







Solar Uncertainty Management and Mitigation for Exceptional Reliability in Grid Operations (SUMMER-GO)

Bri-Mathias Hodge, Ph.D.

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NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

Solar Uncertainty Management and Mitigation for Exceptional Reliability in Grid Operations (SUMMER-GO)

Prime: NREL, PI: Bri-Mathias Hodge, Ph.D.



SUMMER-GO is a suite of tools that enable the incorporation of probabilistic solar forecasts into operations to improve system reliability and will be validated in ERCOT's real-time operational test system.

Examples: Large deterministic over and under-forecasting events in ISO-NE 18% solar power scenario



Consequences:

- Excess generation a mid-day; shortage of ramping capability in the evening
- High solar curtailment
- Higher system costs
- Reliability concerns from thermal ramping availability



Consequences:

- Shortage of generation in RT
- Need quick-start units
- Reliability concerns if enough ramping capacity not available
- High marginal costs of these units translate to high system costs

ERCOT:

- Largest single-state energy market in US
- Recent increase in renewable (wind) and flexible gas capacity
- Rapid increase in solar installations



2015

Gas-CT/CC

36.8%

Coal

20.9%

Gas-Steam 13.8%



Texas has:

- Largest solar resource in US
- Peak energy needs in summer
- Sustained drought periods
- Land availability
- Transmission availability (CREZ)



Distributed PV in ERCOT (2015)

Registered: 57.12 MW (Incl. registered NOIE : 55.12 MW) Unregistered: 50.10 MW Total: 107.22 MW



- Radiant Solutions and ERCOT have an existing collaboration, with Radiant Solutions having provided ERCOT's operational solar power forecast for over a year already.
- Radiant Solutions' deterministic forecasting system is top-of-the-industry (see recent trial results for multiple locations in the bottom left figure).
- Already produce well-calibrated probabilistic solar power forecasts (see bottom right), and currently deliver the 80% exceedance value to ERCOT operationally.



Project Objectives

- Produce and deliver operationally accurate, sharp, and wellcalibrated probabilistic solar power forecasts.
- Reduce system operating reserves through dynamically adaptive reserve setting algorithms.
- Reduce system operating costs and increase reliability scores through risk-parity economic dispatch.
- Provide an open-source solar power forecasting visualization tool for industry adoption.



Planned Improvements:

- Increase the Radiant Solutions ensemble to greater than 75 members from 6 distinct NWP systems, from 13 members from 4 distinct NWP systems.
 - Adding in the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) 50 ensemble members and High Resolution Rapid Refresh (HRRR) model.
- Utilize an ensemble of hybrid machine learning-statistical techniques to improve probabilistic forecast accuracy, sharpness, and calibration through situational dependent blending.



Adaptive Reserves

- Update Non-Spinning Reserve Service (NSRS) on a daily basis based on historical data, solar forecast, and power system state forecast.
- Values assessed using online tool for determining loss-of-loadprobability (LOLP) and ramping capabilities.



Sub-hourly variability – 5 minute averages

Radiant Solutions predicts sub-hourly variability

White curve=measured

Green curve uses statistics to generate variability knowing only

1-hour average



Sub-hourly variability – 1 minute averages

Radiant Solutions predicts sub-hourly variability

White curve=measured

Green curve uses statistics to generate variability knowing only

1-hour average



Sub-hourly variability – 5 minute min/max

Radiant Solutions predicts sub-hourly variability

White curve=measured

Green curve uses statistics to generate variability knowing only

1-hour average



Risk-Parity Dispatch



Forecasting Time Horizon

Advantages:

- Explicitly incorporates probabilistic information into dispatch process.
- Reduced solve time compared to full stochastic dispatch.
- Takes into account both the meteorological and power system states.
- Does not produce overly conservative solutions such as robust dispatch.

SolarView





- 75% Probability - 99% Probability

RAMP ALERT	A moderate ramp event is forecast starting at 00:39 UTC and ending at 00:54 UTC	Toggi Alert
RAMP ALERT	A severe ramp event is forecast starting at 03:24 UTC and ending at 03:54 UTC	Toggi Alert
Total Farm Capacity	1,734 MW	
Turbine Manufacturer(s)	GE	
Turbine Models	1.5SLE	
Forecast Time	00:45 4/15 UTC	
Forecast Power	3.895 MW	
Forecast Power 25th Percentile	3.588 MW	
Forecast Power 75th Percentile	13 MW	
Actual Power	null MW	

Forecaster Model Details

Aggregated regions can be selected to view details.

SolarView



Validation - FESTIV Capabilities

- Steady-State power system operations simulator (i.e. UCED + AGC).
- Simulates all temporal resolutions of the scheduling process:
 DA, HA, RT, AGC
- All models are interconnected (output of one serves as input to next):
 - Interconnected nature allows FESTIV to capture the real nature of forecasts.
 - Allows for impact of forecast accuracy to be studied.
- Simulates scheduling <u>AND</u> deployment of reserves.
- Provides <u>BOTH</u> economic metrics (production costs, LMPs, etc.) and reliability metrics (ACE, CPS2, etc.).



Validation and Implementation - ERCOT iTest System

- Probabilistic forecasts will be ingested into the iTest system operationally
- Adaptive reserves and risk parity dispatch will be implemented in the iTest system
- iTest System:
 - Replica of ERCOT's production environment, including hardware, software, and interfaces
 - Last stop for changes to be implemented in operations
 - Utilizes real system data in real-time



Project Timeline and Interconnections

Algorithm Development [15 months]

- Probabilistic Solar / Power Forecasts
- 3. Risk-Parity Dispatch -
- 4. SolarView

Validation and Verification [12 months]

Implementation and Demonstration [9 months]

	Metric Definition (From	Success	Assessment
	Measurement)	Value	Tool
Milestone 5	Complete successful validation of	To be	Forecasts
	the probabilistic forecasts	determined	provided to
	according to the standards adopted	by Topic	Topic Area 1
	by the Topic Area 1 awardee.	Area 1 team.	team.

University of Arizona

FPRI

Thank you! Questions?

www.nrel.gov



NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

Consideration of Key FOA Topics

Important Topic	Proposed Solution
Partnership with at least one balancing authority	ERCOT is a committed project partner receiving more than 20% of project funding, and they will be heavily involved in all phases of the project.
Probabilistic format of numerical and visualized output	MDA is committed to providing probabilistic solar power forecasts, and the SolarView platform will be developed for visualization and situational awareness.
Development of decision-making process for unit commitment and economic dispatch using probabilistic forecast as input	The adaptive reserves will be utilized at multiple timescales, including unit commitment and economic dispatch, and the risk-parity dispatch will be used in the dispatch time frame.
Demonstration of solar power forecasts integrated in development environment	The project team will utilize two development environments to demonstrate the value and robustness of the forecasts and tools developed: NREL's FESTIV model and ERCOT's iTest environment.
Compliance with validation guidelines of test framework	The project team will work closely with the awardee in Topic Area 1 to meet the validation guidelines.

Going above and beyond the FOA topics:

- This project spans the full range of technology readiness levels and upon completion will be able to see the solutions put into practice with the flip of a switch.
- Open source nature of the tools will create benefits beyond the ERCOT area.

Work Breakdown Structure and Task Description

Budget Period 1. Algorithm Development —15 months

- Task 1.1: Develop Probabilistic Solar Power Forecasts (M1–M15)
 - Subtask 1.1.1: Create Probabilistic Solar Power Forecasting Algorithms for Utility-Scale PV Plants and Balancing Area-Level Solar Generation (M1–M12)
 - **Subtask 1.1.2:** Create Probabilistic Behind-the-Meter Solar Power Forecasts (M3–M15)
- **Task 1.2:** Develop Adaptive Reserve Algorithms (M1–M15)
 - **Subtask 1.2.1**: Grid Condition Clustering (M1–M6)
 - **Subtask 1.2.2**: Grid Condition Forecasting (M5–M12)
 - **Subtask 1.2.3**: Develop Adaptive Reserve Algorithm (M3–M15)
- **Task 1.3:** Develop Risk-Parity Dispatch Algorithm (M1–M15)
 - **Subtask 1.3.1**: Determine Dynamic Costs (M1–M9)
 - **Subtask 1.3.2**: Develop Risk-Parity Algorithm (M1–M15)
- Task 1.4: Develop Situational Awareness Tool, SolarView (M9–M15)

Budget Period 1 Milestones

- **Milestone 1.1:** Demonstrate ability to produce the full spectrum of forecast probabilities at multiple timescales, including day-ahead and sub-hourly.
- **Milestone 1.2:** Demonstrate that the adaptive reserve algorithms can reduce total reserves by more than 25%.
- **Milestone 1.3:** Demonstrate that the risk-parity algorithm consistently converges to the optimal solution in less than 4 minutes for a small utility system.
- Milestone 1.4: Complete solar-specific features in the software, and successfully demonstrate the SolarView capabilities to the solar program manager.
- Budget Period 1 Go/No-Go Decision Point: All Year 1 milestones completed. (15 months)

Work Breakdown Structure and Task Description (2)

Budget Period 2. Verification and Validation — 12 Months

- **Task 2.1:** Validate Probabilistic Solar Power Forecasts (M16–M27)
 - Subtask 2.1.1: Ground Truth Collection & Produce Operational Utility-Scale Probabilistic Forecasts (M16–M27)
 - **Subtask 2.1.2:** Provide Probabilistic Behind-the-Meter Solar Power Forecasts Operationally (M16 M27)
 - **Subtask 2.1.3:** Coordinate with Validation Team (M16–M27)
- Task 2.2: Ingest Probabilistic Forecasts into ISO Energy Management System (M16–M27)
- **Task 2.3:** Estimate Adaptive Reserve Economic and Reliability Impacts (M16–M27)
 - **Subtask 2.3.1**: Create Adaptive Reserve Time-Series Data (M16–M19)
 - **Subtask 2.3.2**: FESTIV 118-Bus Simulations of Adaptive Reserve Impacts (M18–M23)
 - **Subtask 2.3.3**: FESTIV ISO Simulations of Adaptive Reserve Impacts (M20–M27)
- Task 2.4: Estimate Risk-Parity Dispatch Economic and Reliability Impacts (M16–M27)
 - **Subtask 2.4.1**: Incorporate Risk-Parity Algorithm into FESTIV (M16–M21)
 - **Subtask 2.4.2**: FESTIV Simulations of Risk-Parity Dispatch Impacts (M20–M27) NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

Budget Period 2 Milestones

- **Milestone 2.1:** Complete successful validation of the probabilistic forecasts according to the standards adopted by the Topic Area 1 awardee.
- **Milestone 2.2:** Successfully ingest probabilistic solar power forecasts into the ISO's system with more than 95% reliability during a 1-month period.
- Milestone 2.3: Reduce total production costs when compared to the case without adaptive reserves. This will be assessed using case study simulations of the IEEE 118-bus and the ISO's realistic test system with FESTIV.
- Milestone 2.4: Increase reliability scores when compared to the case with standard economic dispatch and deterministic forecast. This will be assessed using case study simulations of the IEEE 118-bus test system and the ISO's realistic test system with FESTIV.
- Budget Period 2 Go/No-Go Decision Point: All Year 2 milestones completed. (27 months)

Work Breakdown Structure and Task Description (3)

Budget Period 3. Implementation and Demonstration—9 Months

- **Task 3.1:** Provide Operational Probabilistic Forecasts (M28–M36)
 - **Subtask 3.1.1:** Provide and Ingest Operational Forecasts (M28–M36)
- **Task 3.2:** Incorporate Adaptive Reserves into ISO Test Environment (M28–M36)
 - Subtask 3.2.1: Implement Adaptive Reserves (M28–M36)
- **Task 3.3:** Incorporate Risk-Parity Dispatch into ISO Test Environment (M28–M36)
 - Subtask 3.3.1: Analyze Historical Data to Determine Risk Parameters (M28–M33)
 - Subtask 3.3.2: Demonstrate Risk-Parity Implementation (M32–M36)
- Task 3.4: Provide the ISO Operator Training on Situational Awareness Tool (M33–M36)
 - **Subtask 3.4.1**: Develop SolarView Training (M28–M30)
 - Subtask 3.4.2: Deliver SolarView Training (M30–M33)

Project Management Plan

- The PI has extensive experience with similarly sized projects with external collaborators
- Extensive ongoing joint work between team members
- Dedicated project manager and NREL's project milestone tracking system



Project Team, Experience, and Qualifications

Key Participant	Organization	Background and Expertise
Bri-Mathias Hodge, Ph.D., PI	NREL	 Manager of the Power System Design and Studies group. Expertise in the area of grid planning and operations with high levels of renewable energy, particularly the impact of renewable energy (RE) forecasting on power system planning and operations. Published more than 100 peer-reviewed papers on RE integration. Served as PI on projects totaling \$11.5M+ in the last five years. Work package leader for Advanced Usage of Probabilistic Forecasts in the IEA Task 36 on Forecasting for Wind Energy.
Sandip Sharma, Co-PI	ERCOT	 Manager of the Operations Planning group. Focus on RE integration, frequency response, and ancillary services. Member of the NERC Resources subcommittee and previously of the NERC Frequency Response Standard drafting team.
Stephen Jascourt, Ph.D., Co-PI	MDA	 Senior scientist who created the MDA solar forecasting system based on first principles, including a large volume of research-quality observations worldwide. Works on product development and improvement projects bridging between scientific research and operational applications. Worked for the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research's COMET Program, and trained weather forecasters on complex calculations behind numerical weather prediction models.
Jie Zhang, Ph.D., Co-PI	University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)	 Assistant professor with expertise in the forecasting of wind power, solar power, and load; grid integration of renewable energy; and the modeling, design, and optimization of complex energy systems. PI or co-PI on several wind, solar, and electricity projects funded by the DOE Grid Modernization Initiative and SunShot Initiative. Published 80+ peer-reviewed journal and conference publications.

Performer	Federal vs. Cost Share	Budget Period 1 (8/1/2017- 10/31/2018)	Budget Period 2 (11/1/2018- 10/31/2019)	Budget Period 3 (11/1/2019- 7/31/2020)	TOTALS
NREL	Federal	\$525,063	\$296,828	\$178,181	\$1,000,072
	Cost Share	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
ERCOT	Federal	\$118,200	\$150,575	\$117,075	\$385,850
	Cost Share	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$100,000
MDA Information Systems	Federal	\$164,522	\$124,485	\$56,724	\$345,731
	Cost Share	\$0	\$120,000	\$90,000	\$210,000
University of Texas at Dallas	Federal	\$46,510	\$47,403	\$46,088	\$140,001
	Cost Share	\$7,310	\$7,310	\$7,310	\$21,930
PROJECT TOTALS	Federal	\$854,295	\$619,291	\$398,068	\$1,871,654
	Cost Share	\$57,310	\$157,310	\$117,310	\$331,930
	Total Costs (Federal + Cost Share)	\$911,605	\$776,601	\$515,378	\$2,203,584
	Cost Share	6.29%	20.26%	22.76%	15.06%

Budget Period 3 Milestones

- Milestone 3.1: Successfully deliver probabilistic solar power forecasts to the ISO's system with more than 98% reliability during the demonstration period.
- **Milestone 3.2:** Demonstrate robust utilization of the adaptive reserve algorithms in the iTest system for a continuous period of 1 month.
- **Milestone 3.3:** Demonstrate robust utilization of the risk-parity dispatch in the iTest system for a continuous period of 1 month.
- **Milestone 3.4:** Conduct a minimum of two training sessions for the ISO's operators.

What is ERCOT?

The Texas Legislature restructured the Texas electric market in 1999 and assigned ERCOT four primary responsibilities:

- System Reliability
- Competitive Wholesale Market
- Open Access to Transmission
- Competitive Retail Market



ERCOT is a nonprofit organization and regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas, with oversight by the Texas Legislature.

ERCOT is not a market participant and does not own generation or transmission/distribution wires.

The ERCOT Region

The interconnected electrical system serving most of Texas, with limited external connections

- 90% of Texas electric load; 75% of Texas land
- 71,110 MW peak, August 11, 2016
- More than 46,500 miles of transmission lines
- 570+ generation units

ERCOT connections to other grids are limited to ~1250 MW of direct current (DC) ties, which allow control over flow of electricity



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ERCOT Current Records

Peak Demand Record: 71,110 megawatts (MW)

• Aug. 11, 2016, 4-5 p.m.

Weekend Record: 66,921 MW

• Sunday, Aug. 7, 2016, 5-6 p.m.

Winter Peak Record: 59,650 MW

• Jan. 6, 2017, 6-7 p.m.

Wind Generation Records (instantaneous)

- Output: 16,141 MW
 - March 31, 2017, 8:56 p.m.
- Penetration (load served): 50%
 - March 23, 2017, 3:50 a.m.
 - Total Load = 28,780 MW

Recent Monthly Peak Demand Records

2017

January: 59,650 MW (Jan. 6, 6-7 p.m.)

2016

- August: 71,110 MW (All-time record)
- September: 66,949 MW (Sept. 19, 4-5 p.m.)
- October: 59,864 MW (Oct. 5, 4-5 p.m.)
- December: 57,932 MW (Dec. 19, 7-8 a.m.)

2015

July: 67,650 MW (July 30, 4-5 p.m.)

ERCOT Annual Energy and Peak Demand (2005-2016)



ERCOT Wind Generation Capacity – March 2017



Registered and Unregistered Distributed PV: Number of Installations (6702 total)



ERCOT Solar Forecasting

Daily Solar Report for: October 4, 2016

Hour Ahead MAPE: 4.21%

Day Ahead MAPE: 4.62%

Hours counted:13

(Only hours above 1 MW are counted) Current Installed Capacity: 484MW*

Solar Output vs. Forecasts



Solar Forecast Example: East Coast Solar Farm

Solar farm power (MW) measured (red) vs. estimated (blue) every 15 minutes MDA estimate is based on short-range forecast. No site data available for previous 5 weeks!



Solar Forecasting Web Display



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Solar Forecasting Web Display

Best forecast and 80% probability of exceedance

RTO total and two of the farms selected to show different:

- Capacity
- Location, thus sunny or cloudy at different times
- Tracking, thus different shapes of daily profile



MDA is current solar forecast provider for multiple RTOs –after competitive multi-month trials against other vendors

- Fixed tilt and single axis and dual axis tracking sites
- Sites in areas of variable cloudiness and storminess, others in seasonally sunny/arid locations
- Some sites had well-established history, others were new
- Service includes retrieving real-time site data from RTO
- Trial included aggregate distribution system (behind the meter) forecasts for zones covering several counties
- Trial included 80% probability of exceedance as conservative guidance for ensuring adequate resources when solar generation is low or uncertain

Solar Forecasting Skill vs. Other Vendors

- Daily importance parameter assigned to each day, separately each site.
- Days ranked more important if actual power was low (cloudy day) or highly variable
- Forecast hourly MAE was calculated for the 20% of "most important" days at each site



Solar Forecasting Skill – Day ahead

Skill varies by site and weather:

• Mostly sunny = easier to predict

 Sun tracking arrays rest flat overnight → morning/evening ramps require

knowledge of panel motion



Solar Forecasting Skill – Aggregate best

Skill at 7 farms and aggregate (orange).

Aggregate has much better skill

Sample=hourly for 6 months



California 160,000+ sites

Comparison: Aggregate all sites with exact orientations/tracking vs. select samples

sunny summer day

variable clouds summer day



Algorithms detect site anomalies

Example of site issues MDA can detect and handle:

PV site with irradiance monitoring

Small shadow fell across irradiance monitor



WindView



WindView



FESTIV Flowchart



Project Schedule

Milestone Go/No Go Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11 Q12 Task 1.1 Develop Probabilistic Solar Power Forecasts Image: Constraint of the constraint on the constraint of the constraint of the			Budget Period 1			1	Budget Period 2				Budget Period 3			
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	M2.2	system with more than 95% reliability during a 1-month period									٠			

Project Schedule (2)

Task 2.3	Estimate Adaptive Reserve Economic and Reliability Impacts							
2.3.1	Create Adaptive Reserve Time-Series Data							
2.3.2	FESTIV 118-Bus Simulations of Dynamic Reserve Impacts							
2.3.3	FESTIV ISO Simulations of Adaptive Reserve Impacts							
M2.3	Reduce total production costs when compared to the case without adaptive reserves.				٠			
Task 2.4	Estimate Risk-Parity Dispatch Economic and Reliability Impacts							
2.4.1	Incorporate Risk-Parity Algorithm into FESTIV							
2.4.2	FESTIV Simulations of Risk-Parity Dispatch Impacts							
M2.4	Increase reliability scores when compared to the case with standard economic dispatch and deterministic forecast.					٠		
G/NG-2	All Year 2 milestones completed					0		
Task 3.1	Provide Operational Probabilistic Forecasts							
3.1.1	Provide and Ingest Operational Forecasts							
M3.1	Successfully deliver probabilistic solar power forecasts to the ISO's system with more than 98% reliability during the demonstration period							٠
Task 3.2	Incorporate Adaptive Reserves into ISO Test Environment							
3.2.1	Implement Adaptive Reserves							
M3.2	Demonstrate robust utilization of the adaptive reserve algorithms in the iTest system for a continuous period of 1 month							٠
Task 3.3	Incorporate Risk-Parity Dispatch into ISO Test Environment							
3.3.1	Analyze Historical Data to Determine Risk Parameters							
3.3.2	Demonstrate Risk-Parity Implementation							
M3.3	Demonstrate robust utilization of the risk-parity dispatch in the iTest system for a continuous period of 1 month							
Task 3.4	Provide the ISO Operator Training on Situational Awareness Tool							
3.4.1	Develop SolarView Training							
3.4.2	Deliver SolarView Training							
M3.4	Conduct a minimum of two training sessions for the ISO's operators							

Project Team, Experience, and Qualifications

Qin Wang, Ph.D.	NREL	 Research engineer in the Power System Design and Studies group. Worked as a market operation engineer at Midcontinent Independent System Operator prior to joining NREL. Expertise in the area of power system operations, electricity market design, and renewable energy integration. Published more than 30 peer-reviewed papers and has been involved in multiple projects funded by DOE and industry.
Pengwei Du, Ph.D.	ERCOT	 Lead engineer for renewable integration with expertise in the area of grid operations, RE integration, and renewable forecasting. Previously a senior research engineer at PNNL.
Anthony R. Florita	NREL	 Research engineer for the Power System Design and Studies group. Specializes in data science, statistical methodology, and the modeling and simulation of multi-physics systems. Published 50+ peer-reviewed papers in the areas of solar energy, model predictive control, and building-to-grid modeling.
Jonathan Duckworth	NREL	 Analyst and developer in the Geospatial Data Science Group focusing on spatial application development and interactive data visualization. Primary developer for the OpenCarto platform, a web framework creating online geographic information system applications focused on data visualization.
Christopher Cassidy	MDA	 Principal data engineer responsible for the operation and maintenance of the renewable power forecasts for wind and solar generation.