



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

PhD-Level Short Course: Advanced Modelling of DER-Rich Active Distribution Networks

19th – 23rd July 2021

Power and Energy
Systems Group

Course Information

Melbourne Energy
Institute



About the short course

The short course on Advanced Modelling of DER-Rich Active Distribution Networks covers fundamental and advanced modelling of active distribution networks with deep penetration of distributed energy resources (DER).

The short course on *Advanced Modelling of DER-Rich Active Distribution Networks* is a 5-day PhD-level course delivered by the Power and Energy Systems Group and the Melbourne Energy Institute at The University of Melbourne. It covers fundamental and advanced modelling of active distribution networks with deep penetration of distributed energy resources (DER).

Topics that will be discussed include power flow and optimal power flow algorithms suitable for diverse applications of active distribution networks with DER, consideration for uncertainty arising from renewables, provision of flexibility and grid services from DER, distributed multi-energy systems and community energy systems, and fundamentals of distributed energy markets.

COURSE DELIVERY

This course is provided free of charge and will be delivered fully online from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd of July 2021.

Live lectures will also be recorded so that they can be accessed by individuals in different time zones. All live and recorded lectures and the corresponding material will be accessible via the Learning Management System "Canvas".

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To register your interest, click [APPLY NOW](#) and complete the form.

Apply now >

CONTACT

For further information, please contact the Melbourne Energy Institute >> mei-info@unimelb.edu.au

DATES AND INSTRUCTORS	
Monday 19 th July	Prof. Steven Low
Tuesday 20 th July	Prof. Steven Low
Wednesday 21 st July	Prof. Nando Ochoa
Thursday 22 nd July	Dr. Maria Vrakopoulou
Friday 23 rd July	Prof. Pierluigi Mancarella

TIMES (MELBOURNE TIME, AEST)	
4 lecture blocks (approximately 55 min of lecture time including Q&A and small break)	
Block 1:	8:30am-9:30am
Block 2:	9:30am-10:30am
30 minute break	
Block 3:	11:00am-12:00pm
Block 4:	12:00pm-1:00pm

Monday 19th July: The OPF Problem and Convex Relaxations

Professor Steven Low

Block 1. Power flow models and solutions

AC power flow, DC power flow

Power flow computation methods

Block 2. OPF and semidefinite relaxations

OPF problems: QCQP, polar form, DC OPF

Non-convexity, Semidefinite relaxations

Equivalence

Block 3. Analytical properties

NP hardness

Exact relaxations

No spurious local optima

Block 4. Other convex relaxations

Quadratic convex relaxation

Strong SOCP relaxation

Tuesday 20th July: OPF for Distribution Networks

Professor Steven Low

Block 1. Branch flow models for radial networks

DistFlow equations, generalization, linearization

Forward-backward sweep methods

Block 2. OPF and semidefinite relaxation

OPF in branch flow models

SOCP relaxation, exact relaxation

Block 3. Multi-phase unbalanced radial networks

Generalized DistFlow model

Semidefinite relaxations, linearization

Block 4. Example and application

Example: OPF, relaxation, exactness

Application: DER-based voltage control



Professor Steven Low

Gilloon Professor, *Caltech*
Honorary Professor, *The University of Melbourne*

Prof. Low is the Gilloon Professor of Engineering and Applied Science at Caltech and an Honorary Professorial Fellow of the EEE Department at the University of Melbourne. His current research focuses on power systems and has made an impact in both academia and industry. He is a Fellow of IEEE and ACM and has been awarded the 2021 IEEE INFOCOM Achievement Award and the 2021 ACM SIGMETRICS Test of Time Award.

[Read more about Prof. Low.](#)

Wednesday 21st July: Orchestration of Distributed Energy Resources (DER) and Active Distribution Networks

Professor Nando Ochoa

Block 1. The role and challenges of OPF in distribution

From fit and forget to Active Networks to DER orchestration

Opportunities, modelling challenges, and practical aspects

Block 2. OPF and DER-rich distribution networks

DER orchestration and hosting capacity calculations using OPF

Interactive session using an OPF tool developed in AIMMS

Block 3. Three-phase OPF: Lessons learned from large-scale realistic implementations

Quadratically-constrained three-phase OPF, linearised three-phase OPF

Case study using a realistic MV-LV network

Block 4. DER and network integrity: Meter-level operating envelopes

Concept of operating envelopes, calculations and challenges

Case study using a realistic MV-LV network

Thursday 22nd July: Decision-Making Under Uncertainty due to Renewables

Dr Maria Vrakopoulou

Block 1. Renewable energy integration challenges

Review of dynamic operation, equilibrium points

Ancillary services

Forecast errors and power flows

Block 2. Stochastic OPF with approximate solutions

Classic stochastic formulations

Chance-constrained and robust OPF

The scenario optimization

Block 3. Stochastic OPF with AC-feasible solutions

AC-QP, SDP OPF reformulations

The non-convex scenario optimization

Block 4. Co-optimization of energy and reserves

Control policies for reserve deployment

Reserves from thermostatically controlled loads

Aggregated storage dynamics

Pricing impact



Professor Nando Ochoa
Professor of Smart Grids and Power Systems,
The University of Melbourne

Prof. Nando Ochoa is a Professor of Smart Grids and Power Systems at the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He is an IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer, an Editorial Board Member of the IEEE Power and Energy Magazine, and an IEEE Senior Member. From 2011 to 2021, Prof. Ochoa worked with The University of Manchester, UK. Prior to this he was a Research Fellow in Energy Systems at the University of Edinburgh, UK.

[Read more about Prof. Ochoa.](#)



Dr Maria Vrakopoulou
Lecturer in Power Systems,
The University of Melbourne

Dr. Maria Vrakopoulou is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in the Power and Energy Systems Group at the University of Melbourne. She obtained her Ph.D. degree from ETH Zurich, Switzerland, and then pursued her research as a post-doc at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA for a year. Maria was then also awarded a three-year Marie Curie post-doctoral fellowship to join the University of California, Berkeley, USA, and ETH Zurich, Switzerland.

[Read more about Dr. Vrakopoulou.](#)

Friday 23rd July: DER Flexibility and Techno-Economic Modelling

Professor Pierluigi Mancarella

Block 1. Modelling flexibility from DER aggregation

Power system flexibility and role of DER
Characterization of DER flexibility
DER flexibility metrics and maps
OPF methodologies to build flexibility maps
Illustrative case studies

Block 2. Flexibility from distributed multi-energy systems

Multi-energy DER and multi-energy node concept
Multi-energy flexibility maps
Impact of multi-energy networks on DER flexibility
Illustrative case studies

Block 3. Smart districts and community energy systems

Modelling of buildings and community-level DER
Integrated energy network modelling
Multi-energy OPF
Illustrative case studies

Block 4. Distributed energy marketplaces and grid services

Aggregators, Virtual Power Plants, and Distribution System Operator
Value stack by co-optimised provision of local and system-level services
Value mapping methodologies and business case opportunities for different stakeholders
Illustrative case studies



Professor Pierluigi Mancarella

Chair Of Electrical Power Systems,
The University of Melbourne

Prof. Pierluigi Mancarella is the Chair Professor of Electrical Power Systems at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and Professor of Smart Energy Systems at the University of Manchester, UK. He obtained the MSc and PhD degrees from the Politecnico di Torino, Italy, did his post-doc at Imperial College London, UK, and has held several visiting positions, including NREL, Colorado, Ecole Centrale de Lille, France, Universidad de Chile, and Tsinghua University, China. He is an IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer and an Editor in several prestigious journals. [Read more about Prof. Mancarella here.](#)



For more information, visit <https://electrical.eng.unimelb.edu.au/power-energy> or www.energy.unimelb.edu.au

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