

A Big Data Architecture Design for Smart Grids Based on Random Matrix Theory

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Abstract—Model-based analysis tools, built on assumptions and simplifications, are difficult to handle smart grids with data characterized by volume, velocity, variety, and veracity (i.e., 4Vs data). This paper, using random matrix theory (RMT), motivates data-driven tools to perceive the complex grids in high-dimension; meanwhile, an architecture with detailed procedures is proposed. In algorithm perspective, the architecture performs a high-dimensional analysis and compares the findings with RMT predictions to conduct anomaly detections. Mean spectral radius (MSR), as a statistical indicator, is defined to reflect the correlations of system data in different dimensions. In management mode perspective, a group-work mode is discussed for smart grids operation. This mode breaks through regional limitations for energy flows and data flows, and makes advanced big data analyses possible. For a specific large-scale zone-dividing system with multiple connected utilities, each site, operating under the group-work mode, is able to work out the regional MSR only with its own measured/simulated data. The large-scale interconnected system, in this way, is naturally decoupled from statistical parameters perspective, rather than from engineering models perspective. Furthermore, a comparative analysis of these distributed MSRs, even with imperceptible different raw data, will produce a contour line to detect the event and locate the source. It demonstrates that the architecture is compatible with the block calculation only using the regional small database; beyond that, this architecture, as a data-driven solution, is sensitive to system situation awareness, and practical for real large-scale interconnected systems. Five case studies and their visualizations validate the designed architecture in various fields of power systems. To our best knowledge, this paper is the first attempt to apply big data technology into smart grids.

Index Terms—Architecture, big data, group-work mode, high-dimension, large-scale distributed system, mean spectral radius (MSR), random matrix, smart grid.

I. INTRODUCTION

BIG DATA technology is a new scientific trend [1], [2]. Driven by data analysis in high-dimension, big data technology works out data correlations (indicated by statistical

parameters) to gain insight to the inherent mechanisms. Data-driven results only rely on an unrestrained selection of system raw data (the space can be whole system or only a region, the time can be long or short, and the size can be large or small) and a general statistical procedure (for data processing). On the other side, procedures for traditional model-based analysis, especially decoupling a practical interconnected system, are always based on assumptions and simplifications. Model-based results rely on identified causalities, specific parameters, sample selections, and training processes; imprecise or incomplete formulas/expressions, biased sample selections, and improper training processes will all lead to bad results. The results are often barely satisfied or even unsatisfied as the system size grows and complexity increases. Generally speaking, data-driven analysis tools, rather than model-based ones, are more suitable to complex large-scale interconnected systems with readily accessible data.

Data in power systems have increased dramatically, leaving gaps and challenges; data processing is a major concern and its urgency increases with data growth. The 4Vs data (data with features of volume, variety, velocity, and veracity) [3] in smart grids, which can hardly be handled within a tolerable elapsed time or hardware resources by traditional model-based tools, have encouraged the development of an emerging paradigm—big data technology for power systems [4]–[6]. Big data technology does not conflict with classical analyses or pretreatments. Actually, big data technology has already been successfully applied as a powerful data-driven tool for numerous phenomena, such as quantum systems [7], financial systems [8], [9], biological systems [10], as well as wireless communication networks [11]–[13]. Major tasks of the architecture for these applications seem similar: 1) big data modeling; and 2) big data analysis. It is believed that big data technology will also have a wide applied scope in power systems, and the results will be fruitful.

A. Contribution

This paper, aiming to apply big data technology into smart grids, proposes a feasible architecture with detailed procedures. Firstly, we introduce random matrix theory (RMT) as our mathematical foundations. According to RMT, a standard random matrix is systematically formed to map the system. Then, we conduct the high-dimensional analysis and compare the findings [i.e., empirical spectrum density (ESD) and

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kernel density estimation (KDE)] with the RMT theoretical predictions [i.e., Marchenko–Pastur (M–P) law and Ring law] to tell signals from white noises. Within the above mathematical procedure, a high-dimensional statistic—mean spectral radius (MSR)—is proposed to indicate the data correlations. More than that, MSR also clarifies the parameter interchanged among the utilities under the group-work mode for distributed calculation. In addition, power grids in three different periods, involving their features, management modes, and data flows and energy flows, are summarized as general backgrounds and foundations for applying big data in power systems.

Based on the architecture, we also conduct five case studies and summarize the most interesting results.

- 1) The comparisons between the experimental findings and the RMT predictions, as well as the proposed indicator MSR, are sensitive to event detections. In addition, data in different dimensions are correlative under high-dimensional perspective.
- 2) The MSR is somehow qualitatively correlated with the quantitative parameters of system performance.
- 3) The architecture, besides for event detections, can also be used as a new method to find the critical active power point at any bus node, taking account of probable grid fluctuations.
- 4) The architecture is compatible with the block calculation only using the regional small database, and practical for real large-scale distributed systems. In addition, the high-dimensional comparative analysis is sensitive to situation awareness for grids operation, even with imperceptible different measured data.
- 5) The architecture is suitable not only for the power flow analysis, but also for the fault detection. To our best knowledge, this paper represents the first such attempt in the literature on power systems.

B. Related Work

It is well-established that data, as a vital resource, should be utilized much more efficiently in power systems. References [14]–[16] showed the improvement in wide-area monitoring, protection and control with utilizing phasor measurement units data. Kanao *et al.* [17] proposed a practical data utilization method based on harmonic state-estimation for power system harmonic analysis. It was a data processing method in a specific field and only available when the engineering model is accurate. Alahakoon and Yu [18] proposed advanced analytic refer to a number of techniques in many specific fields: data mining tools, knowledge discovery tools, machine learning technologies, and so on. Recently, Xu and Yong [19] initiated power disturbance data analytics to explore useful aspects of power quality monitoring data, and showed a wide applied scope in the future. The mathematical foundations and system frameworks were missing yet. For data utilization methods in power systems, although many researches, especially those methods based on specific physical models, were done in various fields, little attention has been paid to the design of a universal architecture, which is based on solid mathematical foundations and statistical procedures.

TABLE I
SOME FREQUENTLY USED NOTATIONS IN THE THEORY

Notations	Means
$\mathbf{X}, \mathbf{x}, x, x_{i,j}$	a matrix, a vector, a single value, an entry of a matrix
$\hat{\mathbf{X}}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{x}$	hat: raw data
$\tilde{\mathbf{X}}, \tilde{\mathbf{x}}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$	tilde: transformation data, formed by normalization
$\overline{\mathbf{x}_i}, \overline{\mathbf{x}_i}$	overline: average
N, T, c	the numbers of rows and columns, $c = N/T$
$\mathbb{C}^{N \times T}$	$N \times T$ dimensional complex space
\mathbf{X}_u	the singular value equivalent of the matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$
\mathbf{S}	Covariance matrix of \mathbf{X} : $\mathbf{S} = \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{X} \mathbf{X}^H \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$
\mathbf{Z}, L	L independent matrices product: $\mathbf{Z} = \prod_{i=1}^L \mathbf{X}_{u,i}$
$\lambda_{\mathbf{S}}, \lambda_{\mathbf{Z}}$	the eigenvalue of matrix \mathbf{S}, \mathbf{Z}
$\lambda_{\mathbf{S}, i}$	the i -th eigenvalue of matrix \mathbf{S}
r	the circle radius on the complex plane of eigenvalues
κ_{MSR}	mean value of radius for all the eigenvalues of $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$: $\bar{r}_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}$
$\mu(x), \sigma^2(x)$	mean, variance for x

II. BIG DATA, RANDOM MATRIX THEORY, AND DATA PROCESSING PROCEDURE

The nomenclature is given as Table I.

Big data is an emerging paradigm applied to datasets whose size is beyond the ability of commonly used software tools to capture, manage, and process the data within a tolerable elapsed time. Various technologies are being discussed to support the handling of big data such as massively parallel processing databases, scalable storage systems, cloud computing platforms, and MapReduce. In the context of this paper, massively parallel processing databases is relevant to address the real-time operation within tolerable elapsed time.

A. Big Data Definition and its Features

Big data is a data-driven cognitive approach; it perceives the world through data—it works out the statistical correlations indicated by high-dimensional parameters using a nonparameter model. Currently, there exists no standardized definition for big data. This paper gives a mathematical definition below as our past work [11]–[13], [20].

- 1) For each sampling time, data of N -dimension are modeled as vectors, say $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^{1N}$.
- 2) The number of data samples, say T , is large.
- 3) A function, $f(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T)$, is able to be defined.

One of the big data fundamental characteristics is huge volume of data represented by heterogeneous and diverse dimensions. $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times T}$ is a natural model, formed by the data $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_T$, to describe a large-scale system or subsystem [21]; \mathbf{X} is a nonparameter model formed almost based on a minimum hypothesis. While the size (rows N for dimensions number; columns T for samples number) increases, so do the complexity and the relationship underneath the data. Whereas, when the size are sufficiently large, some unique phenomena, such as concentration of spectral measure [4], will occur.

B. Random Matrix Theory

RMT has emerged as a particularly useful framework for many theoretical questions, especially for those concerning multivariate data. There are two frameworks

for RMT: 1) assumes the asymptotic convergence, and the dimensions are infinite and 2) the nonasymptotic solution, assuming finite matrix size. For the asymptotic results, in theory, we require the infinite size of the matrix, which is infeasible in practical world. However, the results are remarkably accurate, even for relatively moderate matrix sizes such as tens. This is the very reason why this random matrix model is penetrating so many areas from financial engineering to wireless network. Our initial motivation for this model was from large-scale wireless network. The new trends for RMT are: 1) finite matrix and 2) non-Gaussian matrix entries.

1) *Marchenko–Pastur Law (M–P Law)*: M–P law describes the asymptotic behavior of singular values of large rectangular random matrices. Let $\mathbf{X} = \{x_{ij}\}$ be a $N \times T$ random matrix whose entries, with the mean $\mu(x) = 0$ and the variance $\sigma^2(x) < \infty$, are independent identically distributed [independent identically distributed (i.i.d.)]. As $N, T \rightarrow \infty$ with the ratio $c = N/T \in (0, 1]$, the ESD of the corresponding sample covariance matrix $\mathbf{S} = (1/N)\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}^H \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ converges to the distribution of M–P law [20], [22] with density function

$$f_{\text{ESD}}(\lambda_s) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi\lambda c\sigma^2} \sqrt{(b-\lambda)(\lambda-a)}, & a \leq \lambda \leq b \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where $a = \sigma^2(1 - \sqrt{c})^2$, $b = \sigma^2(1 + \sqrt{c})^2$.

2) *Kernel Density Estimation*: A nonparametric estimate [23] of the ESD of the sample covariance matrix $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ is used

$$f_{\text{ESD}}(\lambda_s) = \frac{1}{Nh} \sum_{i=1}^N K\left(\frac{x - \lambda_{s,i}}{h}\right) \quad (2)$$

where $\lambda_{s,i}$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, N$) are the eigenvalues of \mathbf{S} , and $K(\cdot)$ is the kernel function for bandwidth parameter h .

3) *Ring Law*: Ring law for (large) non-Hermitian matrices is one of the most remarkable developments in the modern probability [24], [25]. Except for our previous work [4], [11]–[13], little research has been done to leverage this new tool in the context of modeling massive datasets. This mathematical structure is general enough to model many unprecedented problems.

Consider the product of L non-Hermitian random matrices $\mathbf{Z} = \prod_{i=1}^L \mathbf{X}_{u,i}$, where $\mathbf{X}_u \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ is the singular value equivalent [26] of the rectangular non-Hermitian random matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times T}$, whose entries are i.i.d. variables with the mean $\mu(\tilde{x}) = 0$ and the variance $\sigma^2(\tilde{x}) = 1$. This product \mathbf{Z} allows us to study the streaming datasets generated as a function of both space and time. The basic target of this paper is the prospective architecture and its effectiveness. For simplification, we set L to one in this paper and need not to discuss more on L . Beyond that, the product \mathbf{Z} , by a transform which make the variance to $1/N$, can be converted to $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ [i.e., $\sigma^2(\tilde{z}) = 1/N$]. Thus, the ESD of $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ converges almost surely to the limit given by

$$f_{\text{ESD}}(\lambda_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi c L} |\lambda|^{(2/L-2)}, & (1-c)^{L/2} \leq |\lambda| \leq 1 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

as $N, T \rightarrow \infty$ with the ratio $N/T = c \in (0, 1]$.

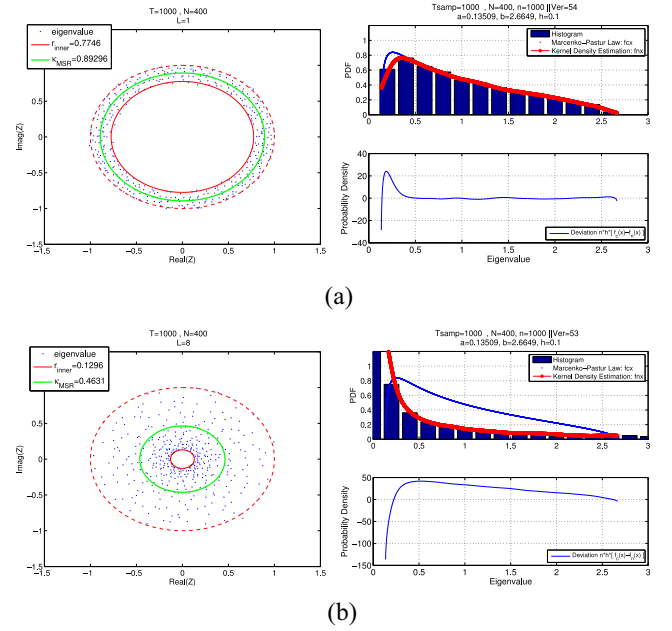


Fig. 1. Ring law and M–P law for $\mathbf{Z} = \prod_{i=1}^L \mathbf{X}_{u,i}$. (a) $L = 1$. (b) $L = 8$.

On the complex plane of eigenvalues, the inner circle radius is $(1-c)^{L/2}$ and the outer circle radius is unity. Especially, $\mathbf{S} = \tilde{\mathbf{Z}}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}^H = (1/N)\mathbf{Y}\mathbf{Y}^H$ ($\mathbf{Y} = \sqrt{N}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$, $\sigma^2(\tilde{z}) = 1/N$, $\sigma^2(y) = \sigma^2(\sqrt{N}\tilde{z}) = 1$) is able to be acquired, and \mathbf{S} conforms to M–P law. Ring law and M–P law with $L = 1$ and $L = 8$ are shown as Fig. 1. Furthermore, we propose κ_{MSR} (defined at the end of this section) to indicate the eigenvalues distribution of $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ and the data correlation as a statistical parameter. In Fig. 1, κ_{MSR} is depicted in green line.

C. Big Data Analysis

Data processing in power systems is a typical big data challenge. For a system, lots of measured data or simulated ones \hat{x} are readily accessible; for a certain time t_i , they are arranged as a vector $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_i}$. As time goes by, vectors are acquired one by one and a sheet is naturally formed as dataset to map the system. Any section in the dataset, according to our intend, is available as a raw data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ for further analyses. Thus, $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ consists of sample vectors on a series of times, which are denoted as $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_1}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_2}, \dots, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_i}, \dots$; at any time t_i , the vector $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_{t_i}$ consists of sample data in various dimensions, which are denoted as $\hat{x}_{t_i, n_1}, \hat{x}_{t_i, n_2}, \dots, \hat{x}_{t_i, n_j}, \dots$. The upper limit of dimensions n (i.e., $\max j$) is subject to the variety of the data at a single sampling time, and the upper limit of time length t (i.e., $\max i$) is subject to the volume of the database and generally big enough.

For the raw data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$, we can focus on any data area (e.g., N rows, T columns) as a split-window; a raw matrix $\hat{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times T}$ is naturally formed. Then, $\hat{\mathbf{X}}$ is converted to a normalized non-Hermitian matrix $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times T}$ row-by-row with the following algorithm:

$$\tilde{x}_{i,j} = (\hat{x}_{i,j} - \bar{\hat{x}}_i) \times (\sigma(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i)/\sigma(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i)) + \bar{\hat{x}}_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq N; 1 \leq j \leq T \quad (4)$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{x}}_i = (\hat{x}_{i1}, \hat{x}_{i2}, \dots, \hat{x}_{iT})$ and $\bar{\hat{x}}_i = 0$, $\sigma^2(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i) = 1$.

TABLE II
NOTATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURE AND CASE STUDIES

Notations	Means
\mathbf{A}_{Time}	time area to focus on the data split-window
\mathbf{A}_{Node}	node area to focus on the data split-window
t	time: t_0 for current time, t_s for sampling time
$P_{\text{Bus-}n}$	power demand of load at bus- n
$P_{\text{max_Bus-}n}$	critical point on $P_{\text{ower}}\text{-}V_{\text{oltage}}$ curve for bus- n
γ_{Acc}	addition factor for load fluctuations of the grid
γ_{Mul}	multiplication factor for load fluctuations of the grid

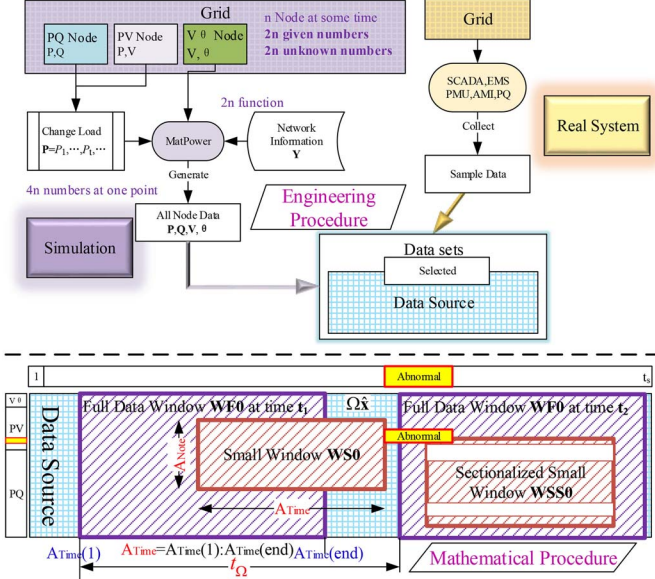


Fig. 2. Designed big data architecture for smart grids. The part above the dot line illustrates an engineering procedure for big data modeling, during which the raw data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ are formed to map the physical system. The other part below the dot line illustrates a mathematical procedure for big data analysis. It is fully independent of engineering parameters, and during which the analyses are extracted from data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$.

The matrix $\mathbf{X}_u \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ is introduced as the singular value equivalent [4] of $\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times T}$ by

$$\mathbf{X}_u = \sqrt{\tilde{\mathbf{X}}\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^H} \mathbf{U} \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ is a Haar unitary matrix, $\mathbf{X}_u \mathbf{X}_u^H \equiv \tilde{\mathbf{X}}\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^H$.

For L arbitrarily assigned independent non-Hermitian matrices $\hat{\mathbf{X}}_i$ ($i = 1, \dots, L$) in the raw data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$, the matrices product $\mathbf{Z} = \prod_{i=1}^L \mathbf{X}_{u,i} \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ is able to be acquired. Then, $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ is calculated row-by-row with the following formula:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_i = \mathbf{z}_i / (\sqrt{N} \sigma(\mathbf{z}_i)), \quad 1 \leq i \leq N \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbf{z}_i = (z_{i,1}, z_{i,2}, \dots, z_{i,N})$, $\tilde{\mathbf{z}}_i = (\tilde{z}_{i,1}, \tilde{z}_{i,2}, \dots, \tilde{z}_{i,N})$.

Furthermore, for the radius of all eigenvalue of $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ on the complex plane, we calculate its mean value and denote it as κ_{MSR} (i.e., $\kappa_{\text{MSR}} = \bar{r}_{\lambda_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}}$). In general, we conduct high-dimensional analysis, only with its dataset, to reveal the properties of a power system. $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$ and its ESD are analyzed based on the newly developed Ring law, and the high-dimensional statistic κ_{MSR} is calculated and visualized as an indicator. In addition, the corresponding sample covariance

matrix $\mathbf{S} = \tilde{\mathbf{Z}}\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}^H$ is calculated for the comparison among the results of its histogram, KDE, and M-P law.

III. BIG DATA ARCHITECTURE FOR SMART GRIDS AND ITS ADVANTAGES

A. Big Data Architecture for Smart Grids

The frequently used notations are shown in Table II.

The designed architecture is illustrated as Fig. 2.

It consists of two independent procedures to connect smart grids and big data—big data modeling as an engineering procedure, following by the big data analysis as a mathematical procedure. During the engineering procedure, the raw data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ is acquired as described in Section II; during the mathematical procedure, the following steps are conducted.

Steps of Mathematical Procedure

- 1) Set the initial parameters
 - 1a) Set $\mathbf{A}_{\text{Time}0}$ and $\mathbf{A}_{\text{Node}0}$ to focus on the first data window
 - 1b) Set t_Ω and $k=0$ to slide the moving split-window (MSW)
- 2) Focus on correspond window to form $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$ ($\mathbf{A}_{\text{Time}} = \mathbf{A}_{\text{Time}0} + k$)
- 3) Calculate $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$, \mathbf{X}_u , \mathbf{Z} , $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$, \mathbf{S}
- 4) Calculate the eigenvalues $\lambda_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}, \lambda_{\mathbf{S}}$
- 5) Conduct ESD analysis and compare the result according to RMT
- 6) Calculate κ_{MSR} with $\lambda_{\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}}$
- 7) Visualize the results
- 8) Judge as times goes by:
 - 8a) $k < t_\Omega \Rightarrow k++$; back to step 2)
 - 8b) $k \geq t_\Omega \Rightarrow \text{END}$

Especially, in step 2) focus on the data window, we are able to conduct: 1) real-time analysis: focusing on the real-time data window whose last edge of the sampling time area is current time [i.e., $\mathbf{A}_{\text{Time}}(\text{end}) = t_0$]; and 2) block-calculation for decoupling interconnected system: focusing on a smaller window consisting of data only in designated dimensions, but not in all dimensions. Besides, as the split-window, in a fixed size, slides across the data source $\Omega\hat{\mathbf{x}}$ with t_Ω and k set in 1b), a series of κ_{MSR} is got for further research and visualization.

B. Advantages in Data Processing

1) *Algorithm*: This architecture analyzes data in high-dimension as illustrated by the solid purple lines in Fig. 4. It is a universal procedure with four steps as follows.

Steps of Data Management for G3

- 1) Form standard random matrices $\tilde{\mathbf{X}}$
- 2) Acquire $\tilde{\mathbf{Z}}$, \mathbf{S} by variables transforming ($\tilde{\mathbf{X}} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}_u \rightarrow \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{Z}} \rightarrow \mathbf{S}$)
- 3) Conduct high-dimensional analysis based on RMT
- 4) Conduct engineering interpretations

On the other hand, the procedure of traditional data processing algorithms, in most cases, relies highly on specific simplifications and assumptions to build models. Taking genetic algorithm for an example, two steps are essential to achieve the result. One is to transcode the engineering variables to gene as the input of the gene model. It is a subjective selection procedure for the specific roles in engineering system, and only a few variables can be taken into account in final model. The other one is to perform the genetic algorithm through

operations of selection, crossover, and mutation. Many problems, such as improper settings of the population size, of the crossover probabilities, or of the mutation probabilities, will inevitably make the result worse.

Compared to traditional algorithms, big data analysis, driven by data, enables us to analyze the interrelation and interaction among all the elements in system, seen as correlations indicated by high-dimensional parameters. Using a pure mathematical procedure without physical models and hypotheses, big data analysis is easier in logic and faster in speed. Moreover, except step 4) *conduct Engineering Interpretation*, the whole procedure is objective without introducing or accumulating the systematic errors; moreover, the accidental errors can be eliminated either with the matrix size growing, or by repetition test and parallel computing due to the independence of the algorithm.

2) *Distributed Calculation for Interconnected Grids*: Smart grids operation are featured with autonomous sources and decentralized controls. Due to the potential transmission cost and privacy concerns, aggregating distributed data sources to a centralized site for mining is systematically prohibitive. On the other hand, although we are able to carry out model-based mining at each distributed site, the decoupling procedure for connected sources is highly related to simplifications and assumptions. Accordingly the result are often barely satisfied and leads to biased views and decisions.

Large random matrices provide a natural and universal data-driven solution. For a specific zone-dividing interconnected system, each site is able to form a small matrix only with its own data. In this way, the integrated matrix can be divided into blocks for distributed calculation and vice versa. For the overall system, we can conduct high-dimensional analysis by integrating the regional matrices, or even by processing a few regional high-dimensional parameters. The mathematical foundation is kept invariant as RMT; the scalability, however, depends on our intention. This architecture, decoupling the systems in the form of statistical matrices or high-dimensional parameters instead of models, is practical for real large-scale interconnected grids. The distributed calculation is a deep research, and in this paper, we just provide a relative simple applied example—*case 4* in the next section *five case studies*.

C. Advantages in Management Mode

Some brief but novel introductions and analyses about the development of power grids, mainly under the perspective of data managing mode and information communication technology (ICT), are given as the related background for applying big data into smart grids. Meanwhile, new situations and challenges, and advanced management mode for future grids are further discussed from the perspective. Especially, it is group-work mode, in our opinion, that breaks through the regional limitation for energy flows and data flows. As a result, some data-driven functions, e.g., comparative analysis, and distributed calculation, are able to be carried out.

Generally, the power grids evolutions are summarized as three generations—G1–G3 [27]. Their own network structures

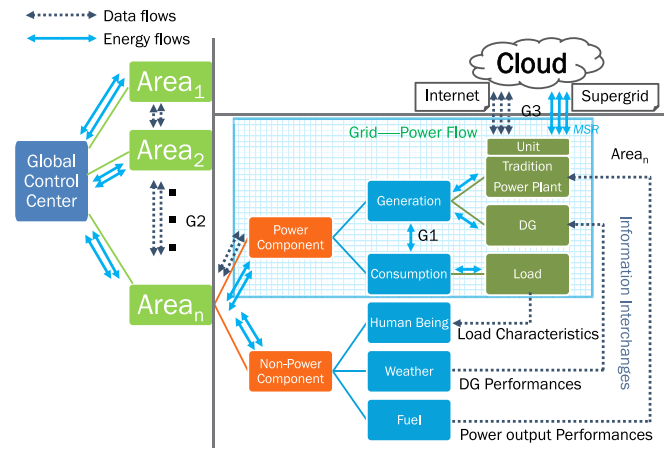


Fig. 3. Data flows and energy flows for three generations of power systems. The single lines, double lines, and triple lines indicate the flows of G1–G3, respectively.

are depicted in Fig. 12 [28]. Meanwhile, their data flows and energy flows, as well as corresponding data management systems and work modes, are quite different [29], which are shown in Figs. 3 and 4, respectively. In the following discussions, we will come to a conclusion that the group-work mode is the precondition for data-driven analysis, and the trend for smart grids.

1) *G1 (Small-Scale Isolated Grids)*: G1 was developed from around 1900 to 1950, featured by small-scale isolated grids. For G1, components interchange energy and data within the isolated grid to keep stable. The components are fully controlled by decentralized control system and operating under individual-work mode. It means that each apparatus collects designated data, and makes corresponding decisions only with its own application, just as shown at the above part of Fig. 12(a). The individual-work mode works with an easy logic and little information communication. Whereas, it means few advanced functions and inefficient utilization for resources. It is only suitable for small grids.

2) *G2 (Large-Scale Interconnected Grids)*: G2 was developed from about 1960 to 2000, featured by zone-dividing large-scale interconnected grids. For G2, utilities interchange energy and data within the adjacent ones. The components are dispatched by control center and operating under team-work mode. The regional team leaders, likes local dispatching centers, substations, or microgrid control centers, aggregate their own team-members (i.e., components in the region) into a standard black-box model. These standard models will be further aggregated by the global control center for the control or prediction purposes. The two aggregations above are achieved by four steps, which are data monitoring, data preprocessing, data storage, and data processing, respectively. However, lots of engineering technologies or sciences are essential as the foundations—cognitive radio wireless network [30]–[32], specific communication service mapping as ICT [33], cloud storage, parallel computing as computer science, and modelling building, parameter identification as mathematical modeling [34], [35]. The description above are illustrated by dotted blue lines in Fig. 4. In general, the team-work mode

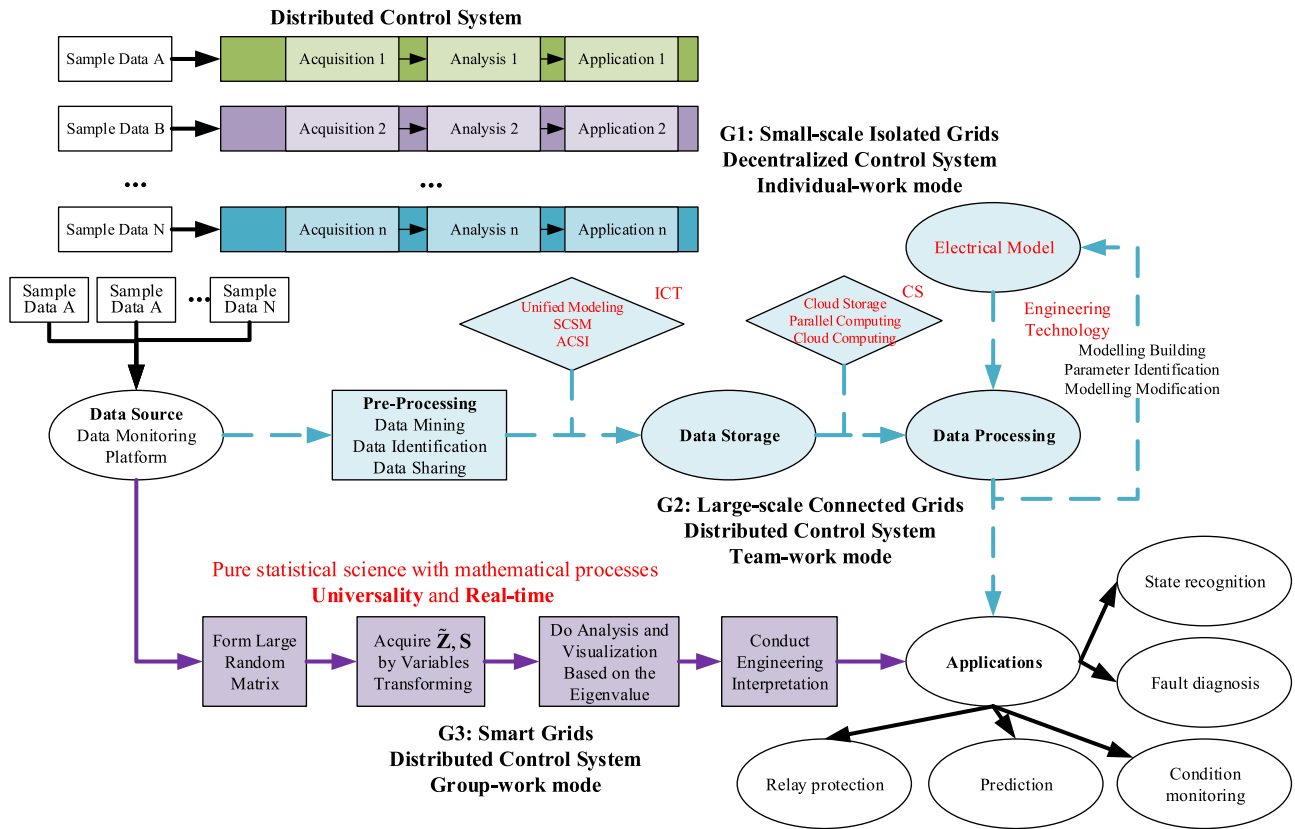


Fig. 4. Data management systems and work modes for three generations of power systems. The above, middle, and below parts indicate the data management systems and the work modes of G1–G3, respectively. For G1, each grid works independently. For G2, global and local control centers are operating under the team-work mode. For G3, the group-work mode breaks through the regional limitation for energy and data flows and has a better performance.

conducts model-based analysis, and mainly concerns with the system stability rather than the individual benefit; it will not work well for smart grids with 4Vs data as described in Section I.

3) *G3 (Smart Grids)*: The development of G3 was launched at the beginning of the 21st century; and for China, it is expected to be completed around 2050 [27]. Fig. 12(c) shows that the clear-cut partitioning is no longer suitable for G3, as well as the team-work mode which is based on the regional leader. For G3, the control force of the regional center (if still exist) is greatly released by individual units. The high-performance and self-control individuals results in much more flexible flows, for both energy exchange and data communication, to improve utilization by sharing resources among the whole grid [36]. Accordingly, the group-work mode is proposed. Under this mode, the individuals play a dominant part in the system under the authority of the global control centers [29]. Virtual power plants [37] and multi-microgrids [38], for instance, are typically G3 utilities. These group-work mode utilities provide a relaxed environment to benefit both the individuals and the grids: the former (i.e., individuals), driven by their own interests and characteristics, are able to create or join a relatively free group to benefit mutually from sharing their respective superior resources; meanwhile, these utilities are generally big and controllable enough to be good customers or managers to the latter (i.e., the smart grids).

IV. FIVE CASE STUDIES

For the following designed experiments, all the data are obtained in two scenarios: 1) only white noises (i.e., benchmark, whose statistical results agree with M–P law and Ring law); and 2) signals plus noises. We treat small random loads fluctuations and sample errors as white noises, and sudden changes and faults as signals.

Cases 1–4, based on Matpower, belongs to the field of power system stability and control. The grid is a standard IEEE 118-bus system with six partitions displayed as Fig. 14 [39]. Detailed information about the test bed is referred to the *case118.m* in *Matpower* package and *Matpower 4.1 users manual* [40]. Case 5, based on power systems computer aided design/electromagnetic transients for direct current, is about fault detection.

A. Case 1: Observation From the Split-Window With Full Network and 500 Sample Points— $N = 118$, $T = 500$

Case 1 is a simple study to validate that the architecture is able to quickly detect the signals from the noises with the real-time data flow. Let $N = 118$, $T = 500$, and $c = N/T = 0.236$. Thus each split-window has $n = NT = 59000$ data. Table III shows the series of assumed events, and the accordingly RMT analysis results visualization at critical time and MSRs on the time series are depicted as Figs. 5 and 6, respectively.

1) *Sampling Time* $t_s = 550$ s, *Time Area* $A_{Time} = 51:550$ s: There are only small load fluctuations in this split-window,

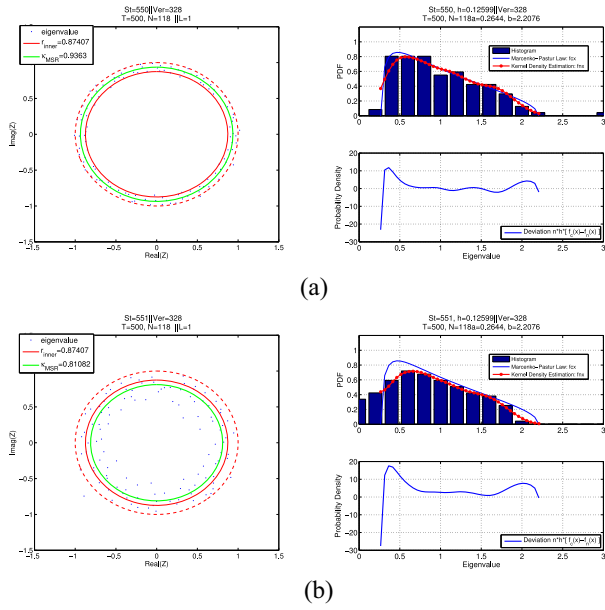


Fig. 5. Ring law, and the comparison among histogram, KDE, and M-P law at critical time for case 1. (a) $t_s = 550$ s. (b) $t_s = 551$ s.

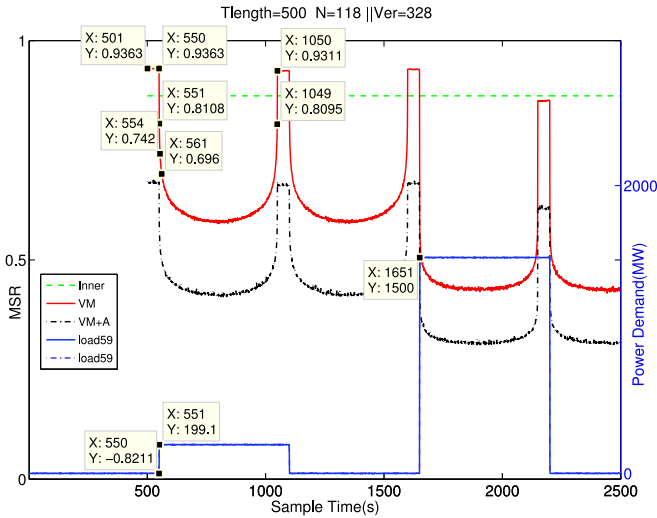


Fig. 6. MSRs on the time series for case 1.

which means that white-noises play a dominant part. Then, we compare the histogram, KDE and M-P law. Inspection of Fig. 5(a) indicates that, in a white-noises dominated system, the KDE (in red line) matches the histogram (in blue bar) very well. Moreover, the histogram curve and the KDE curve agree with M-P law (in blue line).

2) Sampling Time $t_s = 551$ s, Time Area $A_{Time} = 51:550$ s: For this split-window, Fig. 5(b) shows that the eigenvalues of Ring law collapse to the circle center, and both histogram and KDE deviate from M-P law. It means that there are some signals, any deviation of the benchmark (white noises only), in the system. Indeed, just at time $t = 551$ s, the P_{Bus-59} suddenly changes somehow from 0 to 200 MW.

Fig. 6 depicts that the κ_{MSR} change dramatically in a short time since $t = 550$ s. As the length of time area $T = 500$, the step change as the signal occurring at time $t = 551$ s, is included during all the sampling times from

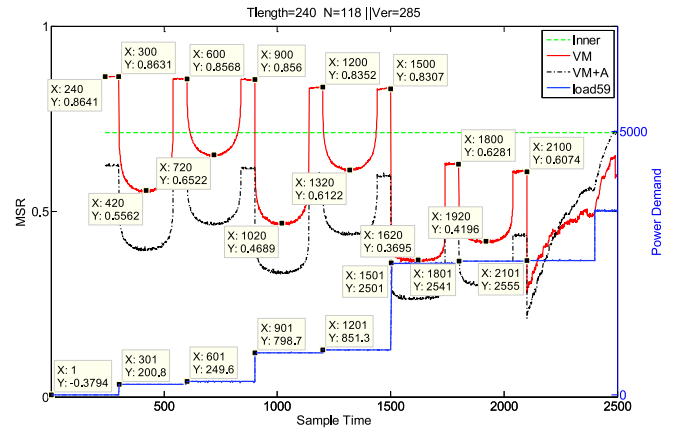


Fig. 7. MSRs on the time series for case 2.

$t_s = 551$ s to $t_s = 1049$ s. It results in the deviation (0.9363, 0.8108, 0.742, ...). However, at the sampling time $t_s = 1050$ s, when the time area $A_{Time} = 551:1050$ s, the step signal is no longer exist, as well as the deviation of the histogram and KDE from M-P law, and κ_{MSR} is back to 0.9311.

In addition, it is found that κ_{MSR} for the data of V (red line) which has definite physical meaning, and of $V + i\theta$ (black line) without any physical meaning, have the same trend. It indicates that MSR is a high-dimensional statistic, which is independent and robust to physical model in some way. The green line indicates the inner radius of the ring for the analyzing matrix, whose value only depends on the matrix size as formula (3) in Section II.

This case indicates that the presented statistic MSR is sensitive to signal. Meanwhile, there are some inherent relations for the data in different dimensions. It means that real-time analysis for event detection can be carried out with less kinds of data.

B. Case 2: Observation From the Smaller Split-Window With Full Network and 240 Sample Points— $N = 118$, $T = 240$

Case 2 is similar to the previous one except that T decreases to 240 s, and the events are rearranged. In this case, we try to find the qualitative relationships between the MSR and the quantitative parameters of system performances. The series of assumed events and the $\kappa_{MSR}-t$ curve are depicted as Table IV and Fig. 7, respectively.

1) During once step-change, there is a negative correlation between the min value of MSR (i.e., κ_{min_MSR}) and the step-change value of P_{Bus-59} (i.e., ΔP_{Bus-59}).

ΔP_{Bus-59}	200	50	550	1650	...
P_{Bus-59}	0 \rightarrow 200	200 \rightarrow 250	250 \rightarrow 800	850 \rightarrow 2500	...
κ_{min_MSR}	0.5562	0.6522	0.4689	0.3695	...

2) When P_{Bus-59} is steady at a higher level, κ_{MSR} is steady at a lower level.

P_{Bus-59}	0	200	250	800	...	2540
κ_{MSR}	0.8631	0.8568	0.8560	0.8352	...	0.6074

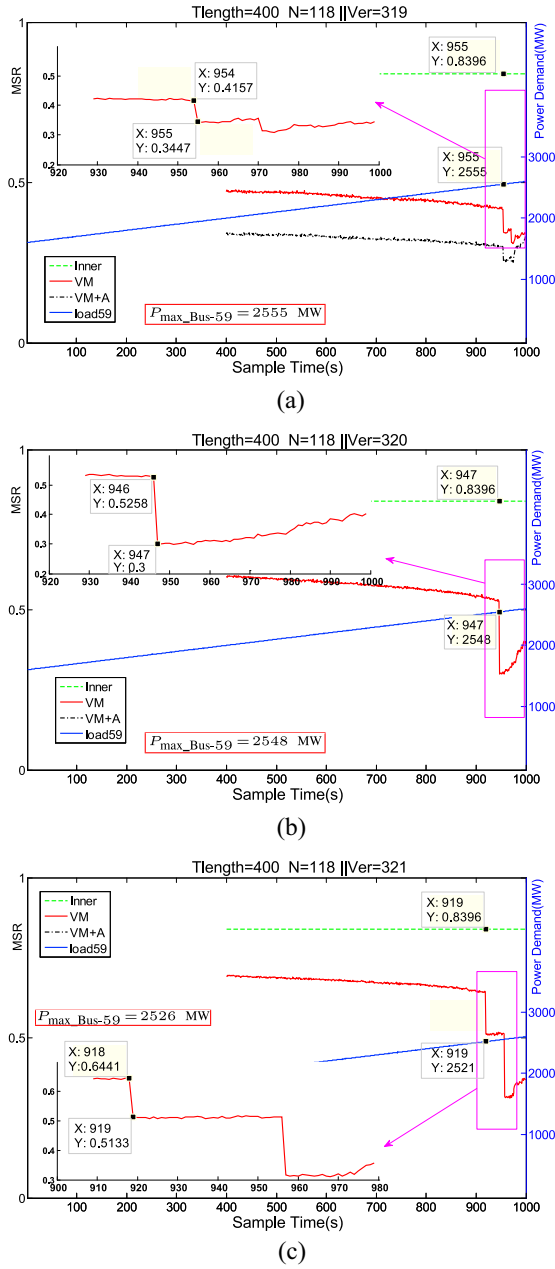


Fig. 8. Critical power point estimation taking account of grid fluctuations. (a) $\gamma_{Acc} = 0$, $\gamma_{Mul} = 1$. (b) $\gamma_{Acc} = 1$, $\gamma_{Mul} = 0.02$. (c) $\gamma_{Acc} = 5$, $\gamma_{Mul} = 0.1$.

3) When the P_{Bus-59} approaches to the critical active power point P_{\max_Bus-59} , a little step change of P_{Bus-59} will lead to a small value of κ_{\min_MSR} . The feature b) and c) is available to conduct vulnerable node identification [41] as a new method. And when P_{Bus-59} is beyond P_{\max_Bus-59} (i.e., $P_{Bus-59} > 2555$ MW), κ_{MSR} is no longer steady.

ΔP_{Bus-59}	50	50	40	15
P_{Bus-59}	200 → 250	800 → 850	2500 → 2540	2540 → 2555
κ_{\min_MSR}	0.6522	0.6122	0.4196	unsteady
$\Delta \kappa_{MSR}$	0.2046	0.2230	0.2085	unsteady

C. Case 3: Critical Power Point Estimation

This case, based on the feature c) of the previous one, is designed as a new method to find the critical point P_{\max_Bus-n} ,

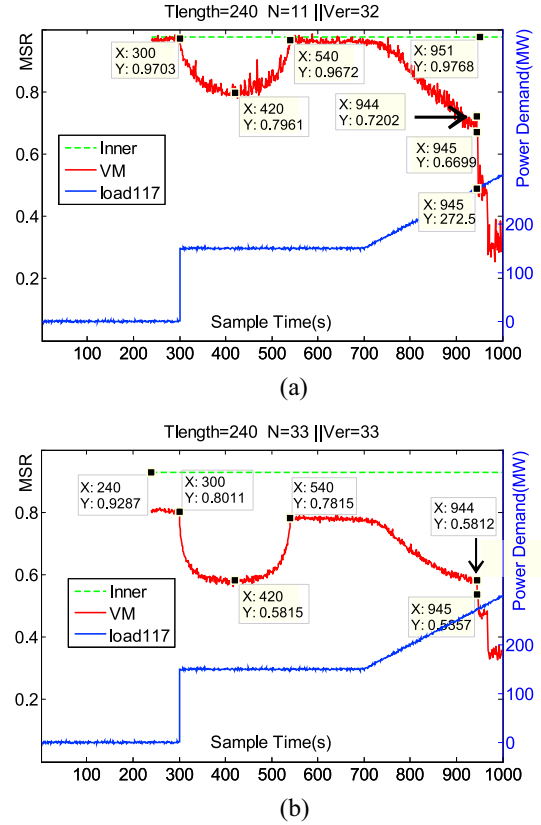


Fig. 9. MSR series of single region. (a) $A_{Node} = A1$. (b) $A_{Node} = A2$.

especially that the grid fluctuations is taking into consideration. The grid fluctuations are set by γ_{Acc} and γ_{Mul}

$$\tilde{y}_{load_nt} = y_{load_nt} \times (1 + \gamma_{Mul} \times x_1) + \gamma_{Acc} \times x_2 \quad (7)$$

where x_1 and x_2 are random numbers from a standard Gaussian Distribution. The result are shown in Fig. 8.

In this model, the increase of grid fluctuations means the decrease of signal-noise ratio, which will cause a raise of κ_{\min_MSR} . Meanwhile, it will also cause the decrease of P_{\max_Bus-n} for a certain node (2555, 2548, and 2521 MW), which meets our common knowledge and experience.

D. Case 4: Group-Work Mode

For the above cases, the anomaly can be detected by traditional model-based tools. These cases validate that the designed data-driven architecture is also a solution to anomaly detection. In case 4, however, we will discuss a scenario in which the traditional tools fail to detect the anomalies.

This case is based on a zone-dividing system with six regions (A1 to A6) depicted in Fig. 14. A PQ node (node with constant active power and reactive power) far from slack bus, i.e., bus-117 in A1, is chosen as signal source. It is much more vulnerable than PQ nodes (nodes with constant active power and voltage magnitude) such as bus-59. With the same procedures of the former case studies, $P_{\max_Bus-117}$ and the $\kappa_{MSR}-t$ curve for the overall system are depicted by Table V, Figs. 15 and 16, respectively. Under group-work mode, each regional center, just like the global one, calculates MSR with its own data, such as Fig. 9(a) and (b) for A1 and A2, respectively.

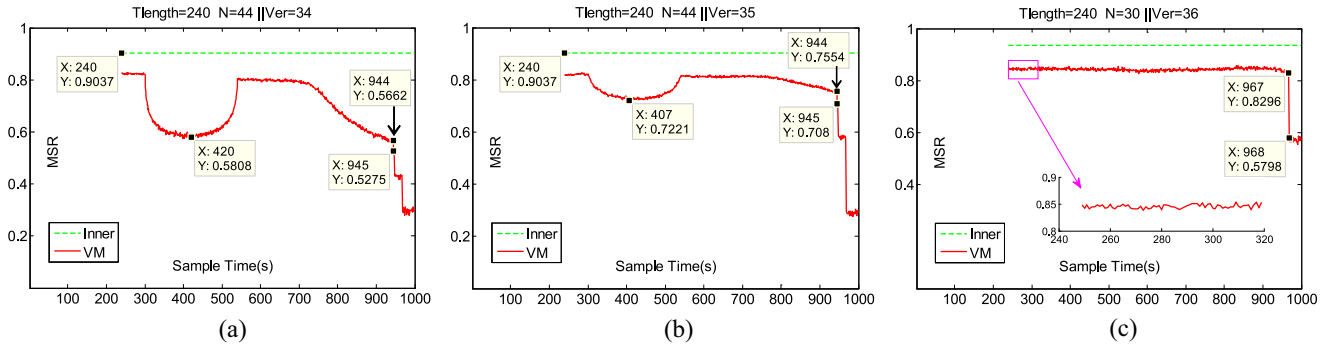


Fig. 10. MSR series of union regions. (a) $A_{Node} = [A1, A2]$. (b) $A_{Node} = [A3, A5]$. (c) $A_{Node} = [A4, A6]$.

When the data split-window is not big, just as A1 which only has 11 nodes (i.e., $N = 11$), the signal is still able to be detected, but the curve is not smooth. Thus, some regions are combined to smooth the $\kappa_{MSR}-t$ curve—A1 and A2, A3 and A5, and A4 and A6 in Fig. 10(a)–(c), respectively. In the Appendixes, the raw data of \hat{V} and their low-dimensional visualization for all PQ buses in A3 and A5 around time $t_s = 301$ s, when the step-change of $P_{Bus-117}$ happened, are shown as Fig. 17(a) and (b).

Fig. 16 shows that $P_{max_Bus-117} = 272.5$ MW at $t_s = 945$ s. This point is observed by all the regional centers as shown in Figs. 9 and 10. Meanwhile, the signal occurring just at time $t = 301$ s is also able to be detected in the system. According to κ_{MSR} of Fig. 10(a)–(c), it is found that to response to the signal, the distribution of $\Delta\kappa_{MSR}$ in distributed regions is just like the contour line and the A1 and A2 is the mountaintop. As a result, we conjecture that the signal is generated at A1 and A2 rather than A3 and A5 or A4 and A6. The events set in Table V validates the conjecture.

Interchanging MSRs among distributed utilities, some useful analyses are able to be extracted. It is sensitive to anomaly detection, even with imperceptible different raw data just as shown in Fig. 17—the raw voltage amplitude dataset $\Omega\hat{V}$ of A3 and A5 changes too little to be utilized in low-dimension (e.g., Mean—1-D statistic and Variance—2-D statistic). This case study also validates the architecture is compatible with block calculation only using regional small database; in this way, the architecture decouples the interconnect systems from statistical parameters perspective naturally, and is practical for real large-scale distributed systems.

E. Case 5: Fault Detection for Active Distribution Network

This case shows the application of the designed architecture in another field of power systems. Due to the integration and variation of renewable generators and energy storage units, faults and disturbances detection has become increasingly complicated in active distribution networks [42]. Table VI sets the events series, and Fig. 13 illustrates the fault mode.

Fig. 11 indicates that some signals are detected by the $\kappa_{MSR}-t$ curve. Especially, it is conjectured that the most influent events are happening around $t = 3000$ ms and $t = 13000$ ms, which means that the three-phase and

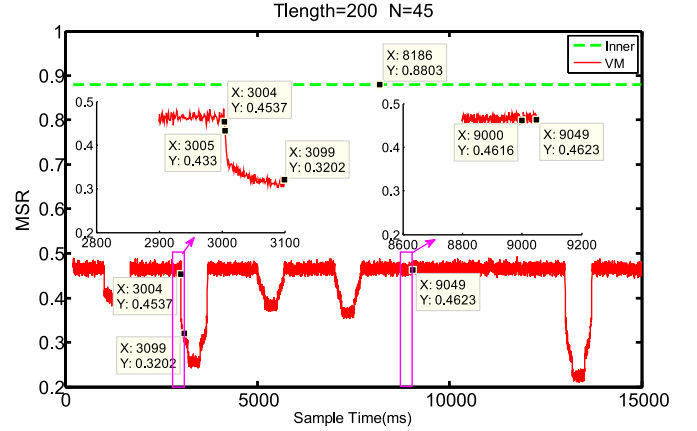


Fig. 11. MSR series for failure events.

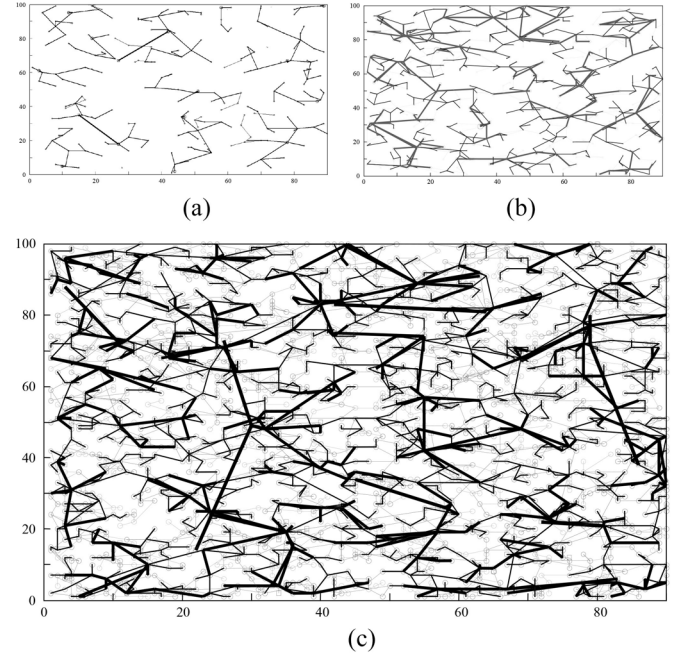


Fig. 12. Simulation of network structures. The above two are G1—small-scale isolated grids, and G2—large-scale interconnected power grids; and the below one is G3—smart grids, which have complex network structures without clear-cut partitioning. (a) G1. (b) G2. (c) G3.

line-to-line short circuit have more influence than the single-phase ones. This case shows that the architecture is also compatible with other fields in power systems.

TABLE III
SERIES OF EVENTS FOR CASE 1

t	[001:550]	[551:1100]	[1101:1650]
$P_{\text{Bus-59}}$	0	200	0
t	[1651:2200]	[2201:2500]	
$P_{\text{Bus-59}}$	1500	0	

* t : (s), $P_{\text{Bus-59}}$: (MW)

TABLE IV
SERIES OF EVENTS FOR CASE 2

t	[001:300]	[301:600]	[601:900]
$P_{\text{Bus-59}}$	0	200	250
t	[901:1200]	[1201:1500]	[1501:1800]
$P_{\text{Bus-59}}$	800	850	2000
t	[1801:2100]	[2101:2400]	[2401:2500]
$P_{\text{Bus-59}}$	2540	2555	3500

* t : (s), $P_{\text{Bus-59}}$: (MW)

TABLE V
SERIES OF EVENTS FOR CASE 4

t	[001:300]	[301:700]	[701:1000]
$P_{\text{Bus-117}}$	0	150	$t/2 - 200$

* t : (s), $P_{\text{Bus-117}}$: (MW)

TABLE VI
SERIES OF EVENTS FOR CASE 5

t	[1000:1500]	[3000:3500]	[5000:5500]
EVENT	$A \rightarrow G$	$AB \rightarrow G$	$B \rightarrow G$
t	[7000:7500]	[9000:11000]	[13000:13500]
EVENT	$C \rightarrow G$	BCS OPEN	$ABC \rightarrow G$

* t : (ms)

V. CONCLUSION

This paper aims to apply big data technology into smart grids. It proposes an architecture with two independent procedures, as a data-driven solution, to conduct anomaly detections. In addition, moving split-window technology was introduced for real-time analysis, and a new statistic MSR was proposed to indicate the data correlations, as well as to clarify the parameter interchanged among the utilities.

The algorithm of this architecture is based on RMT; it is a fixed objective procedure, which is easy in logic and fast in speed. The nonasymptotic framework of RMT enables us to conduct high-dimensional analysis for real systems, even with relatively moderate datasets. It also provides us a natural way to decouple the interconnected systems from data perspective. The group-work model of utilities in the systems, meanwhile, makes some data-driven functions possible, such as distributed calculation and comparative analysis.

Big data technology does not conflict with classical analysis or pretreatment. Instead, combination between block calculation and traditional zone-dividing structure realizes comparative analysis—it is sensitive way to detect the event and locate the source in the grid network, even with imperceptible different measured/simulated data. Besides, the sparse representation of a random vector is carried out with the random matrix theory [43], [44]. An incomplete matrix data representation of data may be considered: 1) random band matrices [45]; and 2) low rank matrix recovery [11]. All these

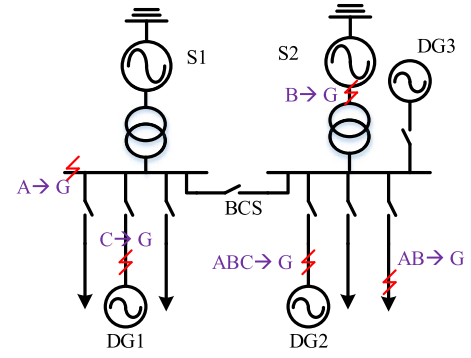


Fig. 13. Fault model for case 5.

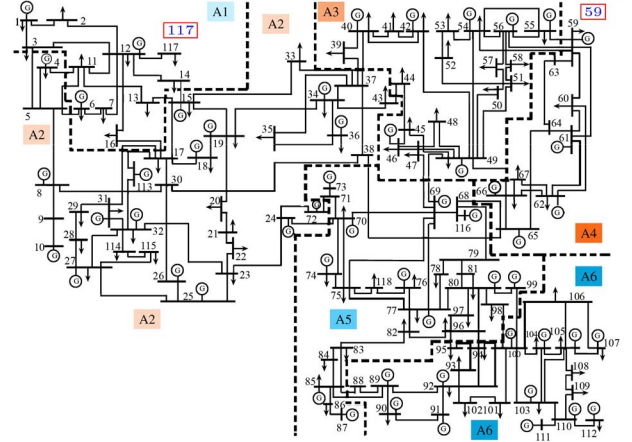


Fig. 14. Partitioning network for IEEE 118-bus system. There are six partitions, i.e., A1–A6.

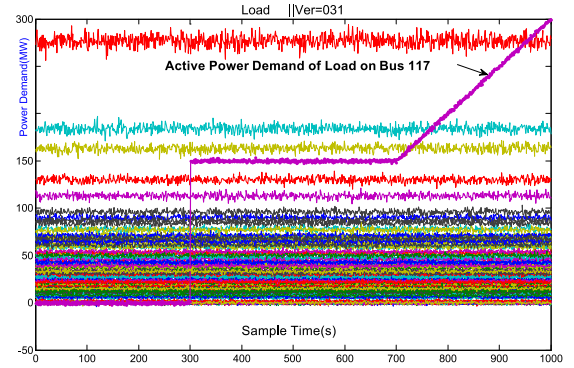
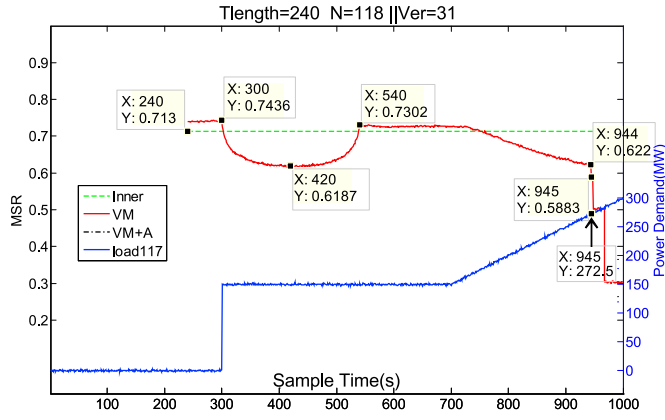
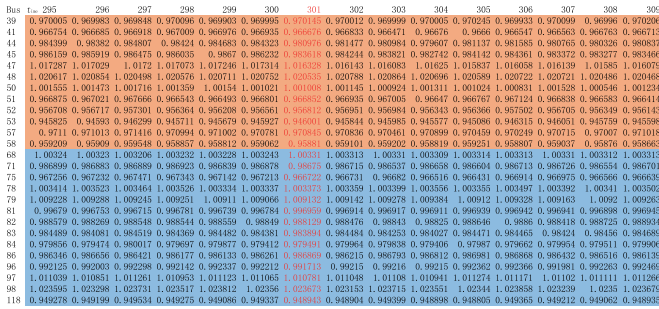


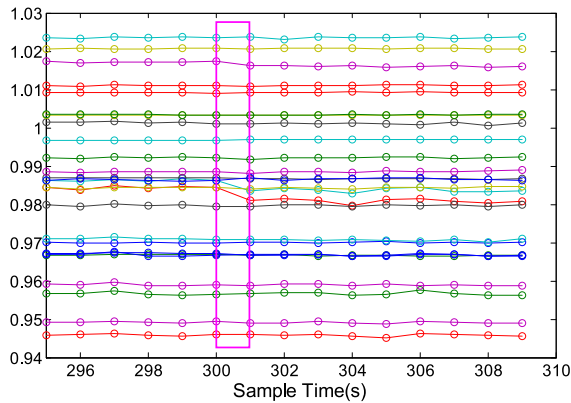
Fig. 15. Grid load change for case 4: $\gamma_{\text{Acc}} = 1$, $\gamma_{\text{Mul}} = 0.02$.

topics are considered through the unified framework of random matrix theory [11].

It is a long way and big topic to apply big data in power systems, especially for a specific field in real systems. Some designed methods are rough in this paper, e.g., to estimate critical power point in case 3, to detect fault in power systems in case 5, as well as some descriptions, e.g., group-work mode mentioned in Section III, and new method for vulnerable node identification mentioned in case 2. But these special methods/applications all have one thing in common: they are all based on the proposed architecture, and driven only by data of voltage amplitude, which are the most basic in the grids. With work ongoing, including:

Fig. 16. Global MSR series ($P_{\max, \text{Bus-117}} = 272.5$ MW).

(a)



(b)

Fig. 17. Raw data \hat{V} and the visualization around $t_s = 300$ s. (a) Raw data \hat{V} (orange for A3, and blue for A5). (b) Visualization of the above \hat{V} (in low-dimension).

1) designing 3-D power-map by combining high-dimensional analysis and visualization [46]; and 2) conducting event/fault detection for real systems [47], [48], we can say with confidence that the designed architecture is practical for real world; and the keys are the RMT with nonasymptotic framework, high-dimensional algorithm, block calculation, and augmented matrix. This paper, as an initial one, just presents the universal architecture; for special fields, it aims to raise many open questions than actually answers ones. One wonders if this new direction will be far-reaching in years to come toward the age of big data.

APPENDIX A

GRID NETWORK STRUCTURES OF G1, G2, AND G3

See Fig. 12.

APPENDIX B

EVENT SERIES FOR FIVE CASE STUDIES

See Tables III–VI and Fig. 13.

APPENDIX C

See Figs. 14–17.

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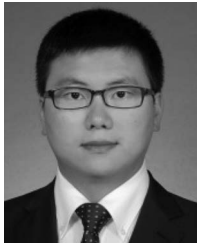
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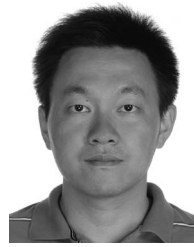
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