...
- Possibility to start the cycle manually
 - For detailed analysis by engineers



➤ DSA controller

- Interacts with users (GUI)
- Interacts with “clients”

➤ Data input

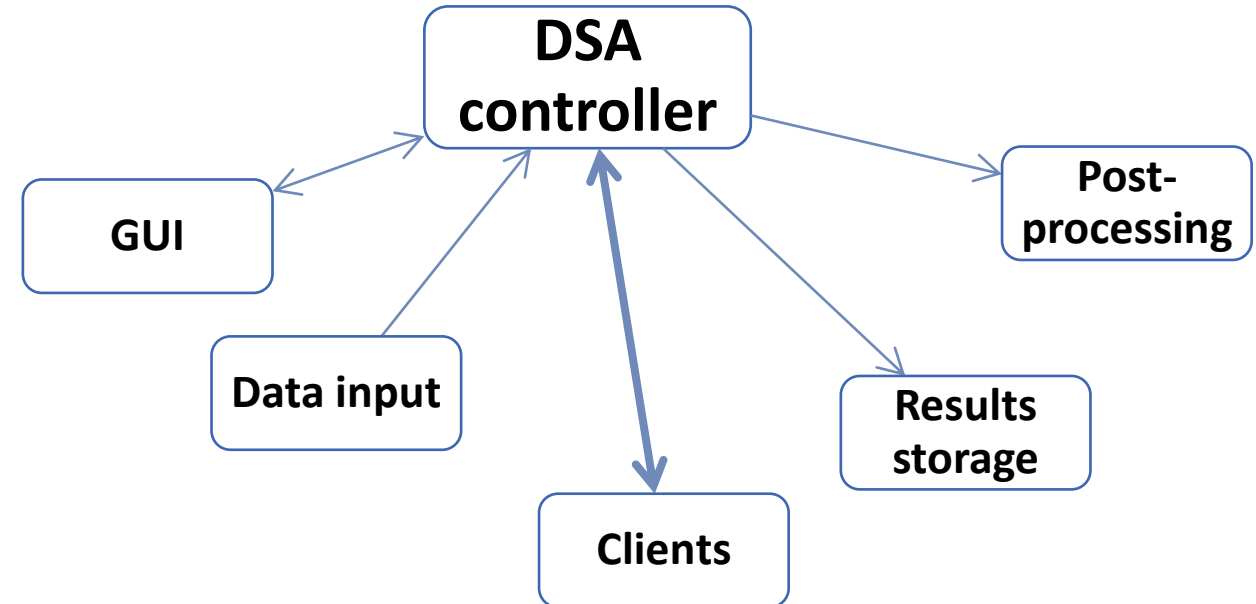
- Grid conditions (setpoints, loads, etc.)
- Contingencies data

➤ Clients (computers/VMs)

- Run simulations

➤ Post-processing and visualization

- Waveform visualization
- Report generation



➤ Multiple contingencies for each cycle

- Faults
- Load/generator outages
- Setpoint changes
- Etc.

➤ Level of detail for models

- Detailed close to contingency
- Simplified in remote zones (faster)

Contingency selection for next cycle analysis		Simplification level for remote zones			Computer			
		Detailed	Simplified	Thevenin eq	Auto assigned	Local	Remote 1	Remote 2
Cont 1	x		x		x			
Cont 2		x			x			
Cont 3	x	x			x			
Cont 4		x			x			
Cont 5	x			x	x			
Cont 6	x			x	x			

Signals selection for next cycle analysis		Limits		Post processing functions			
		Low	High	LF analysis	Oscillations	FFT	Max/min
V 1	x	0.95 pu	1.05 pu	x	x	x	
V 2		0.95 pu	1.05 pu	x	x		
F 1	x	49 Hz	51 Hz		x		x
F 2		49 Hz	51 Hz		x		x
P 1	x	-100 MW	1000 MW	x			x
P 2	x	-100 MW	1000 MW	x			x

Edit contingencies

Select and run a case

C:\offline\test.raw

Set root folder

C:\temp\cases

Time domain simulation length

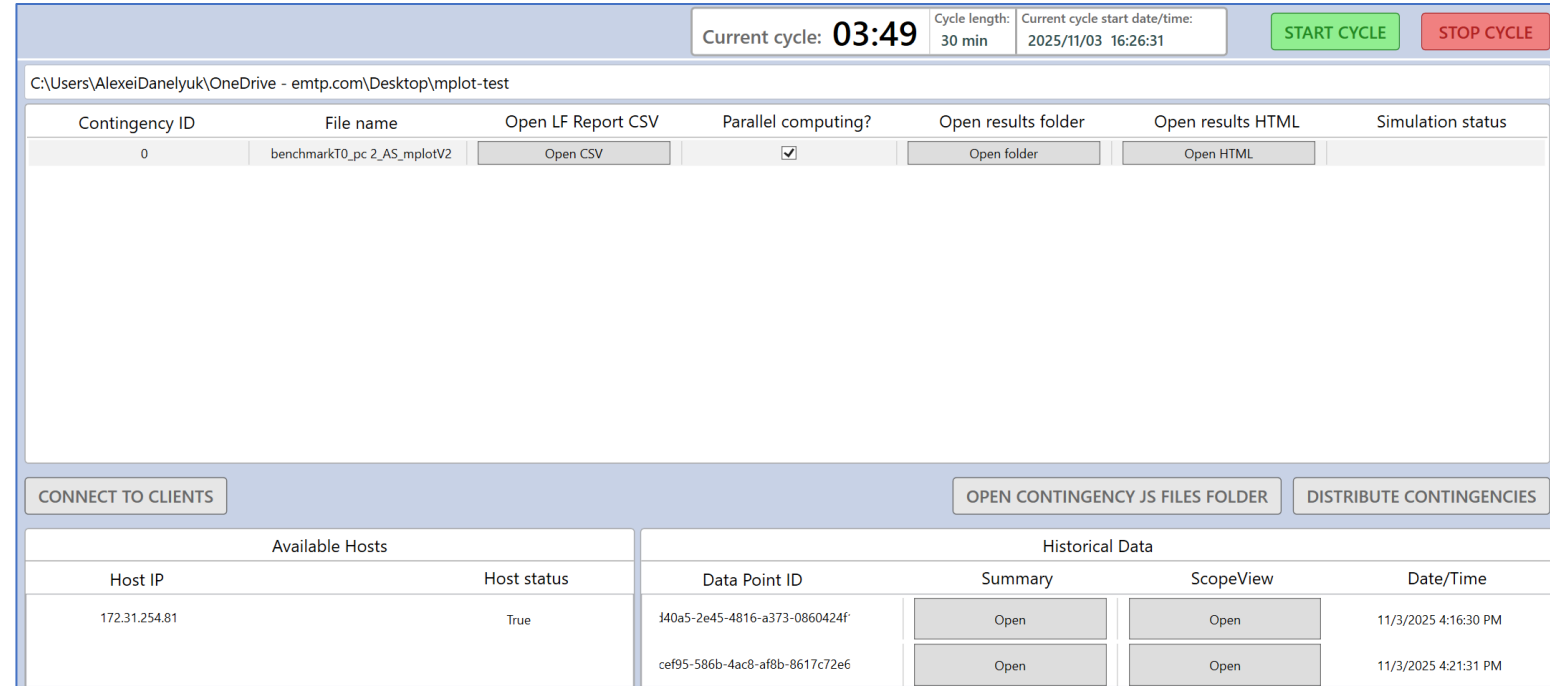
15 s

➤ User interface

- Starts/stops DSA operation
- Tracks status, cycle progress
- Definition of contingencies
- Cycle settings

➤ Archiving

- Simulation designs
- Analysis results



The screenshot displays the DSA controller's user interface. At the top, it shows the current cycle time as 03:49, a cycle length of 30 minutes, and the start date/time as 2025/11/03 16:26:31. There are 'START CYCLE' and 'STOP CYCLE' buttons. Below this is a table with columns for Contingency ID, File name, Open LF Report CSV, Parallel computing?, Open results folder, Open results HTML, and Simulation status. The table contains one row with Contingency ID 0, File name benchmarkT0_pc_2_AS_mplotV2, and a checked box for Parallel computing?. Below the table are buttons for 'CONNECT TO CLIENTS', 'OPEN CONTINGENCY JS FILES FOLDER', and 'DISTRIBUTE CONTINGENCIES'. At the bottom, there are two tables: 'Available Hosts' and 'Historical Data'. The 'Available Hosts' table has columns for Host IP and Host status, with one row showing IP 172.31.254.81 and status True. The 'Historical Data' table has columns for Data Point ID, Summary, ScopeView, and Date/Time, with two rows of data.

Contingency ID	File name	Open LF Report CSV	Parallel computing?	Open results folder	Open results HTML	Simulation status
0	benchmarkT0_pc_2_AS_mplotV2	Open CSV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open folder	Open HTML	

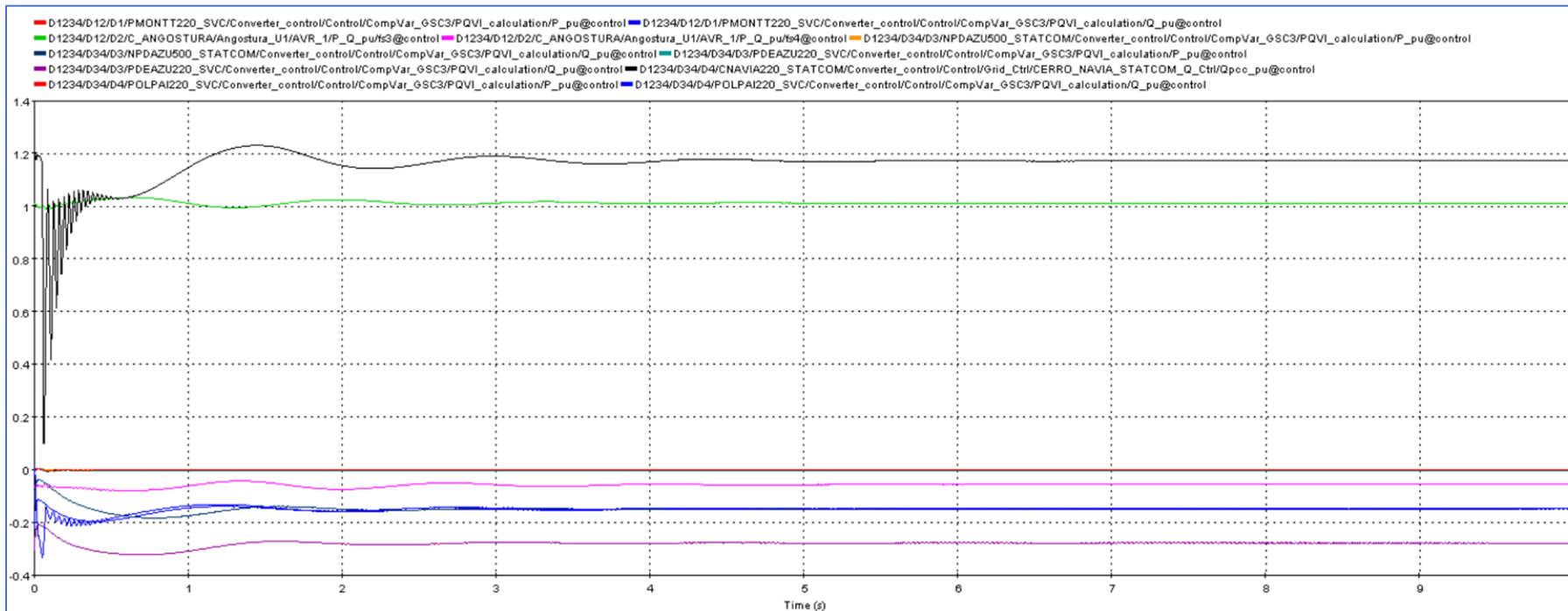
Host IP	Host status
172.31.254.81	True

Data Point ID	Summary	ScopeView	Date/Time
f40a5-2e45-4816-a373-0860424f	Open	Open	11/3/2025 4:16:30 PM
cef95-586b-4ac8-af8b-8617c72e6	Open	Open	11/3/2025 4:21:31 PM

➤ Communication with “clients” (computers that run simulations)

- TCP/IP connection
- Sends base-case simulation design and contingencies data
- Receives simulation data

- Client computers run simulations (multiple simulations per client)
 - Apply appropriate contingency to the base-case design
 - Compute load-flow
 - Then run time-domain EMT simulation (initialized from load-flow results)
 - Send load-flow phasors and time-domain waveforms to the DSA controller

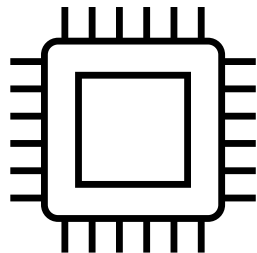


➤ Required hardware for client computers depends on:

- Number of simulated contingencies
- Number of parallel regions per simulation
- RAM per parallel region

➤ Example

- 10 contingencies \times no parallelization \Rightarrow 10 cores (single computer may be sufficient)
- 50 contingencies \times 8 parallel regions \Rightarrow 400 cores (multiple computers required)



➤ Analyze results automatically

- Load-flow phasors
- Time-domain waveforms
- Limits for current/power/voltage

➤ Report generation

- Overall status, failed tests, ...
- Grid stability, oscillations, ...
- Export to a specific format

➤ Results visualization

- Templates

LF bus voltage	Value	Limits		Pass/fail
		Low	High	
BUS1	1.01 pu	0.95 pu	1.05 pu	Pass
BUS2	0.98 pu	0.95 pu	1.05 pu	Pass
BUS3	1.1 pu	0.95 pu	1.05 pu	Fail

LF transmitted power	Value	Limits		Pass/fail
		Low	High	
BUS1 – BUS2	1000 MW	-100 MW	1050 MW	Pass
BUS2 – BUS3	5500 MW	-100 MW	1050 MW	Fail
BUS3 – BUS1	-300 MW	-1000 MW	1050 MW	Pass

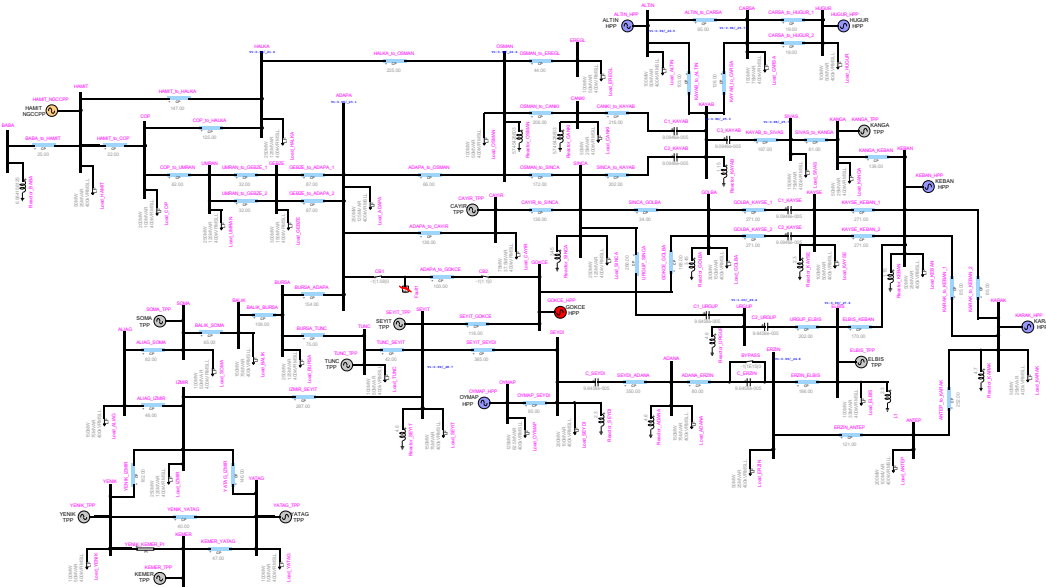
TD bus voltage	Oscillations	FFT	Max/min limit violation
BUS1	No oscillations	No harmonics	Pass
BUS2	1 Hz, damping 0.5	No harmonics	Pass
BUS3	2 Hz, damping 0.6	No harmonics	Fail

Load selected cycle data

C:\temp\cases\previous case

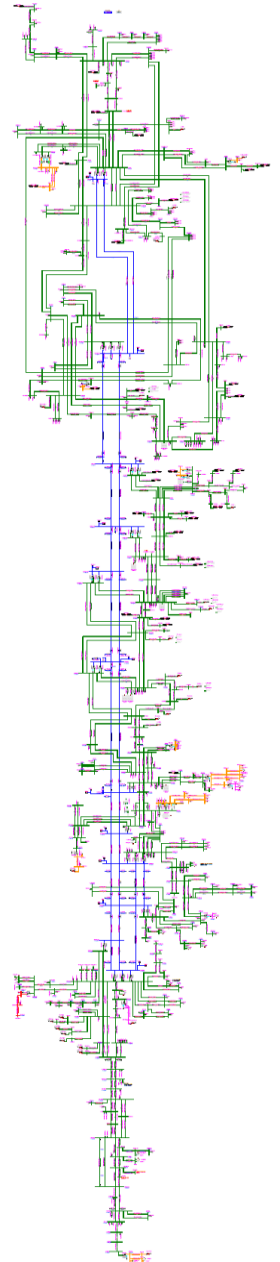
➤ Turkish grid

- >400 nodes
- >2000 control blocks



➤ Chilean grid

- >8000 nodes
- >80,000 control blocks



➤ 2 cases:

- Turkish grid (>400 nodes, >2000 control blocks), 3s
- Chilean grid (>8000 nodes, >80,000 control blocks), 10s

Metrics	Turkish grid	Chilean grid
Send base-case design to clients	4 s	9 s
Start EMT simulation software (EMTP)	27 s	26 s
Load-flow solution	1 s	43 s
Time-domain simulation	1 core: 8 s	1 core: 7526 s (125 min) 8 cores: 718 s (12 min)

- DSA tool allows to assess grid reliability and security
 - In near-real-time
 - Can be used by operators and engineers

- Based on EMT simulations
 - Wide-area grid with detailed IBR models

- Hardware selection depends on required contingencies
 - More contingencies => more computing power required => more investments

- Target cycle time: 30 minutes
 - Achievable with parallelization



➤ Thank you for your attention!

➤ Questions?