

RTDS for Microgrid Operation and Control at Illinois Tech

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APPLICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2025 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.



Loop-Based Microgrid at IIT: Distributed Power System Control





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Schematic of Loop-Based Microgrid



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AC/DC Nanogrid at IIT





Industry Collaborators











Projects Supported by the Lab



- Government and Industry Funded Projects
 - > Completed Projects:
 - IIT Campus Microgrid (ICM)
 - Bronzeville Community Microgrid (BCM)
 - ICM-BCM Cluster
 - Distributed Control Strategy for Coordinated Operation of Networked Microgrids
 - Sensors with Intelligent Measurement Platform and Low-cost Equipment (SIMPLE)
 - Microgrid Management System (MGMS) RTDS Testing
 - Reconfigurable and Resilient Operation of Network-Controlled Building Microgrids with Solar Integration
 - Secure Monitoring and Control of Solar Photovoltaic Systems with Dynamic Watermarking
 - > Ongoing Projects:
 - Resilient Solid State Power Substation (RSSPS)
 - 2MC: Midwest Center for Microgrid Cybersecurity
 - Decentralized Control for Distributed Energy Resources in Microgrids







Model of ICM (IIT Campus Microgrid) – BCM (Bronzeville Community Microgrid)











ICM-BCM Clustering in RSCAD











Transactive Energy Model in RTDS



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Project: Secure Monitoring and Control of Solar Power Distribution System Through Dynamic Watermarking











Cyber Attack Detection Using Dynamic Watermarking



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- Proposed and implemented a robust dynamic water marking approach that can detect cyberattacks on sensors of inverters in a grid connected solar farm. Detection happens in a matter of milliseconds.
- The dynamic watermarking approach loosens the dependence of the watermark tests on the model accuracy and its susceptibility to system and sensor noises.







Data Replay Attack through measurement replication.









Project: Resilient Solid State Power Substation



- The secondary controller ensures input and output voltage sharing among all SST cells. It generates the SST cells input and output voltage references and relays them to primary controllers via communication lines.
- The tertiary controller is connected to a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) module and provides the solid state power substation's reference input voltage. It also sets the gain for the SST cells to maintain the output voltage to desired value.







Detailed Topology of one-phase single SST module.









Power Network Configuration



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Controller Model



Project: Midwest Center for Microgrid Cybersecurity (2MC)



- 2MC will develop and demonstrate a full-spectrum of cybersecurity solutions from device level to device cluster level to system level for improving the cyber resilience of distributed power systems and microgrids.
- 2MC will develop and demonstrate a set of new tools for improving microgrid cyber resilience.
- 2MC will develop and deploy a training curriculum to satisfy the needs of the stakeholders. 2MC will develop and deploy a microgrid and distributed power system course curriculum to educate students, aiming to build a pipeline of students to become professionals in the sector.









ICM-BCM Configuration in RSCAD



- In the ICM-BCM model, we analyzed the effect of cyberattack to the output current of the battery inverter as indicated.
- Both ICM and BCM are in the grid-connected mode.









Watermarking Implementation in BESS





• 3rd and 5th harmonics are injected by the attacker into the inverter output current reading.









Attack Detection Using Dynamic Watermarking











Project: Decentralized Control of Distributed Energy Resources in Microgrids



- This project showcases the different cases of successful application and validation of the decentralized control strategy in various real-time software and hardware setups surrounding the ICM BCM microgrids at IIT.
- These validations on real-time simulations and real physical devices provide the necessary base for deploying the decentralized control strategies in the field.











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Microgrid Testbed



- The microgrid is run in the grid synchronized mode from 0-50 seconds and transitions to island mode with primary control from 51-300 seconds.
- Furthermore, the secondary control is turned ON after 300 seconds.
- At 600 seconds, the load resistance of inverter 2 is reduced.











Thank you







