

Problems and solutions in nonlinear mixed-integer programming

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Talk outline

1. Some light entertainment

2. Some mathematics

3. Additional entertainment

Why we should study polynomial optimization: cascading failures of power grids

- In August 2003, a cascading failure of the Eastern Interconnect caused a large and long-lasting blackout
- The Eastern Interconnect is the electrical circuit that we are in
- The blackout affected some fifty million people for several days and cost a lot of money
- In September, 2003, a similar blackout affected most of Italy

Recent cascades

- U.S. Northeast and Canada; Italy, 2003
- San Diego, 2011
- India, 2012

Rising concerns

- Increasing demand, increasing scope and complexity of grids
- Too expensive to add extensive capacity
- Use of renewables desirable but adds stochastic risk
- Malevolent action (?)

Cascade dynamics

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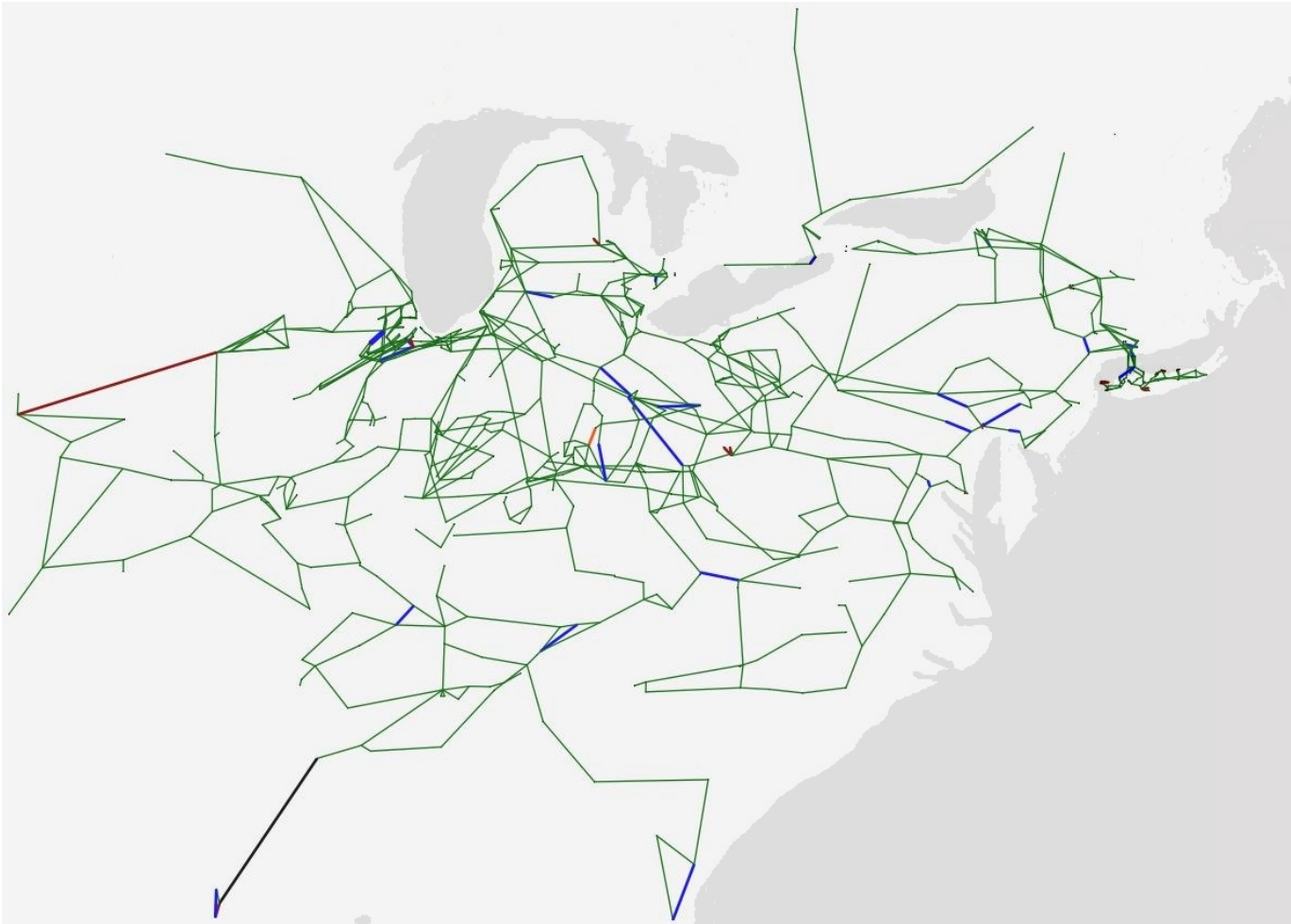
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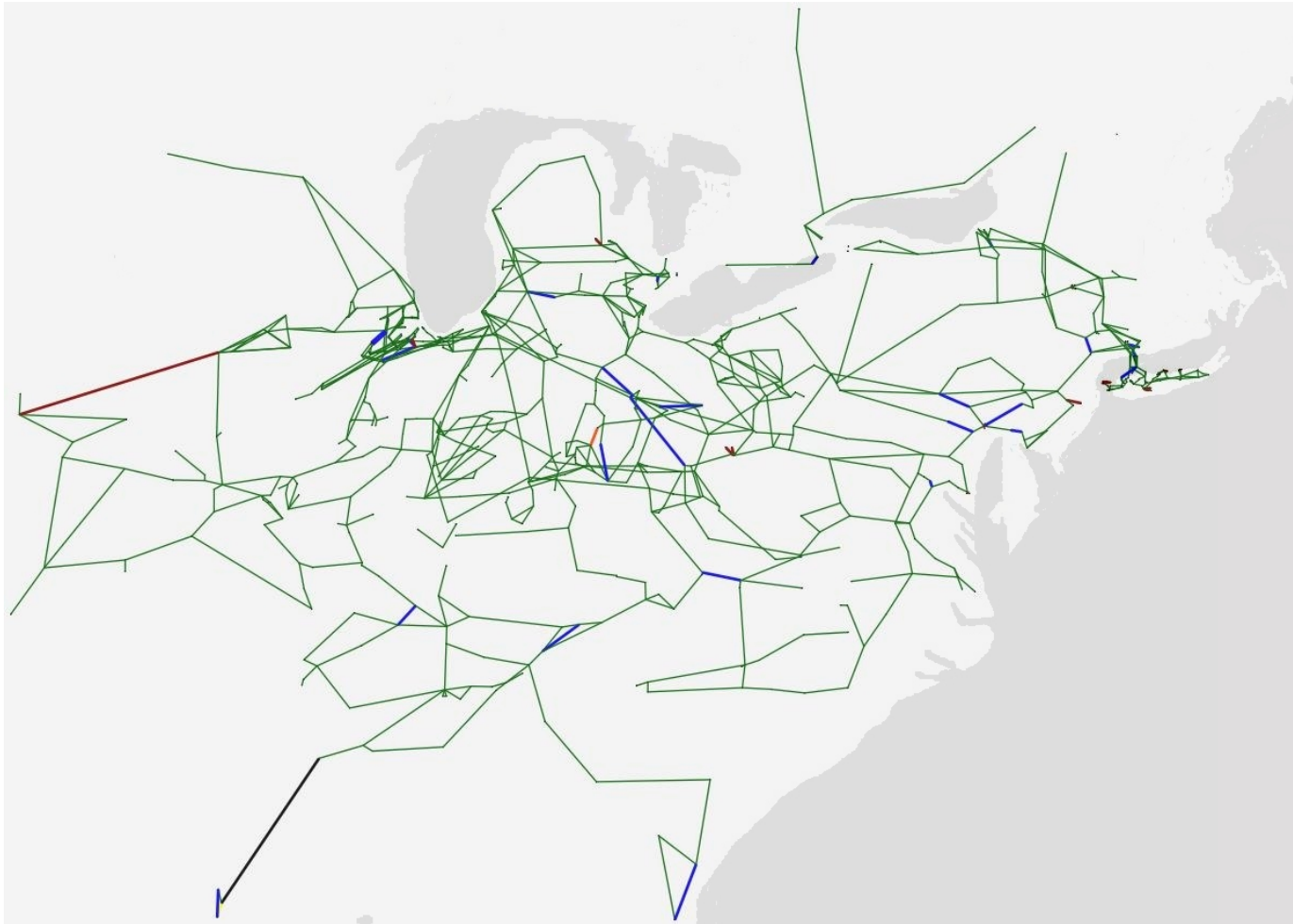
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- (4) Go to (1).

Let's go to the movies

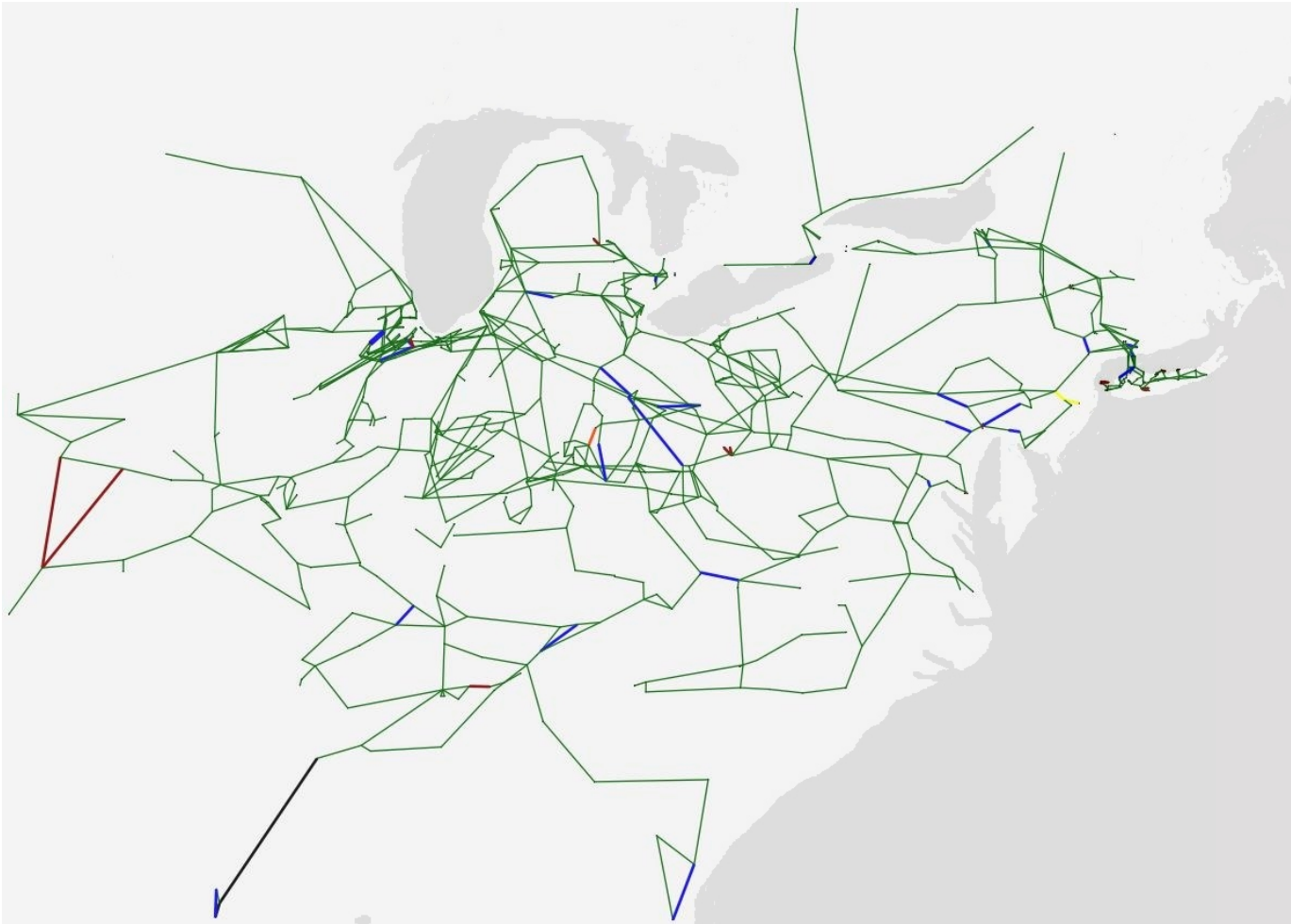
Simulated cascade of Eastern Interconnect



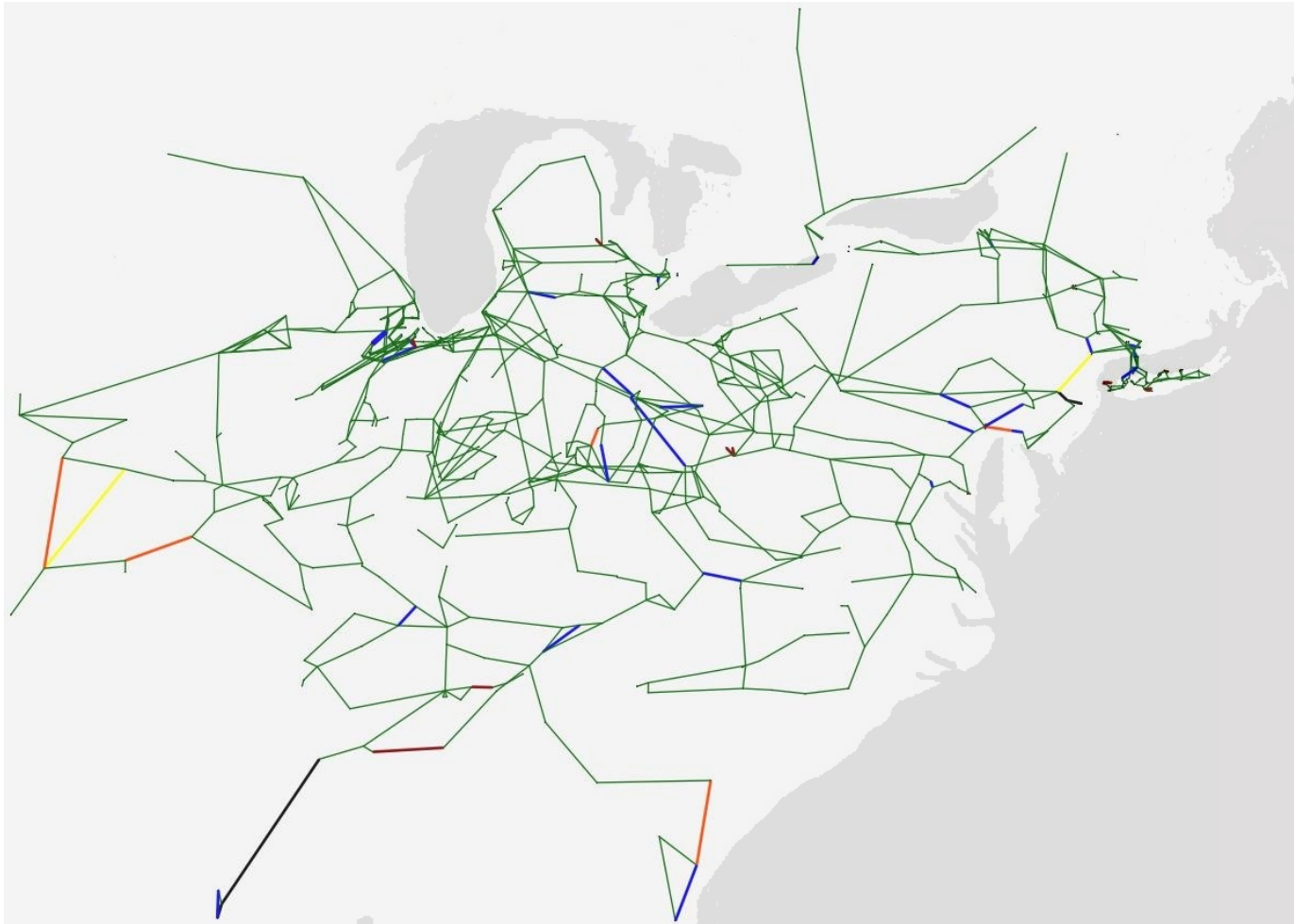
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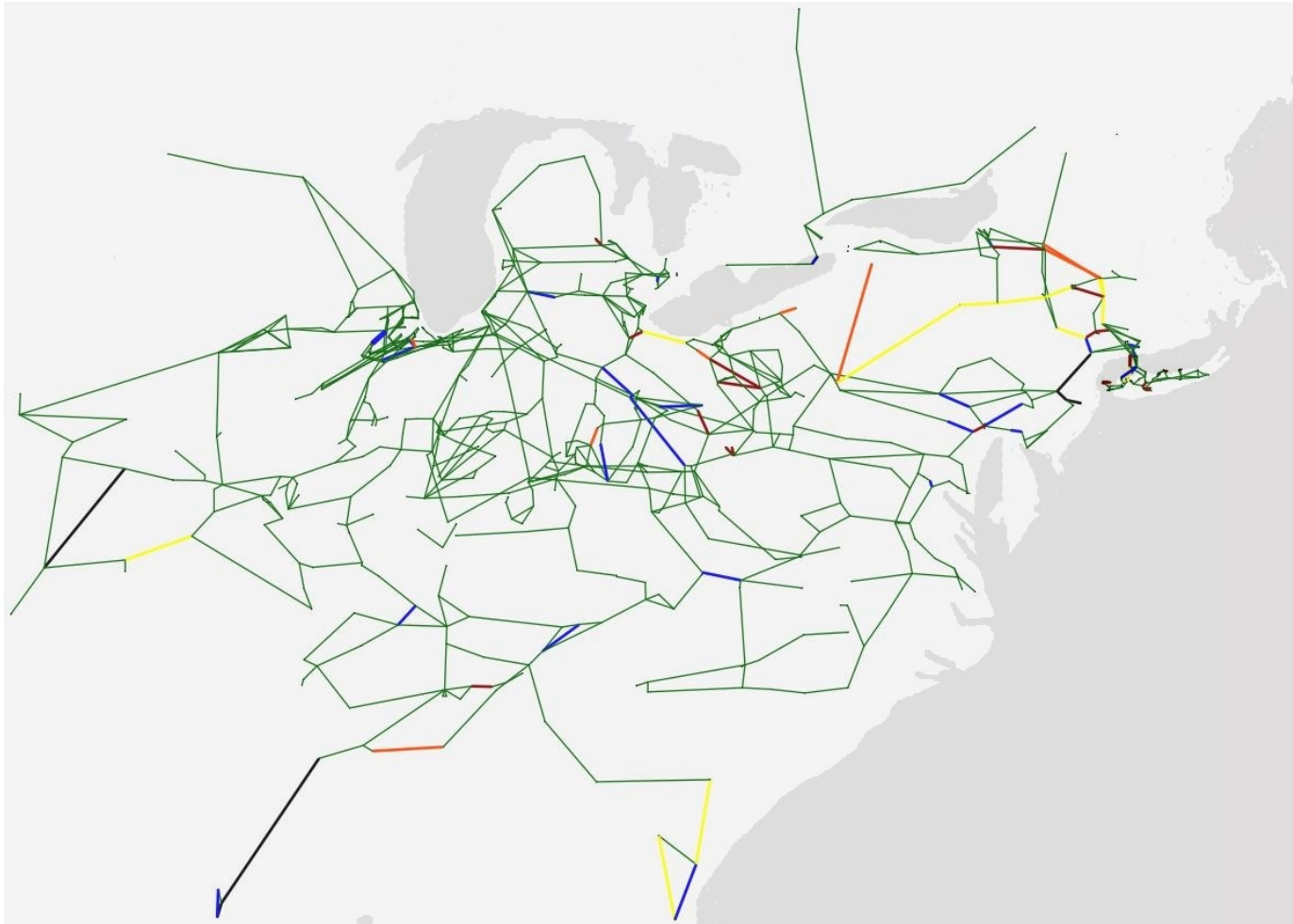
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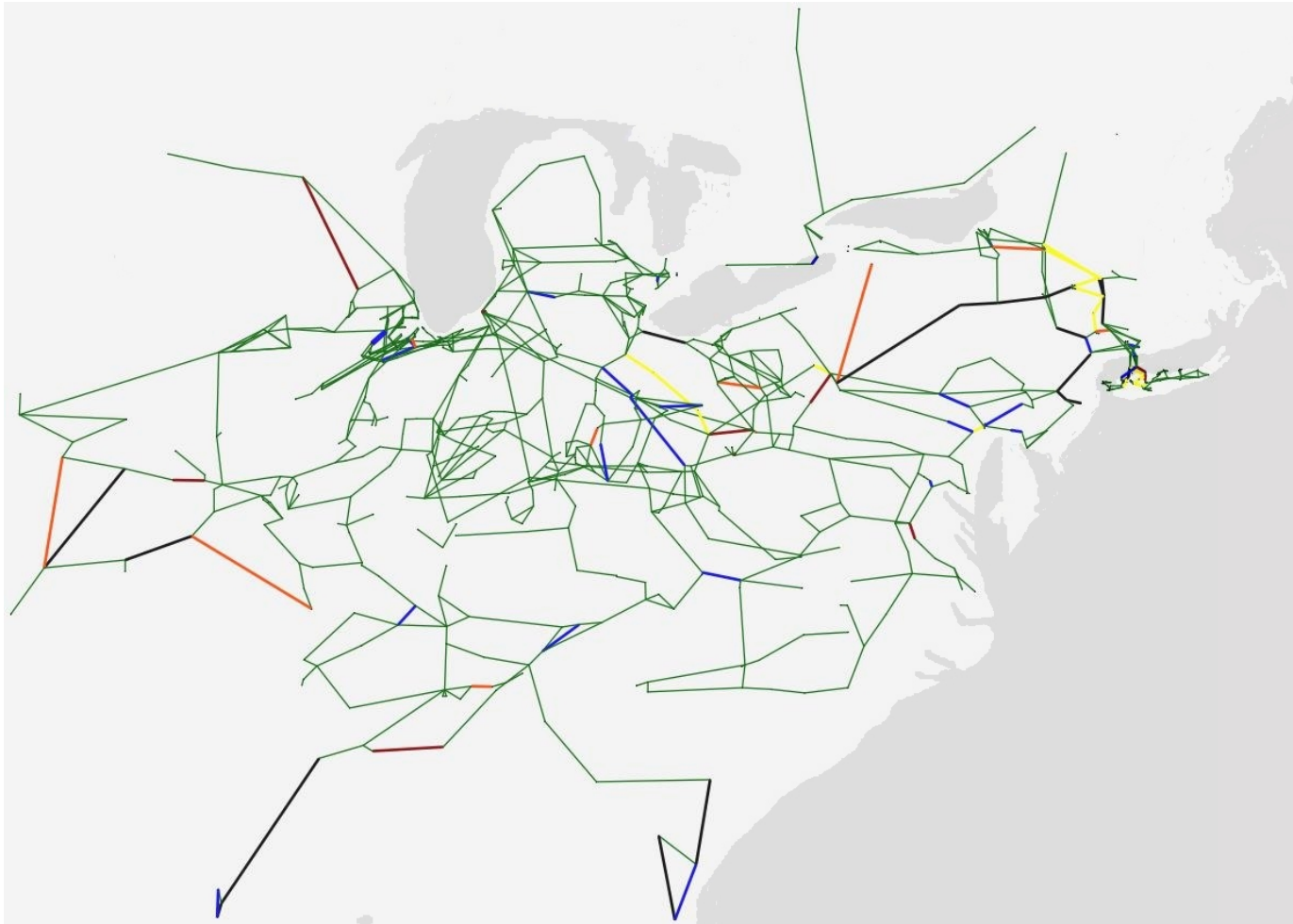
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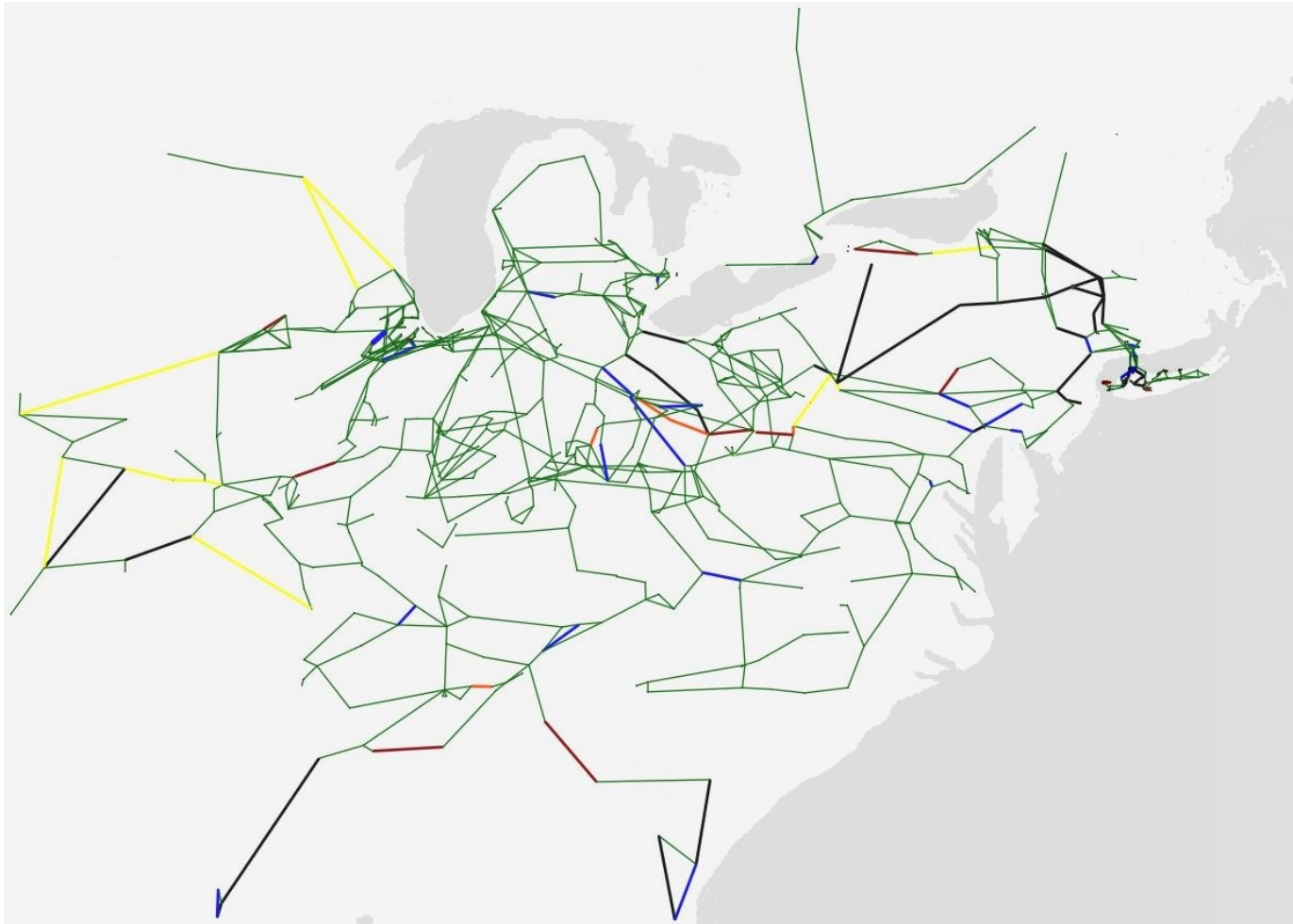
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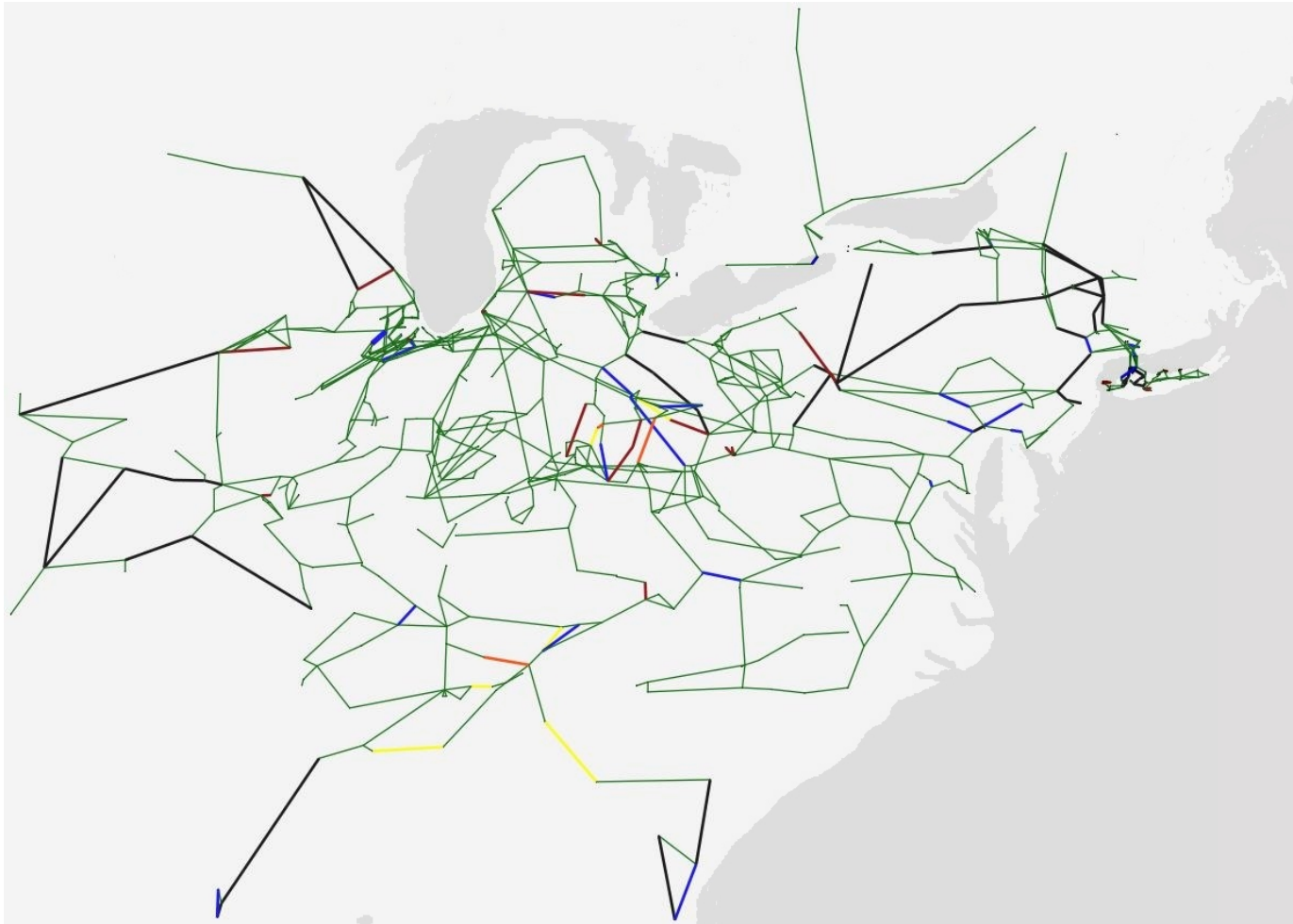
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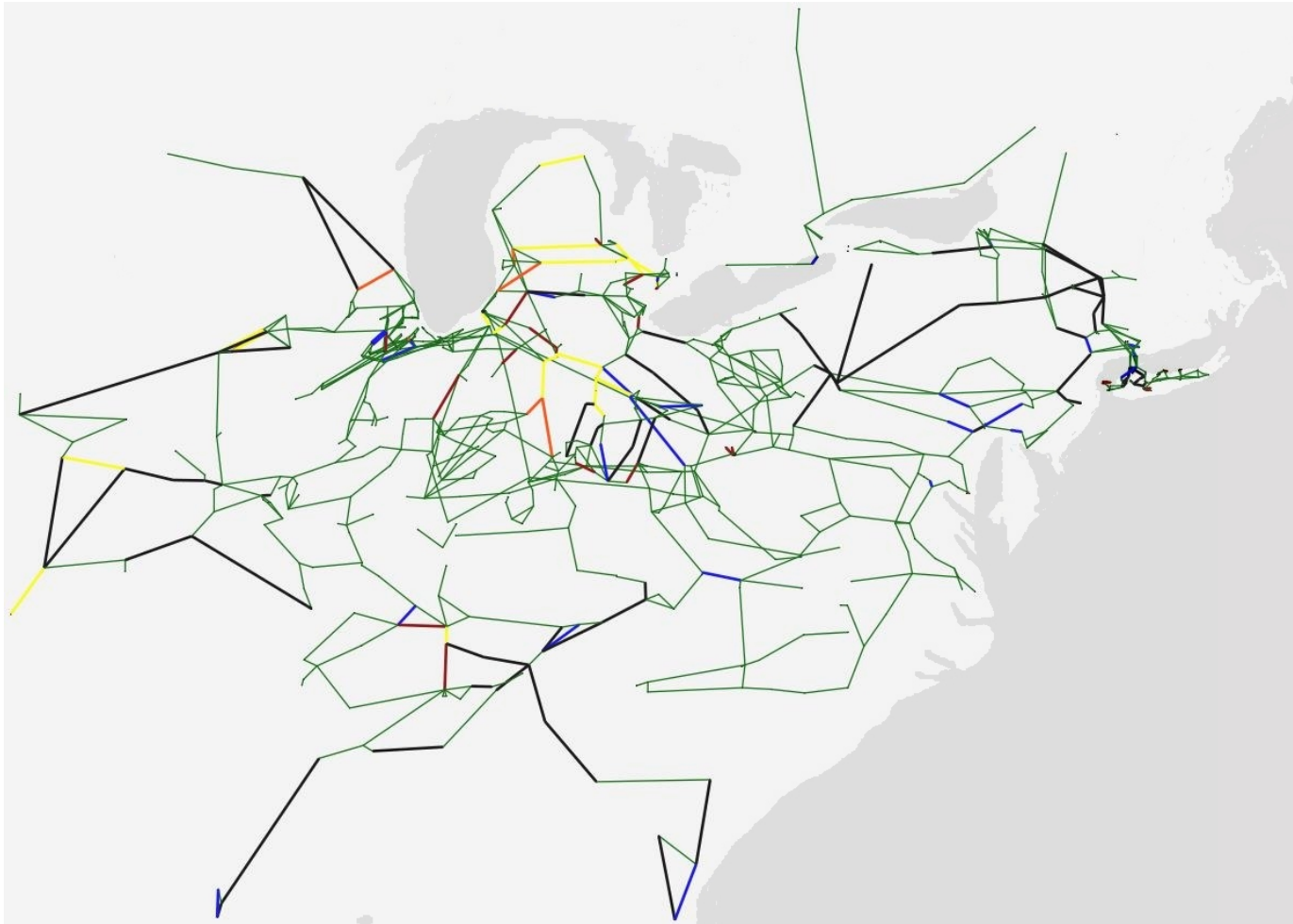
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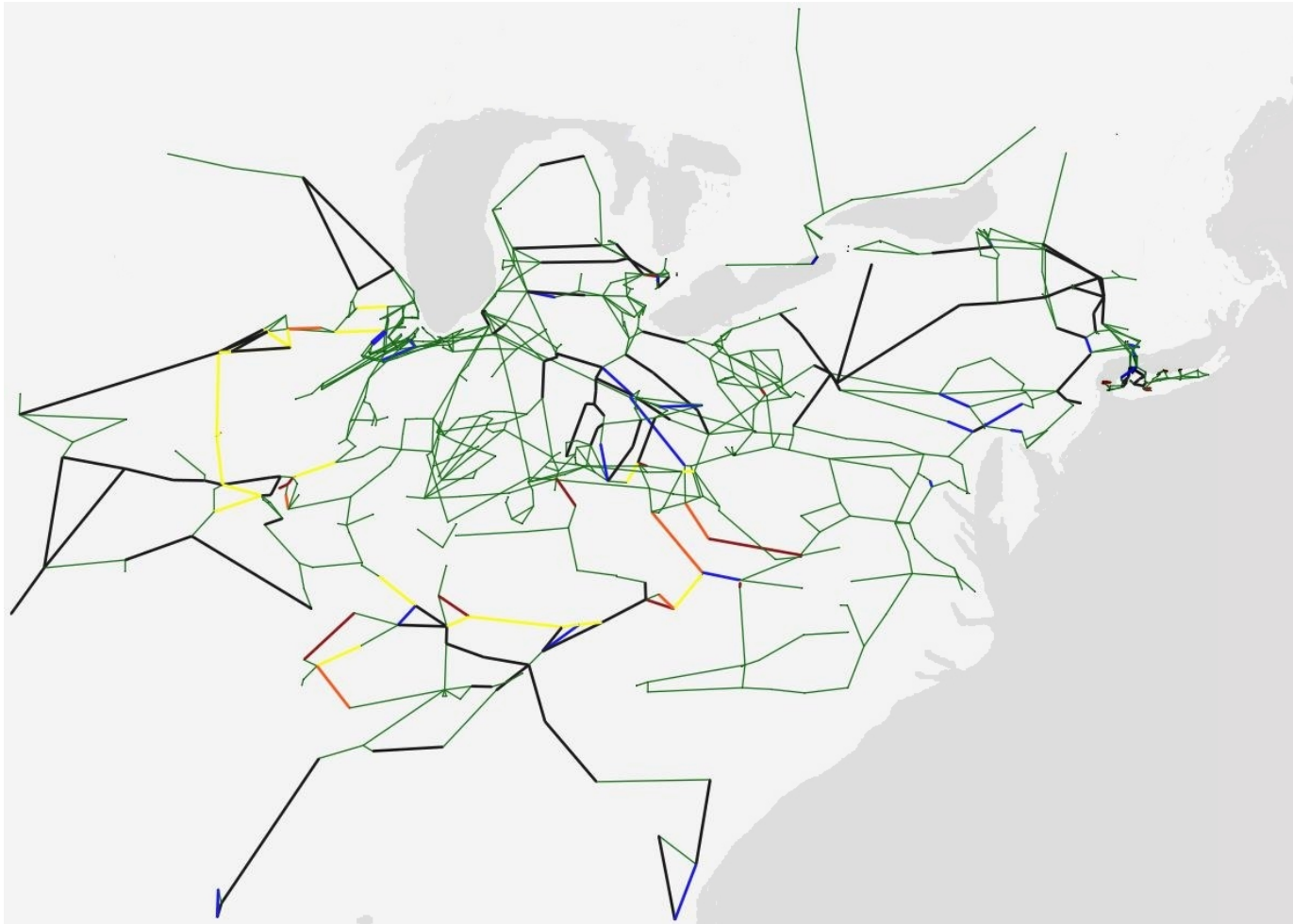
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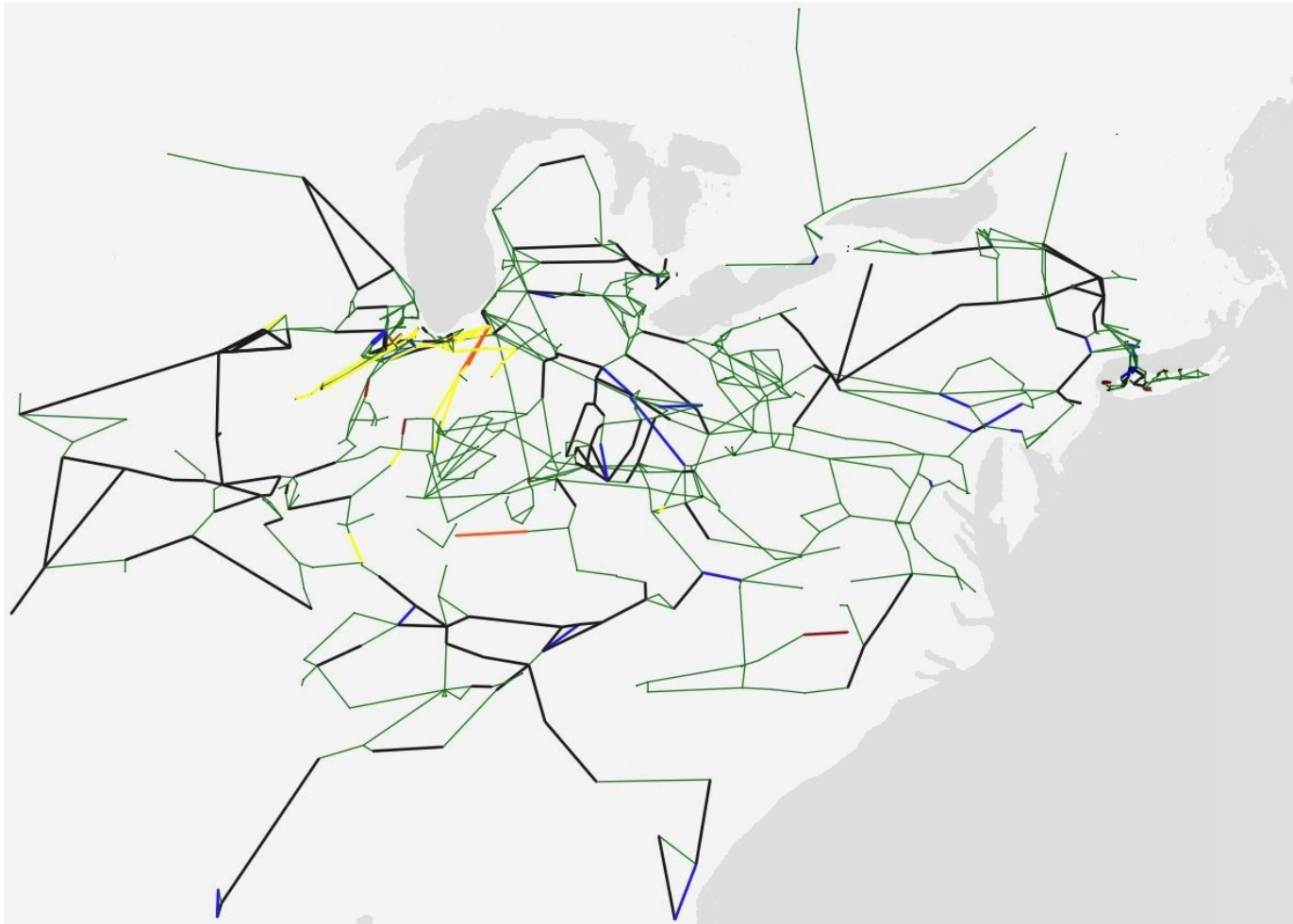
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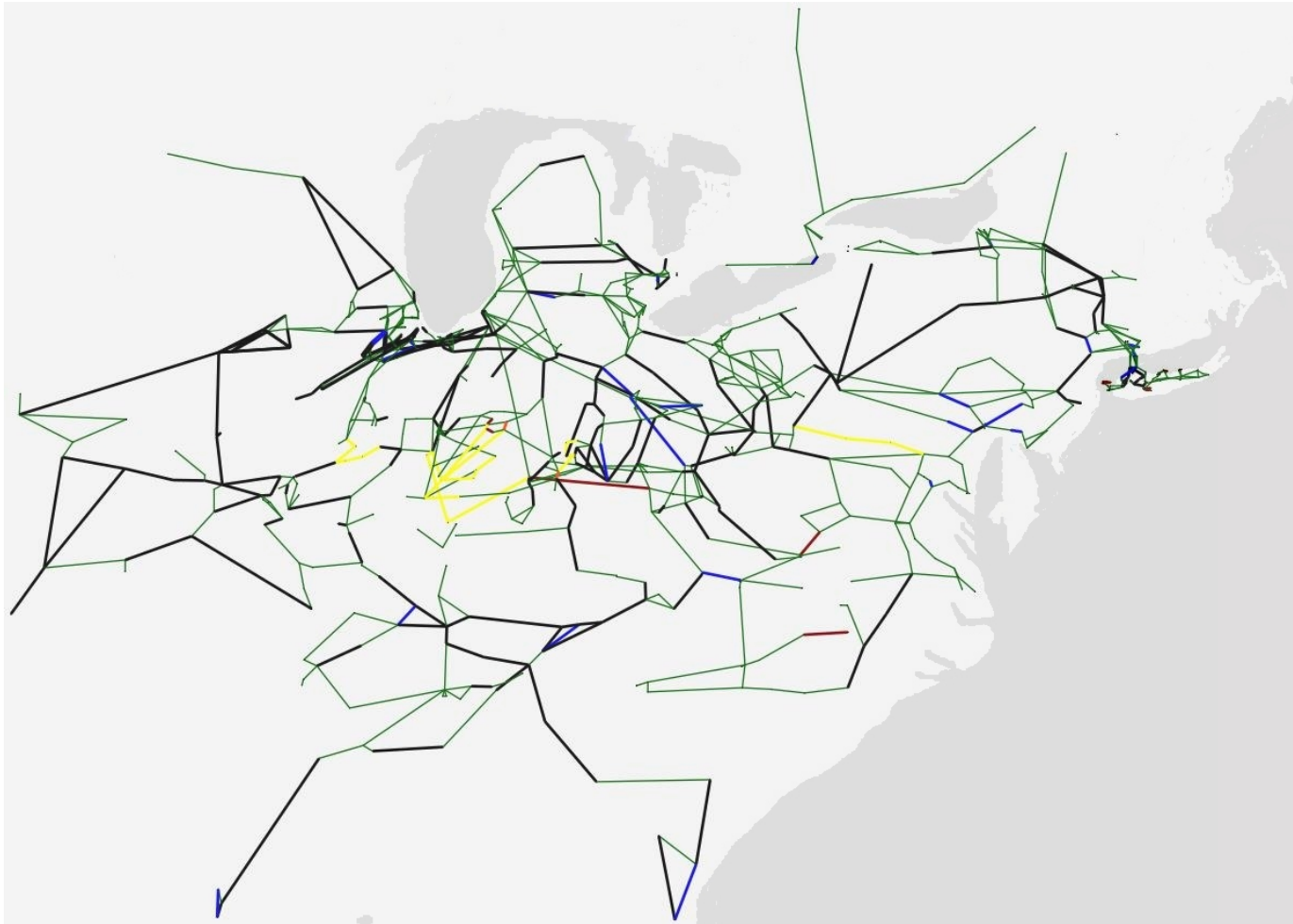
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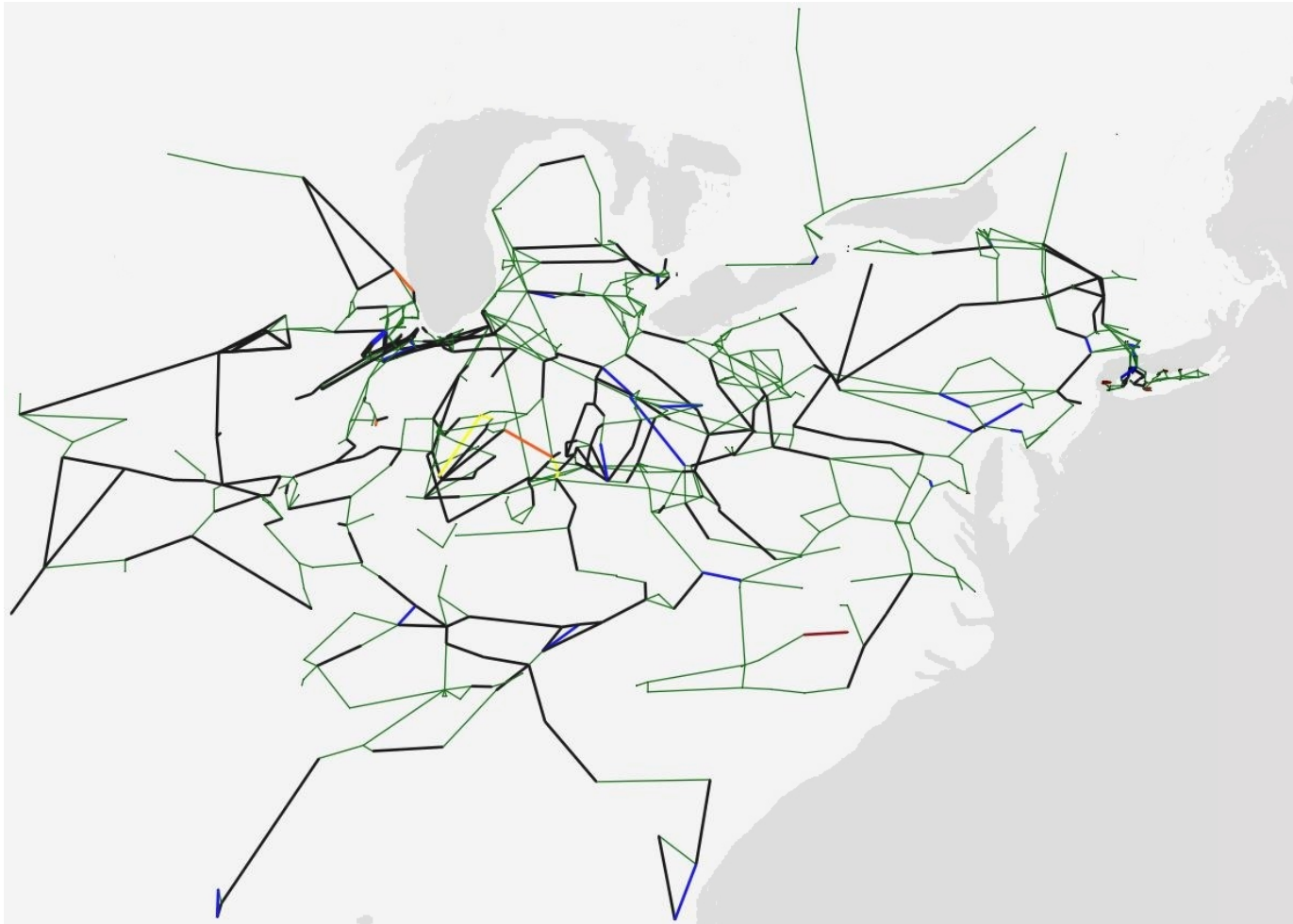
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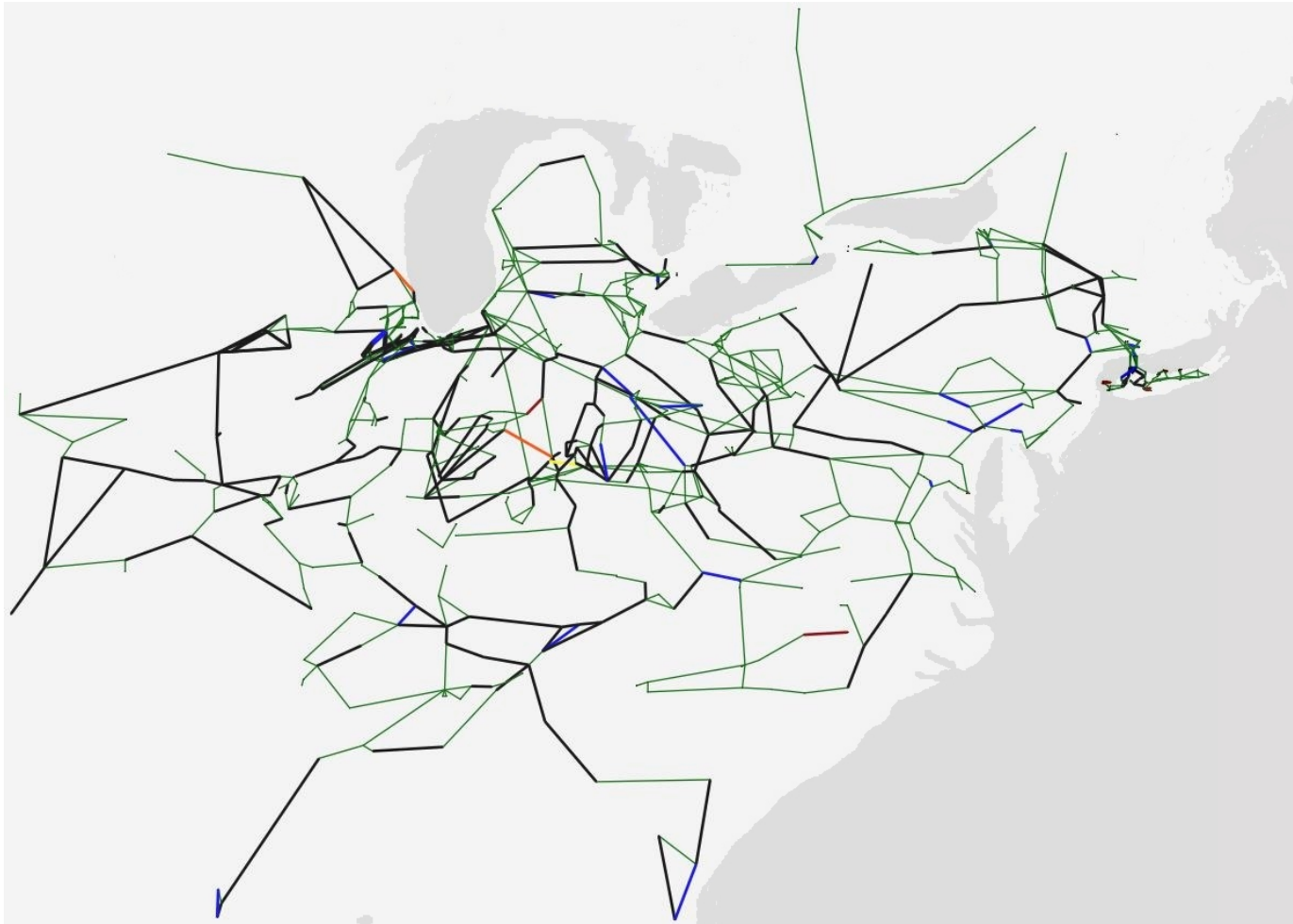
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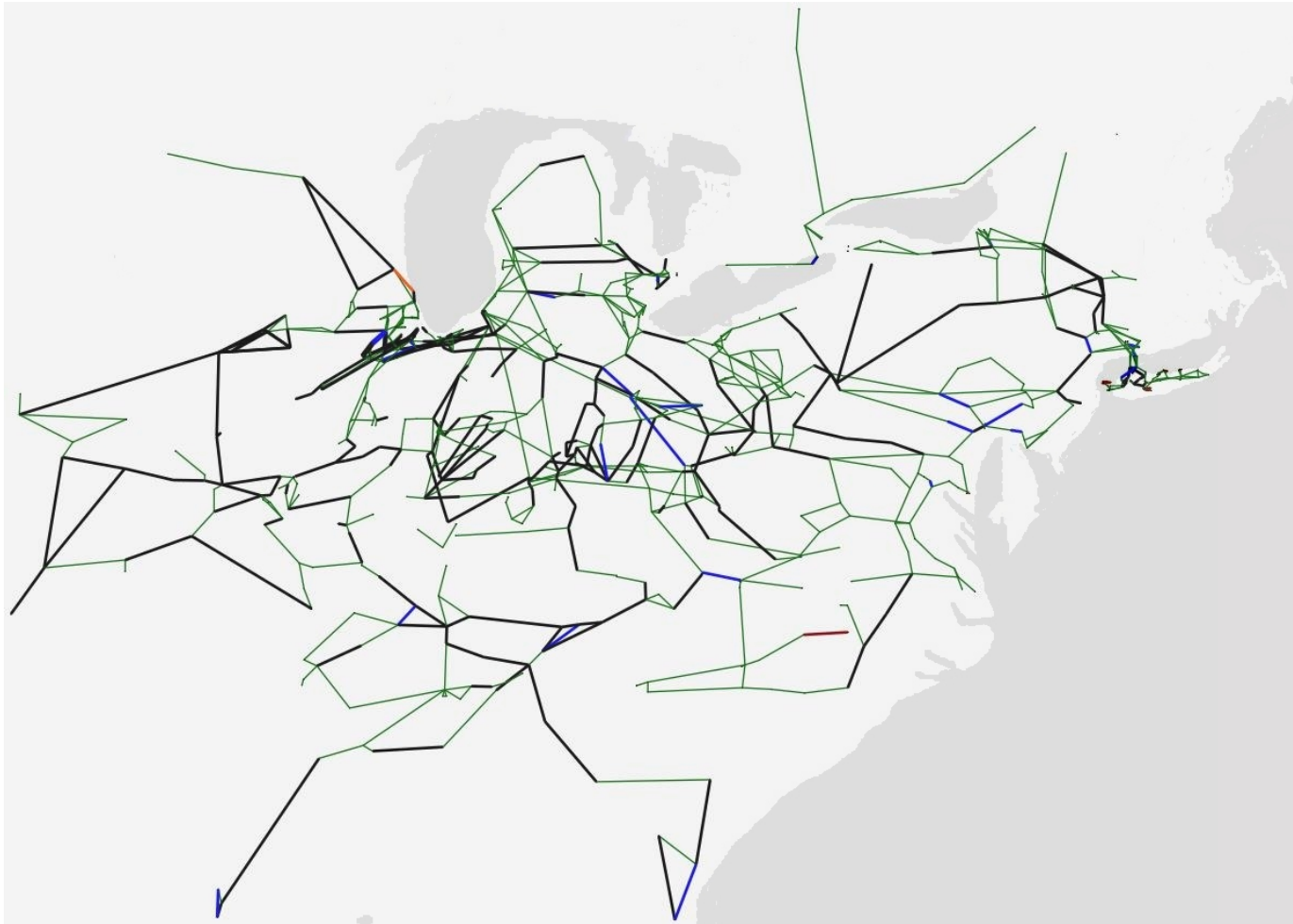
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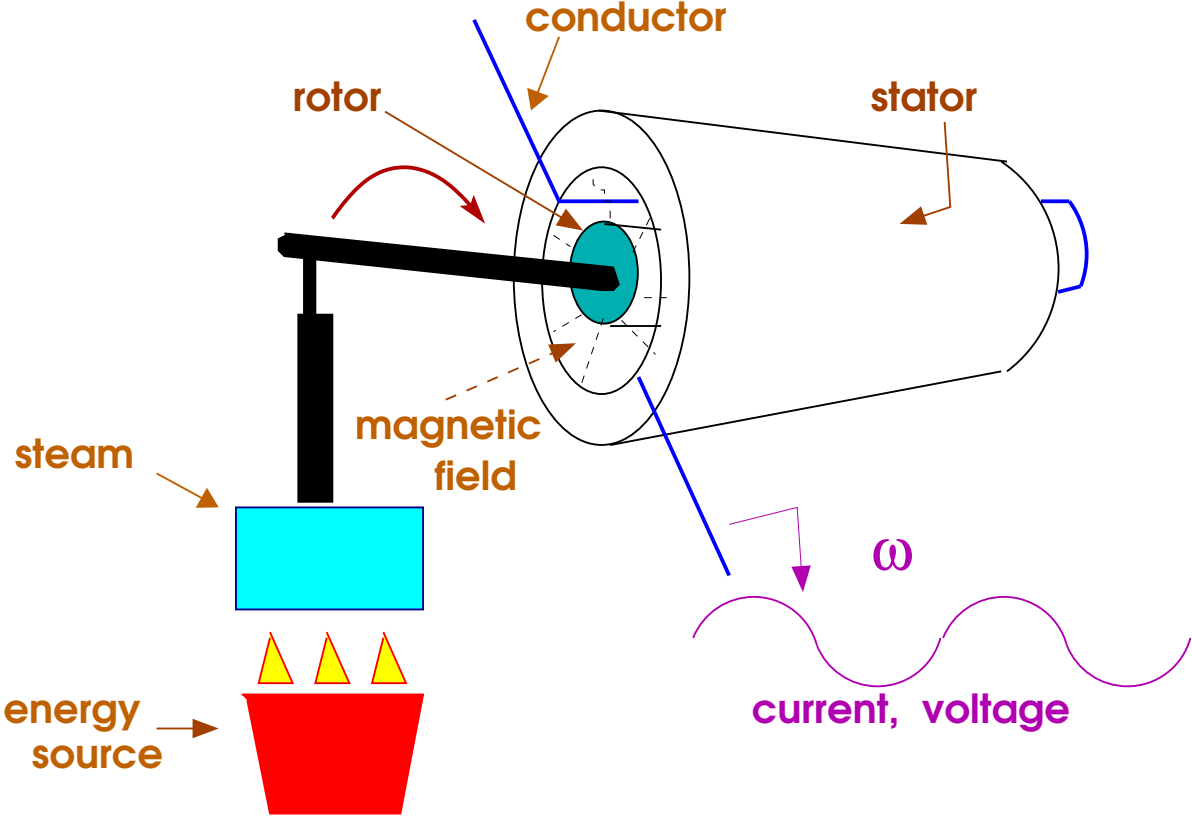
Back to reality:

why it is hard to simulate a power grid under distress

- (1) We have to explain when and why equipment will fail
- (2) This requires an understanding of the physics of power flows
- (3) Additionally, there is noise, missing information, and more

→ let's begin with (2).

The Grid



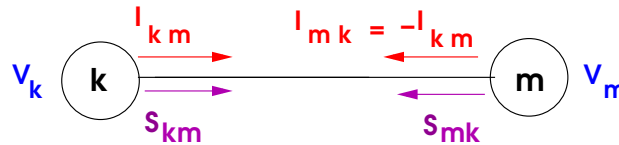
Voltage, Power, Current

Real-time **voltage** (potential energy) at bus (node) k :

$$V_k(t) = \hat{V}_k \cos(\omega t + \theta_k)$$

Steady-state (time average over one period of length $2\pi/\omega$): **voltage**

at bus k represented as: $= \hat{V}_k e^{j\theta_k} = \hat{V}_k (\cos \theta_k + j \sin \theta_k)$



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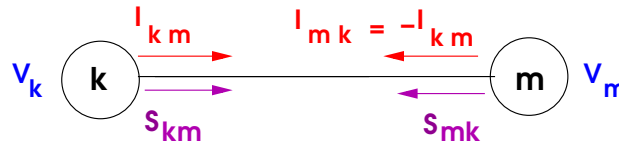
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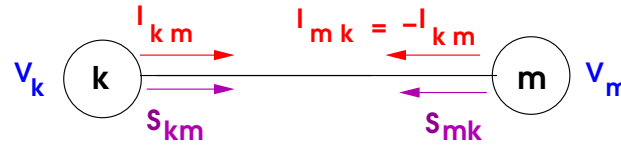
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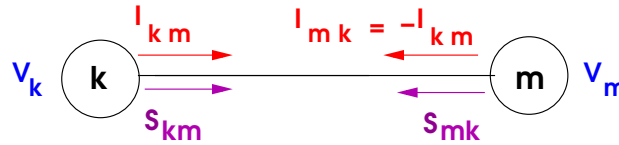
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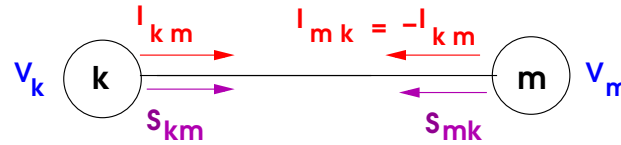


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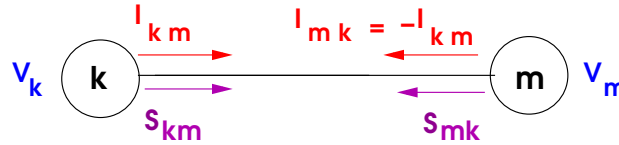
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(Here, $y_{km} = g + jb$), a **quadratic** expression on e_k, e_m, f_k, f_m .

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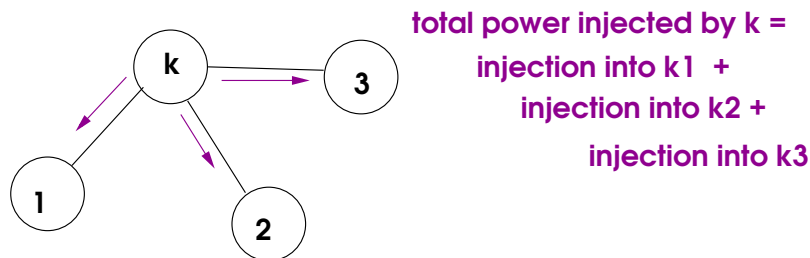
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- A similar quadratic yields Q_{km}
- What do we have at a given bus k ?



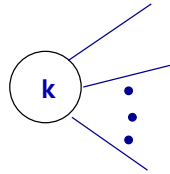
Putting it all together: power flow problem

$$V_k = \hat{V}_k e^{j\theta_k^V} = e_k + jf_k, \quad (1)$$

$$I_{km} = \mathbf{y}_{\{k,m\}}(V_k - V_m), \quad \mathbf{y}_{\{k,m\}} = \text{admittance of } km. \quad (2)$$

$$p_{km} = \mathcal{R}e(V_k I_{km}^*), \quad q_{km} = \mathcal{I}m(V_k I_{km}^*) \quad (3)$$

Network Equations



$$\sum_{km \in \delta(k)} p_{km} = \hat{P}_k, \quad \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} q_{km} = \hat{Q}_k \quad \forall k \quad (4)$$

Generator: $\hat{P}_k, |V_k|$ ($= \hat{V}_k$) given. Other buses: \hat{P}_k, \hat{Q}_k given.

Problem. Compute a solution of this system of quadratic equations.

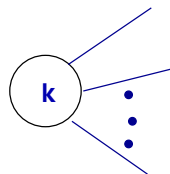
More general problem: ACOPF

$$V_k = \hat{V}_k e^{j\theta_k^V} = e_k + jfk, \quad (5)$$

$$I_{km} = \mathbf{y}_{\{k,m\}}(V_k - V_m), \quad \mathbf{y}_{\{k,m\}} = \text{admittance of } km. \quad (6)$$

$$p_{km} = \mathcal{R}e(V_k I_{km}^*), \quad q_{km} = \mathcal{I}m(V_k I_{km}^*) \quad (7)$$

Network Inequalities



$$\hat{P}_k^{\min} \leq \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} p_{km} \leq \hat{P}_k^{\max}, \quad \hat{Q}_k^{\min} \leq \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} q_{km} \leq \hat{Q}_k^{\max} \quad \forall k \quad (8)$$

$$\hat{V}_k^{\min} \leq |V_k| \leq \hat{V}_k^{\max} \quad \forall k \quad (9)$$

Problem

Solve an **optimization problem** subject to these quadratic **inequalities**.

How is ACOPF solved in industrial practice?

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- **Best practice #1:** ~~Don't solve it and go for a beer instead~~

Solve a **linearized** version.

Why?

Should be that: $|V_k| \approx 1$ for all k , so assume $|V_k| = 1$

and: $\theta_k \approx \theta_m$, so $\sin(\theta_k - \theta_m) \rightarrow \theta_k - \theta_m$ and $\cos(\theta_k - \theta_m) \rightarrow 1$

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- **Sequential linearization.** Replace all active constraints with their linearizations, and iterate.
- **IPOPT, et al.** Use interior point (e.g. barrier) methods to obtain a **locally optimal** solution.
 - But can we “certify” optimality?
 - But can we “certify” *infeasibility*?

Quadratically constrained, quadratic programming problems (QCQPs):

$$\begin{array}{ll} \min & f_0(x) \\ \text{s.t.} & f_i(x) \leq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \end{array}$$

Here,

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a deep fact: $x_j(1 - x_j) = 0$ is a quadratic constraint

OK, let's take a step waaaaay back: the trust-region
(sub)problem

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T Q x + c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|x - \mu\|_2 \leq r \end{aligned}$$

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Digression: application of trust-region subproblem

→ Unconstrained optimization $\min\{f(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$

Algorithm

- Given an iterate \mathbf{x}^t , construct a **quadratic** “model” for $f(\mathbf{x})$ which is approximately valid in a neighborhood $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^t\| \leq \Delta$.

- For example, use

$$f(\mathbf{x}^k) + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^t)^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^t)(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^t)$$

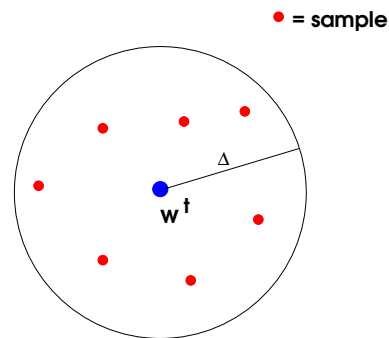
where $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}^t)$ is the Hessian of f at \mathbf{x}^t .

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Algorithm

- Given an iterate x^t , construct a **quadratic** “model” for $f(x)$ which is approximately valid in a neighborhood $\|x - x^t\| \leq \Delta$.
- For example, get pairs $(y^1, f(y^1)), (y^2, f(y^2)), \dots, (y^m, f(y^m))$



- Using these samples, construct an approximation to $f(x)$ (model = spline, least squares estimate, etc).
- Call this model: $Q(x)$
- **Solve:** $\min\{Q(x) : \|x - x^t\| \leq \Delta\}$. This is the trust-region subproblem.
- The solution becomes w^{t+1} .
Or (**better**): conduct a line-search from w^t to the solution so as to compute w^{t+1} .
- General purpose codes: **KNITRO**, **LOQO** have been used on OPF.

Summary

→ Unconstrained optimization $\min\{f(x) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\}$

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- Given an iterate \mathbf{x}^t , construct a **quadratic** “model” for $f(\mathbf{x})$ which is approximately valid in a neighborhood $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^t\| \leq \Delta$.
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Or (**better**): conduct a line-search from \mathbf{w}^t to the solution so as to compute \mathbf{w}^{t+1} .
- **What does this algorithm produce?**
- Does it solve the problem? Approximately?

How do we solve the trust region subproblem?

- Fast solution is crucial for the application
- This is a very mature problem that is considered well-solved
- Let us look at the problem from a broader perspective

Want to solve:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{f}^* &= \min f(x) \doteq x^T A x + 2a^T x + a_0 \\ &\text{s.t. } g(x) \doteq x^T B x + 2b^T x + b_0 \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$(x^T, 1) \begin{pmatrix} A - \gamma B & a - \gamma b \\ (a - \gamma b)^T & a_0 - \gamma b_0 - \theta \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \geq 0 \quad \forall x$$

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and it turns out that this is equivalent to:

$$\begin{pmatrix} A - \gamma B & a - \gamma b \\ (a - \gamma b)^T & a_0 - \gamma b_0 - \theta \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0 \quad (\text{proof?})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{f}^* &= \min_x f(x) \doteq x^T A x + 2a^T x + a_0 \\
 &\text{s.t. } g(x) \doteq x^T B x + 2b^T x + b_0 \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Rewrite it as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & \theta \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & f^* \geq \theta
 \end{aligned}$$

Duality:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max_{\theta, \gamma} \quad & \theta \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} A - \gamma B & a - \gamma b \\ (a - \gamma b)^T & a_0 - \gamma b_0 - \theta \end{pmatrix} \succeq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Back to general QCQP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(QCQP):} \quad & \min x^T Q x + 2c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T A_i x + 2b_i^T x + r_i \geq 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

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→ form the **semidefinite relaxation**

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(SR):} \quad & \min \begin{pmatrix} 0 & c^T \\ c & Q \end{pmatrix} \bullet X \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \begin{pmatrix} r_i & b_i^T \\ b_i & A^i \end{pmatrix} \bullet X \geq 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & X \succeq 0, \quad X_{11} = 1. \end{aligned}$$

Here, for symmetric matrices M , N ,

$$M \bullet N = \sum_{h,k} M_{hk} N_{hk}$$

Why do we call it a relaxation?

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Given \mathbf{x} feasible for **QCQP**, the matrix $\mathbf{X} = (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{x}^T) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{x} \end{pmatrix}$ feasible for **SR** and with the same value

So the value of problem **SR** is a **lower bound** for **QCQP**

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But we need to go backwards: given a solution \mathbf{X} to **SR**, does it give us a solution to **QCQP**?

Only if \mathbf{X} has rank-1. Unfortunately, **SR typically does not** have a rank-1 solution.

It's pretty bad ...

Theorem (Pataki, 1998):

An SDP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(SR): } \quad & \min M \bullet X \\ \text{s.t. } \quad & N^i \bullet X \geq b_i \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & X \succeq 0, \quad X \text{ an } n \times n \text{ matrix,} \end{aligned}$$

always has a solution of rank $\approx m^{1/2}$, and this bound is attained.

Observation (Lavaei and Low):

The SDP relaxation of practical AC-OPF instances can have a rank-1 solution, or the solution can be relatively easy to massage into rank-1 solutions (also see earlier work of Bai et al)

Current research thrust: Can we leverage this observation into practical, globally optimal algorithms for AC-OPF?

I need to solve a complicated QCQP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(QCQP):} \quad & \min x^T Q x + 2c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & x^T A_i x + 2b_i^T x + r_i \geq 0 \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & x \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{aligned}$$

... what do I do?

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... what do I do? ~~run-away~~

General techniques

- McCormick reformulation.

Each $x_i x_j$, where $x_i^L \leq x_i \leq x_i^U$ and $x_j^L \leq x_j \leq x_j^U$ is **replaced** by X_{ij} plus

$$\begin{aligned} X_{ij} &\geq x_i^L x_j + x_j^L x_i - x_i^L x_j^L \\ X_{ij} &\geq x_i^U x_j + x_j^U x_i - x_i^U x_j^U \\ X_{ij} &\leq x_i^U x_j + x_j^L x_i - x_i^U x_j^L \\ X_{ij} &\leq x_i^L x_j + x_j^U x_i - x_i^L x_j^U \end{aligned}$$

Yields a **linear** programming relaxation

- Spatial branching, e.g. if $0 \leq x_j \leq 1$ you branch as: $0 \leq x_j \leq 1/2$ and $1/2 \leq x_j \leq 1$.
- Widely implemented in many high-quality codes.

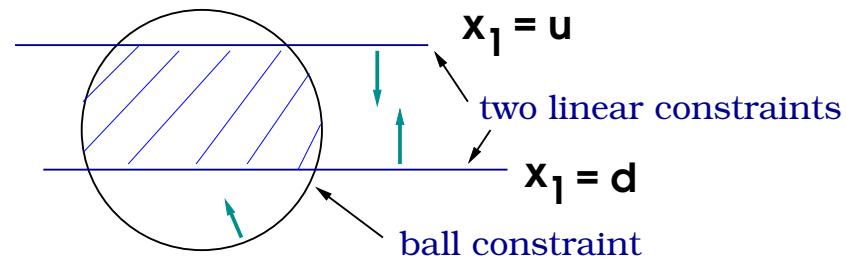
Let's take a computing break

A nice generalization of the trust-region subproblem

Solve a problem of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T Q x + c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|x\|_2 \leq 1 \\ & a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2 \end{aligned}$$

provided the two (**two!**) linear constraints are parallel:

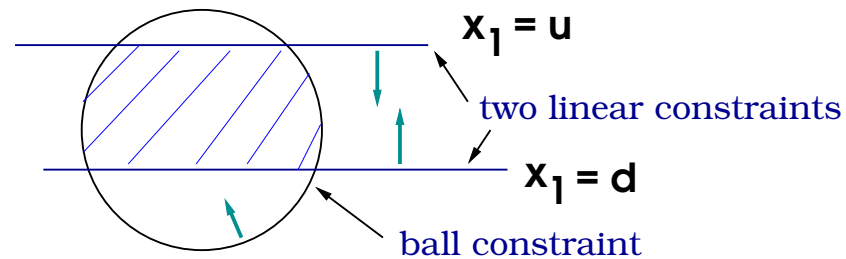


A nice generalization of the trust-region subproblem

Solve a problem of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & x^T Q x + c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \|x\|_2 \leq 1 \\ & a_i^T x \leq b_i \quad i = 1, 2 \end{aligned}$$

provided the two (two!) linear constraints are parallel:



$$\rightarrow \min \{ x^T Q x + c^T x : d \leq x_1 \leq u, \|x\| \leq 1 \}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{restate as:} \quad \min \quad & \sum_{i,j} q_{ij} X_{ij} + c^T x \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X_{11} + du \leq (d + u)x_1 \\ & \|X_{\cdot 1} - dx\| \leq x_1 - d \\ & \|ux - X_{\cdot 1}\| \leq u - x_1 \\ & \sum_j X_{jj} \leq 1 \\ & X \succeq xx^T \end{aligned}$$

Lemma: This problem has an optimal solution with $X = xx^T$, i.e. a **rank-1** solution.

Many theoretically nice generalizations

- More than one ball constraint (but not too many) and more than one linear inequality (but not too many)
- A “small” number of general quadratic constraints
- The algorithms are theoretically efficient but computationally very challenging
- ~~I did some of this, so let's move on~~

Back to semidefinite relaxation

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And let's make it worse. How about the **moment relaxation**?

Higher-order SDP relaxations

Consider the polynomial optimization problem

$$f_0^* \doteq \min \{ f_0(\mathbf{x}) : f_i(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n \},$$

where each $f_i(\mathbf{x})$ is a **polynomial** i.e. $f_i(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\pi \in S(i)} a_{i,\pi} \mathbf{x}^\pi$.

- Each π is a tuple $\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_n$ of **nonnegative integers**, and $\mathbf{x}^\pi \doteq x_1^{\pi_1} x_2^{\pi_2} \dots x_n^{\pi_n}$
- Each $S(i)$ is a finite set of **tuples**, and the $a_{i,\pi}$ are reals.

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Moment Relaxations

- Introduce a variable X_π used to represent each monomial x^π of order $\leq d$, for some integer d .
- This set of monomials includes all of those appearing in the polynomial optimization problem as well as $x^0 = 1$.

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- If we replace each \mathbf{x}^π in the formulation with the corresponding X_π we obtain a *linear* relaxation.

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Consider the polynomial optimization problem

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where each $f_i(\mathbf{x})$ is a **polynomial** i.e. $f_i(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\pi} \in S(i)} a_{i,\boldsymbol{\pi}} \mathbf{x}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$.

- Each $\boldsymbol{\pi}$ is a tuple $\pi_1, \pi_2, \dots, \pi_n$ of **nonnegative integers**, and $\mathbf{x}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}} \doteq x_1^{\pi_1} x_2^{\pi_2} \dots x_n^{\pi_n}$
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Moment Relaxations

- Introduce a variable $\mathbf{X}_{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$ used to represent each monomial $\mathbf{x}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$ of order $\leq d$, for some integer d .
- This set of monomials includes all of those appearing in the polynomial optimization problem as well as $\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{0}} = \mathbf{1}$.
- If we replace each $\mathbf{x}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$ in the formulation with the corresponding $\mathbf{X}_{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$ we obtain a *linear* relaxation.
- Let \mathbf{X} denote the vector of all such monomials. Then $\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^T \succeq \mathbf{0}$ and of rank one. The semidefinite constraint strengthens the formulation.
- Further semidefinite constraints are obtained from the constraints.

I need to solve a large nontrivial SDP

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(SDP): } & \min F_0 \bullet X \\ \text{s.t. } & F_i \bullet X \geq b_i \quad i = 1, \dots, m \\ & X \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

... what do I do?

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... what do I do? ~~run away even faster~~

Answer: use **structured sparsity**, if you can

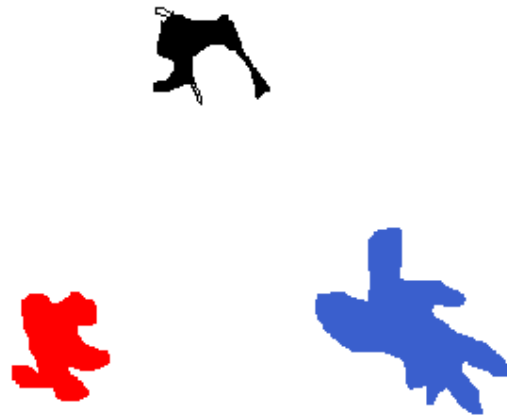
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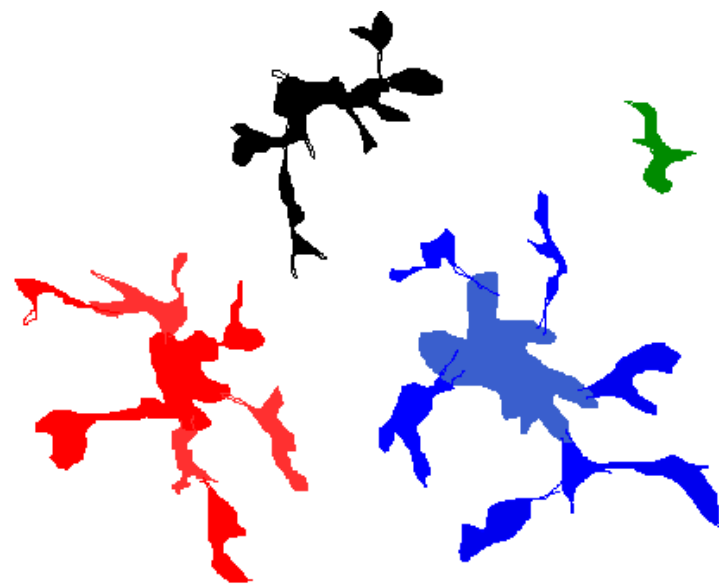
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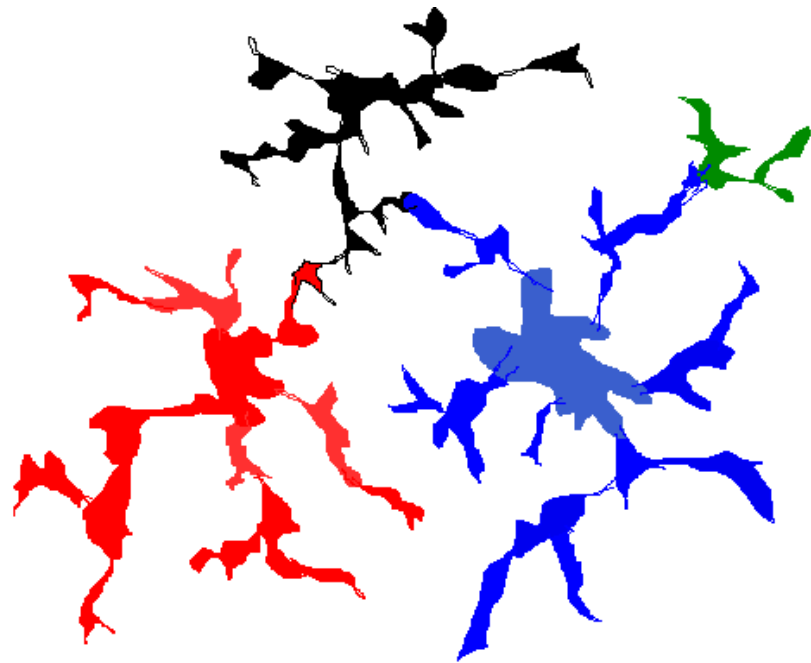
→ How did power grids develop over time?











→ Modern grids are very sparse, and “tree-like”

Informal definition

A graph has small *treewidth* if it can be formed by glueing together small blobs (subnetworks) in a tree-like fashion.



- Modern grids have “small” tree-width
- SDP relaxations reflect this fact

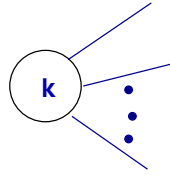
Back to ACOPF

$$V_k = \hat{V}_k e^{j\theta_k^V} = e_k + jf_k,$$

$$I_{km} = \mathbf{y}_{\{k,m\}}(V_k - V_m), \quad \mathbf{y}_{\{k,m\}} = \text{admittance of } km.$$

$$p_{km} = \mathcal{R}e(V_k I_{km}^*), \quad q_{km} = \mathcal{I}m(V_k I_{km}^*)$$
$$\hat{V}_k^{\min} \leq |V_k| \leq \hat{V}_k^{\max} \quad \forall k$$

Network Inequalities



$$\hat{P}_k^{\min} \leq \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} p_{km} \leq \hat{P}_k^{\max} \quad \forall k$$

$$\hat{Q}_k^{\min} \leq \sum_{km \in \delta(k)} q_{km} \leq \hat{Q}_k^{\max} \quad \forall k$$

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- Modern grids have “small” tree-width
- SDP relaxations reflect this fact
- SDP algorithms can leverage this fact

Crimes against computers

$$\begin{array}{llll} \max & y & & \\ \text{s.t.} & 1000 y + x \leq 1000 & & (10a) \\ & 10000 \delta \geq 1 & & (10b) \\ & \delta \leq 10 a & & (10c) \\ & a \leq 10 b & & (10d) \\ & b \leq 10 c & & (10e) \\ & c \leq 10 d & & (10f) \\ & d \leq 10 x & & (10g) \\ & y \text{ **binary**, all other variables } \geq 0 & & \end{array}$$

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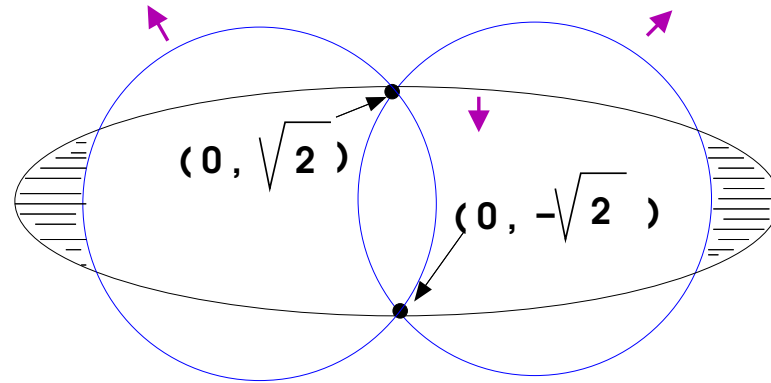
Value = 0

More crimes against computers

$$\begin{aligned}
 \max \quad & 20x_2 - 20s_5 - 20s_6 + 2s_7 + s_5^2 \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & (x_1 - 1)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 3 + \frac{\phi}{10} & (12a) \\
 & (x_1 + 1)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 3 & (12b) \\
 & \frac{1}{10}x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 2 & (12c) \\
 & 10\delta + 10\phi^2 \geq 1 & (12d) \\
 & -10a + \delta + 10\phi^2 \leq 0 \\
 & -10b + a + 10\phi^2 \leq 0 \\
 & -10c + b + 10\phi^2 \leq 0 \\
 & -10d + c + 10\phi^2 \leq 0 \\
 & -10e + d + 10\phi^2 + 10s_5^2 = 0 & (12e) \\
 & -10f + e + 10\phi^2 + 10s_6^2 = 0 \\
 & -10g + f + 10\phi^2 + 10s_7^2 = 0 \\
 & -10\phi + g + 10\phi^2 \leq 0 & (12f)
 \end{aligned}$$

What's going on?

$$\begin{aligned} & \max x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} & (x_1 - 1)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 3 \\ & (x_1 + 1)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 3 \\ & \frac{x_1^2}{10} + x_2^2 \leq 2 \end{aligned}$$



What's going on?

$$\begin{aligned} & \max x_2 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & (x_1 - 1)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 3 + \phi \quad (\phi > 0) \\ & (x_1 + 1)^2 + x_2^2 \geq 3 \\ & \frac{x_1^2}{10} + x_2^2 \leq 2 \end{aligned}$$

