

# Using OpenModelica for Bleeding-Edge System Simulations of Large Energy System *Models*

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Francesco Casella  
([francesco.casella@polimi.it](mailto:francesco.casella@polimi.it))

**OpenModelica**

# Outline

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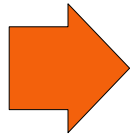
- Motivation
- The Delta Robot and Stewart Platform
- An Advanced Fuel Cell Model
- The SOS-CO<sub>2</sub> Oxy-Combustion Power Plant Model
- Generation and Transmission System Modelling with PowerGrids 2.0.0
- Conclusions & Outlook

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# ***Motivation***

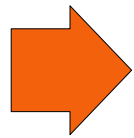
# ***Why Using OpenModelica for Serious Modelling Work?***

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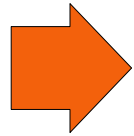


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## ***Why Using OpenModelica for Serious Modelling Work?***



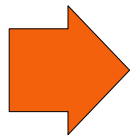
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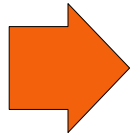
*You can release your work fully open-source*

- *Scientific publications*
- *Increased credibility*
- *Collaborative development with OS model*

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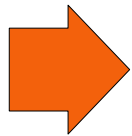


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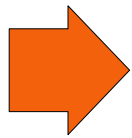
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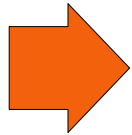


*You can look under the hood, and change stuff*

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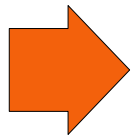


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*You can look under the hood, and change stuff*



*You can try innovative approaches*



***DOES IT WORK?***

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# ***Case Study #1:***

# ***The Delta Robot & The Stewart Platform***

## Object-Oriented Models of Parallel Manipulators

Paolo Campanini<sup>1</sup> Gianni Ferretti<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>MUSP Lab, Strada Torre della Razza, 29122 Piacenza, Italy, [paolo.campanini@musp.it](mailto:paolo.campanini@musp.it)

<sup>2</sup>Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy, [gianni.ferretti@polimi.it](mailto:gianni.ferretti@polimi.it)

### Abstract

In this paper, the development of models of parallel manipulator is described, based on components of the Modelica standard library only. At first, the dynamic model of a Delta robot is illustrated and validated with respect to experimental data. Then, the model of a Stewart platform is discussed. Thanks to the symbolic manipulation capabilities of the OpenModelica compiler, the model is then used to automatically generate the inverse dynamics, which is in general is a quite difficult task.

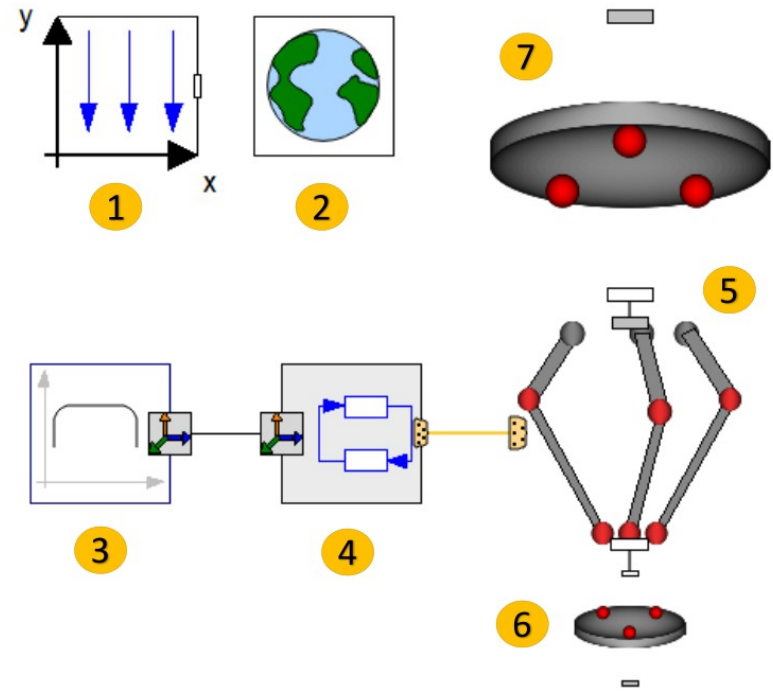
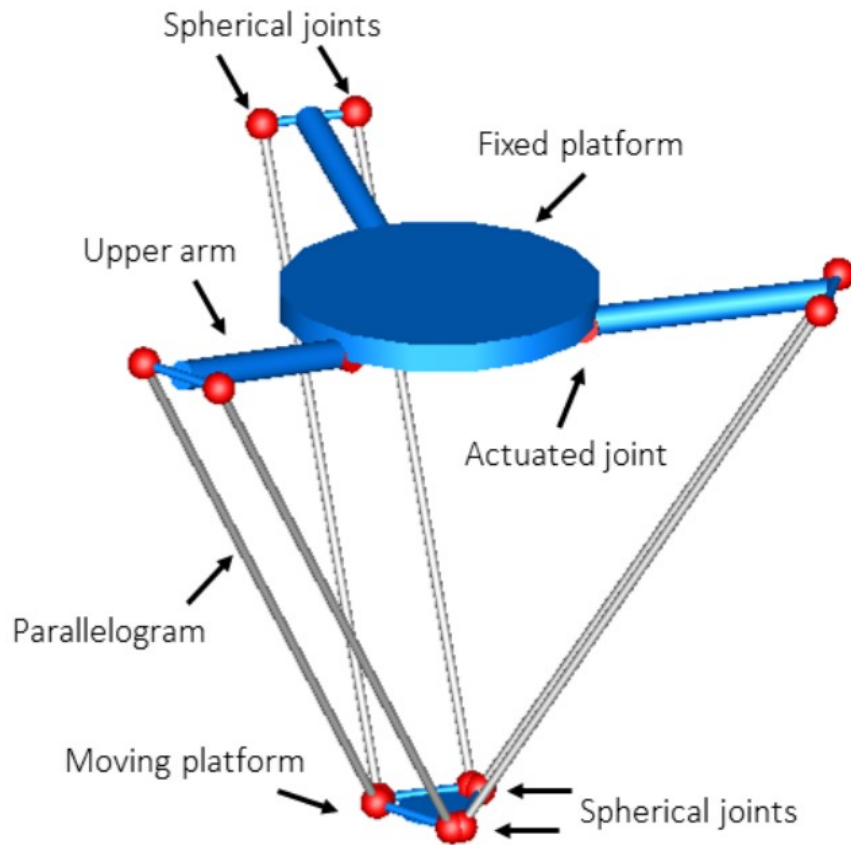
*Keywords: Object-oriented modelling; simulation; parallel manipulators; Modelica; DAE systems; closed chains*

# The Delta Robot

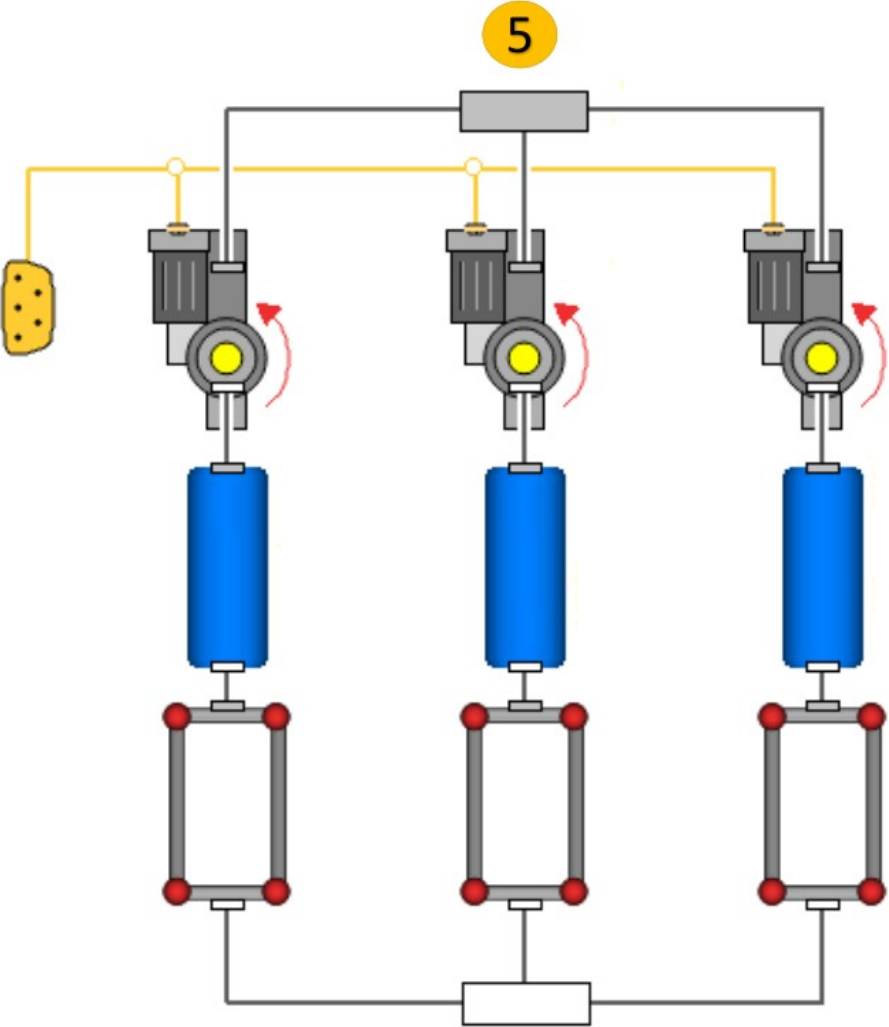
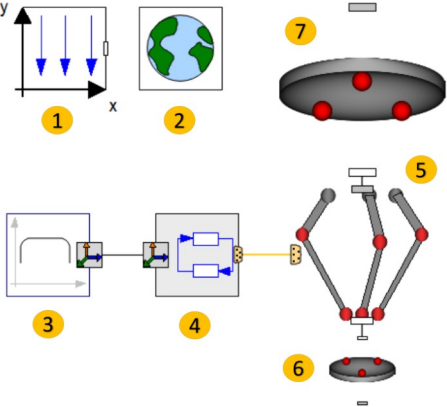
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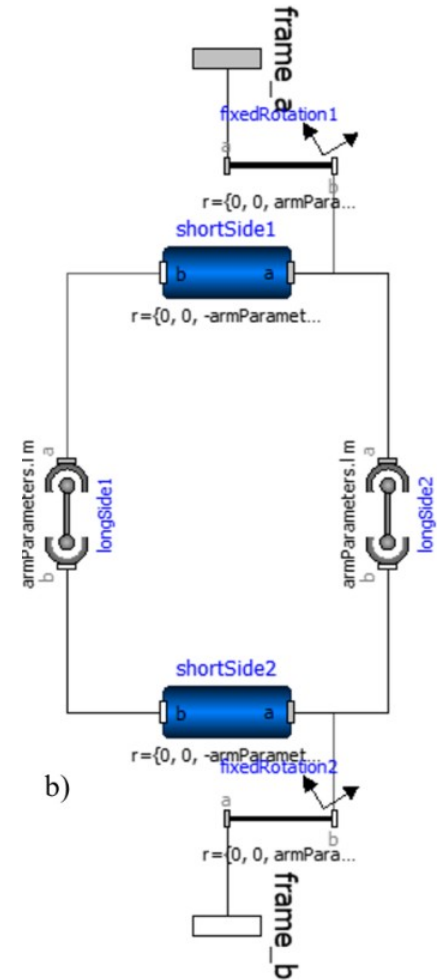
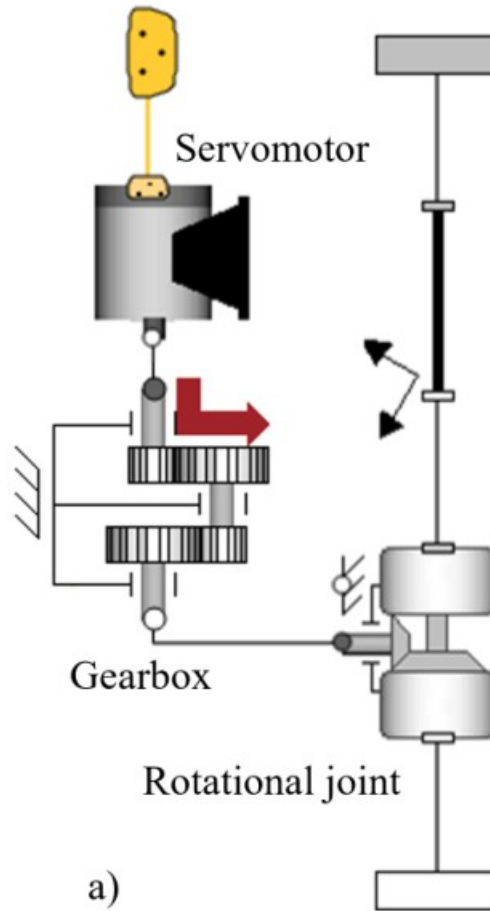
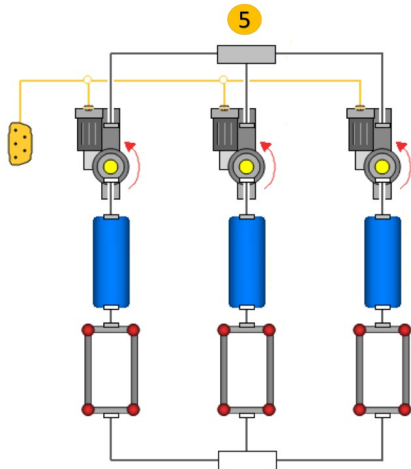
# The Model - I



# The Model - II



# The Model - III



# Open Source Code on GitHub

looms-polimi / Parallel\_manipulators

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights

master Parallel\_manipulators / Modelica\_models / Go to file Add file

casella Updated version number da73b5d · 10 months ago History

Name	Last commit message	Last commit date
..		
DeltaRobot	Updated version number	10 months ago
StewartPlatform	Updated version number	10 months ago



# Highlights

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- Mostly based on open-source Modelica MultiBody library
- Closed kinematic chains galore (→ not trivial)

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- Tested daily in the OSMC CI

# Performance

## DeltaRobot test using OpenModelica

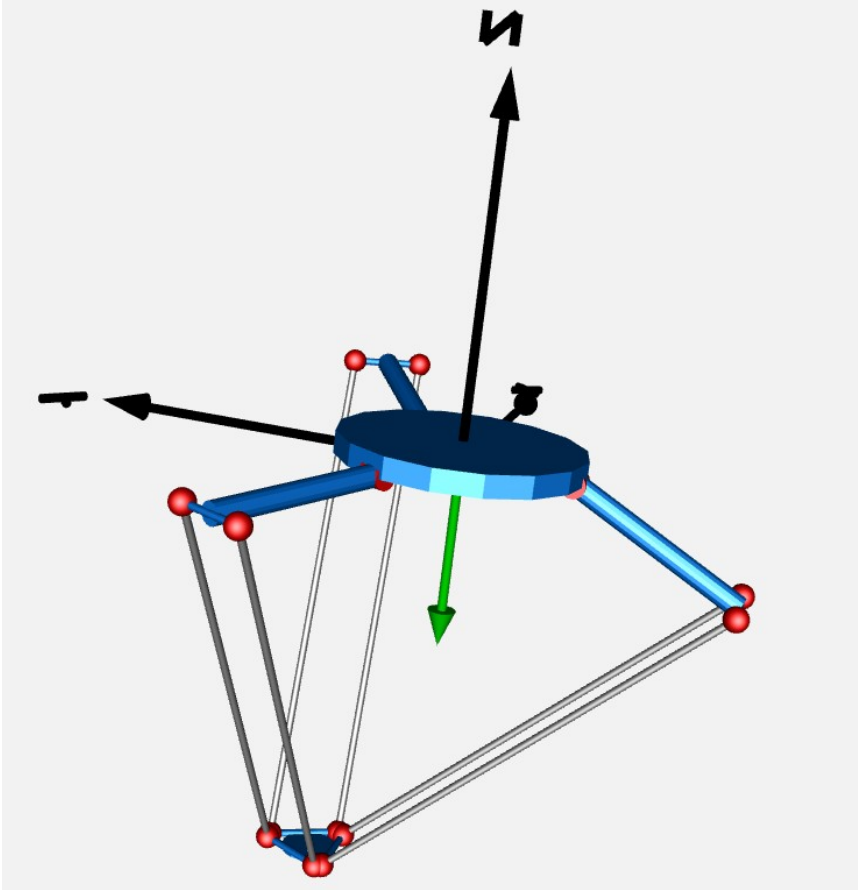
Total Frontend Backend SimCode Templates Compilation Simulation Verification

9 9 9 9 9 9 0

Model	Verified	Simulate	Total buildModel	Parsing	Frontend	Backend	SimCode	Templates	Compile
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Scenarios.DeltaRobot_IdealActPos_PositionValidation (sim)</a>	1.65	59.11	1.80	1.22	31.16	2.22	3.36	21.14	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Scenarios.DeltaRobot_IdealActPos_Scenario1 (sim)</a>	0.16	40.02	1.79	1.22	22.80	1.44	3.47	11.08	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Scenarios.DeltaRobot_IdealActVel_Scenario1 (sim)</a>	0.20	38.99	1.76	1.18	23.42	0.96	3.15	10.29	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Scenarios.DeltaRobot_IdealActVel_VelocityValidation (sim)</a>	1.97	34.26	1.83	1.14	19.78	1.30	2.25	9.79	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Tests.IdealActuatorPos_test (sim)</a>	0.03	3.17	1.86	0.33	0.17	0.04	0.25	2.39	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Tests.IdealActuatorVel_test (sim)</a>	0.03	2.88	1.79	0.33	0.15	0.02	0.05	2.33	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Tests.ServoMotor_test (sim)</a>	0.01	2.01	1.74	0.11	0.01	0.00	0.18	1.71	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Tests.Switch2_test (sim)</a>	0.02	2.46	1.74	0.11	0.22	0.01	0.04	2.08	
<a href="#">DeltaRobot.Tests.Trajectory_test (sim)</a>	0.02	3.52	1.72	0.31	0.30	0.07	0.05	2.80	

# Demo

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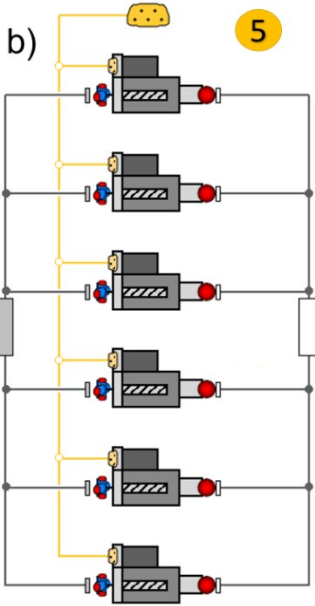
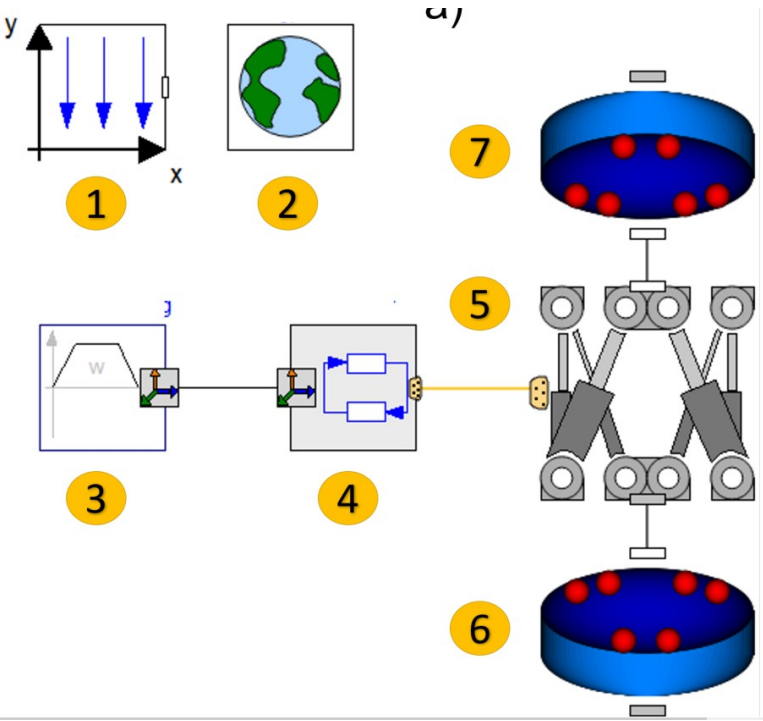
# The Stewart Platform

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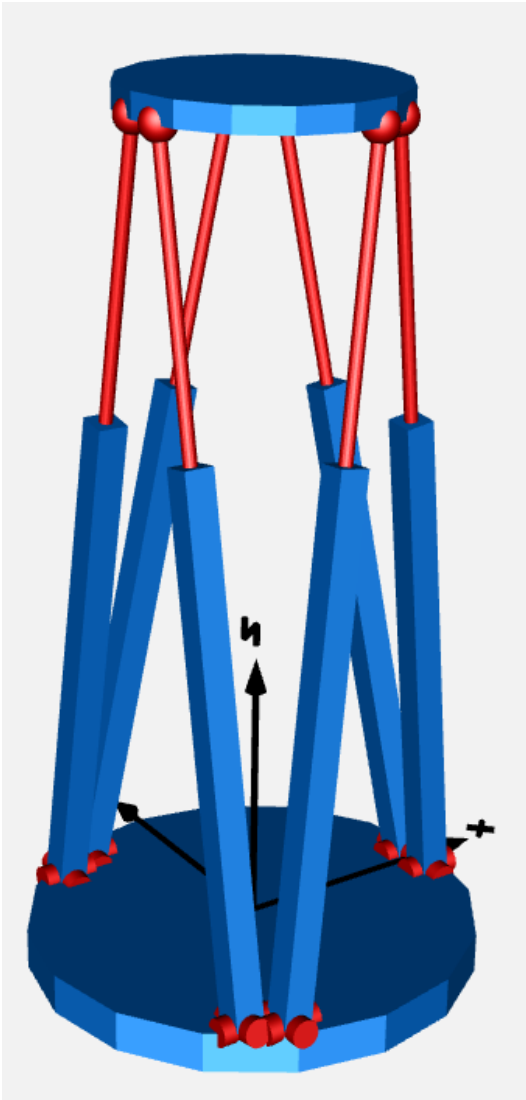
# The Stewart Platform



9389 equations  
12 state variables

# Demo

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# Outlook

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- Open-Source OS (if you use Linux)
- Open-Source Modelica Tool: OMC/OMEdit
- Open-Source Base Library: MSL
- Open-Source Model Framework

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- Open-Source Base Library: MSL
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***Imagine the potential...***

---

# ***Case Study #2:***

## ***A Fuel-Cell Model for Oxy-Combustion Cycles***

2023 IEEE Conference on Control Technology and Applications (CCTA)  
August 16-18, 2023. Bridgetown, Barbados

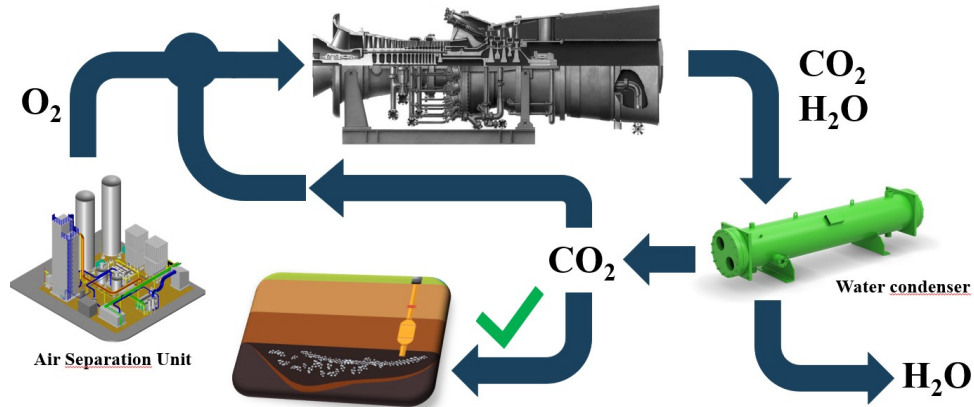
## A Control-Oriented Modelica 1-D Model of a Planar Solid-Oxide Fuel Cell for Oxy-Combustion Cycles

Matteo Luigi De Pascali<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Donazzi<sup>2</sup>, Emanuele Martelli<sup>2</sup> and Francesco Casella<sup>1</sup>

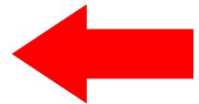
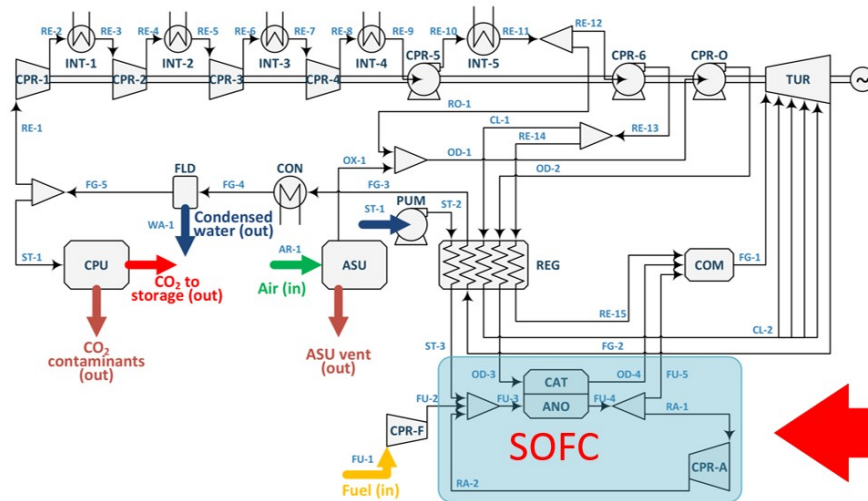
***Abstract***—The authors propose an object-oriented Modelica 1-D SOFC model following the indications of a previous work. The model is intended to be used in the study of the SOS-CO<sub>2</sub> cycle for control studies purposes. The SOFC working conditions are challenging and require adapting the model to handle properly reformat mixtures at the anode and carbon dioxide-rich mixtures at the cathode while keeping its formulation as simple as possible. This paper reviews the previous contribution, adapts the model for the new working conditions, provides insights related to the Modelica implementation, reproduces the tests presented in literature and extends the validation through a comparison with experimental data. Finally the model is tested under SOS-CO<sub>2</sub> cycle operative conditions.

# Context

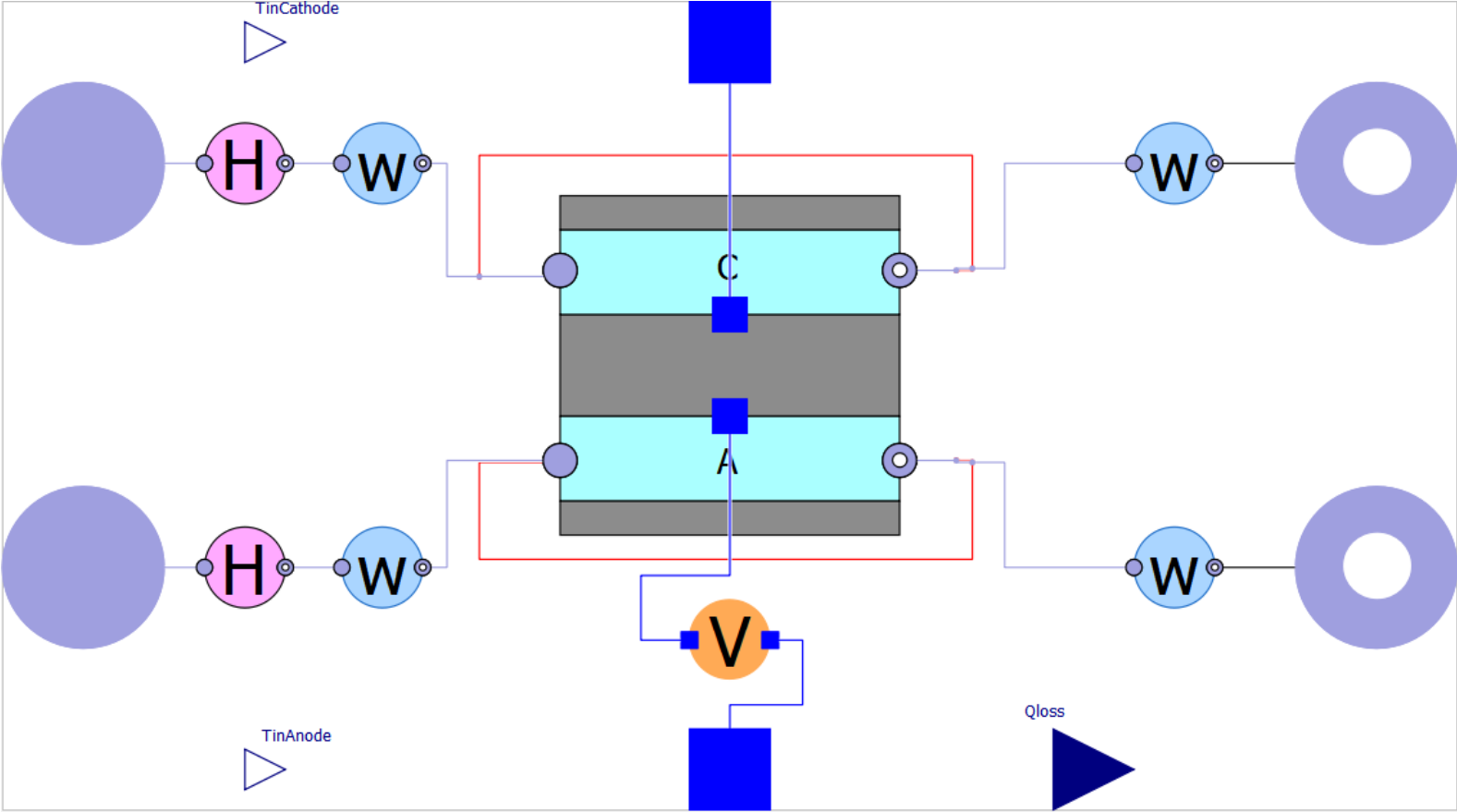
## Oxy-Combustion Thermal Power Plant Concept



## The SOS-CO<sub>2</sub> power plant

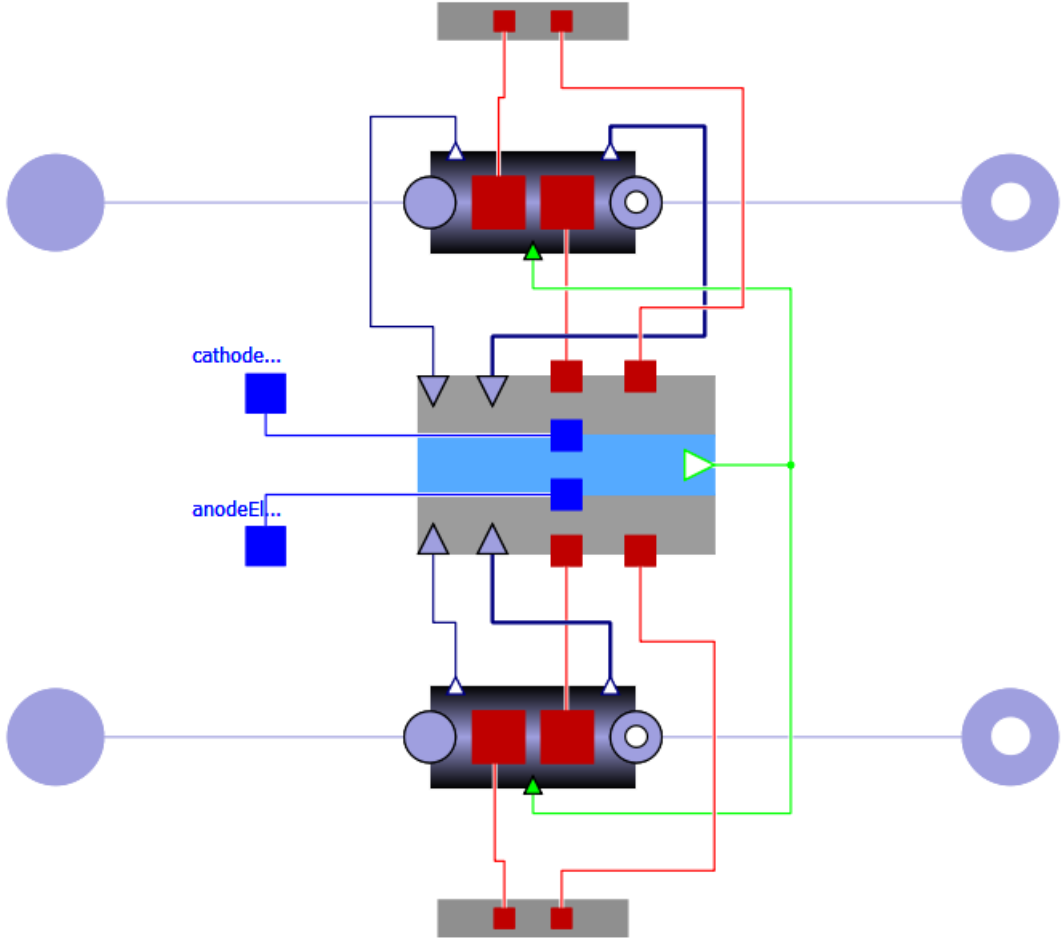


# The Stack Model

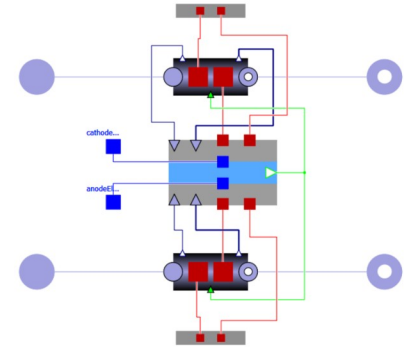
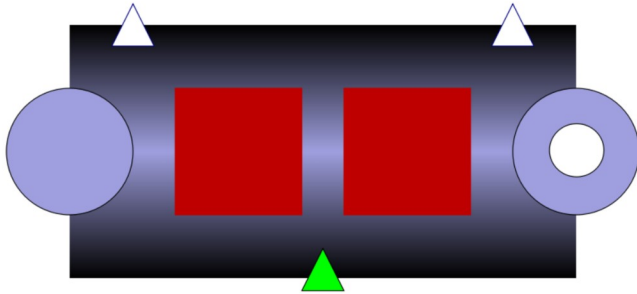




# The Single Module Model



# The 1D Channel Model

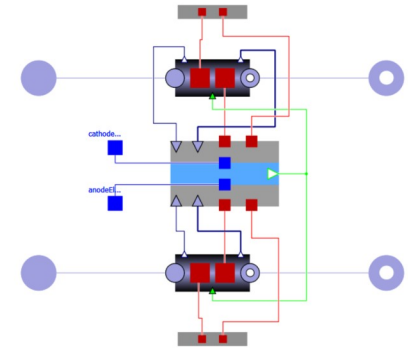
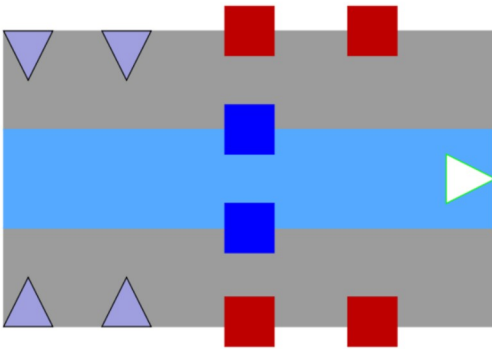


$$\frac{dM}{dt} = -V\rho^2 \left( \frac{\partial v_o}{\partial T_o} \frac{dT_o}{dt} + \frac{\partial v_o}{\partial p_o} \frac{dp_o}{dt} + \frac{\partial v_o}{\partial \bar{X}_o} \frac{d\bar{X}_o}{dt} \right)$$

$$M \frac{dX_{j,o}}{dt} = w_i (X_{j,i} - X_{j,o}) + S \cdot MM_j \sum_{r=1,3} a_{j,r} r_r - X_{j,o} w_{O_2} + w_{j,O_2}$$

$$M \left( \frac{\partial u_o}{\partial T_o} \frac{dT_o}{dt} + \frac{\partial u_o}{\partial p_o} \frac{dp_o}{dt} + \frac{\partial u_o}{\partial \bar{X}_o} \frac{d\bar{X}_o}{dt} \right) = w_i \cdot h_i - w_o \cdot h_o + Q_{PEN} + Q_{Plate}$$

# The Proton Exchange Membrane Model



$$V_{OCP} = -\frac{\Delta g_{0,hor}}{nF} - \frac{RT}{nF} \cdot \ln \left( \frac{p_{H_2O}}{p_{H_2} \cdot \sqrt{\frac{p_{O_2}}{p_{ref}}}} \right)$$

$$v_{act}^{el} = \frac{RT_{PEN}}{\beta nF} \ln \left( \frac{j}{2j_0^{el}} + \sqrt{\left( \frac{j}{2j_0^{el}} \right)^2 + 1} \right)$$

$$j_0^{el} = \frac{RT_{PEN}}{nF} k_{el} \cdot \exp \left( -\frac{E_{el}}{RT_{PEN}} \right)$$

$$r_{sr} = k_{0,sr} \cdot \exp \left( -\frac{E_{a,sr}}{RT} \right) p_{CH_4} p_{H_2O} \left( 1 - \frac{k_{P,sr}}{k_{Eq,sr}} \right)$$

# Highlights

---

- About 10,000 equations
- Strongly nonlinear equations:
  - Chemical equilibria ( $\text{CH}_4 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + 4\text{H}_2$ ),
  - Arrhenius-type exponential laws

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  - Prescribed current
  - Simplified linear polarization curve
  - Fixed temperature in Arrhenius terms

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- Model initially developed with Dymola
- We wanted to make it fully open-source for publication → run in OMC

# Adapting the Model to OMC

---

- Steady-state initialization succeeded in Dymola but not in OMC
- Two issues:
  - Insufficient symbolic manipulation for the required  $\lambda = 0$  simplifications  $\rightarrow$  sequential computations
  - Bad tearing



# Insufficient Symbolic Manipulation

---

```
dM_dt = wIn - wOut + wO2 "Overall mass balance";
```

```
dM_dt = -V*rhoOut^2*(fluidOut.dv_dT*der(Tout) +  
    fluidOut.dv_dp*der(pOut) +  
    fluidOut.dv_dX*der(Xout));
```

```
initial equation  
  if initType == InitType.steadyState then  
    if initialEquation then  
      der(pOut) = 0;  
    end if;  
    der(Tout) = 0;  
    der(Xout) = zeros(nX);
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dM_dt = wIn - wOut + wO2 "Overall mass balance";

if isOMC then
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---

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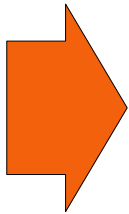
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## *The Tearing Dilemma:*

*Rely on fantastic tearing algorithms*

*vs.*

*Rely on the modeller's experience?*



# Outlook

---

- After the fixes, the model runs successfully
  - Build time: about 1 min
  - Simulation time: about 10 s



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*Adequate performance*

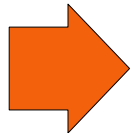
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*Adequate performance*

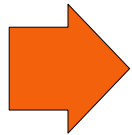


*Full publication possible (incl. source code)*

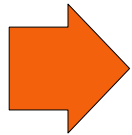
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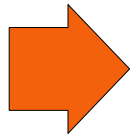
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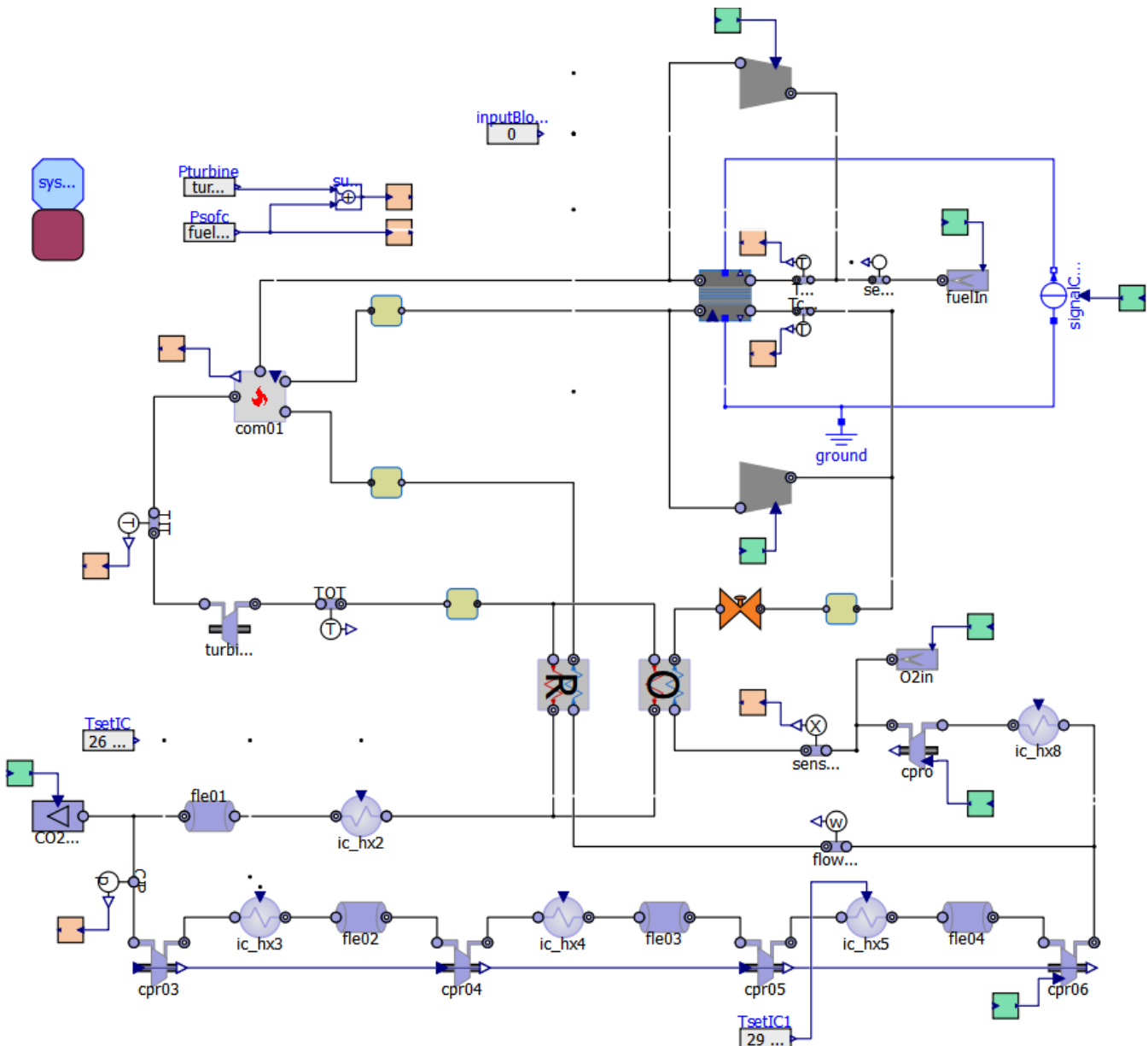
*Fully open-source (incl. Modelica tool)*

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# ***Case Study #3:***

## ***The SOS-CO2 Power Plant***

# The SOS-CO2 Plant Model



# Building the Model

---

- Dymola requires 2-3 minutes to build the model on a fast i9 laptop

# Building the Model

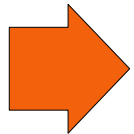
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  - 8 min tearing
  - 2 min matching & sorting
  - 2 min removing simple equations

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  - 2 min matching & sorting
  - 2 min removing simple equations



*Usable, but not very practical yet*



*Further optimizations required in the backend  
and code generation phases*



# Initialization

---

- Extensive use of homotopy to make steady-state initialization possible (incl. decouplers at the inlet of each component)

# Initialization

---

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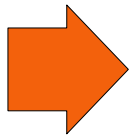
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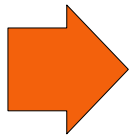


*Numerically challenging problem!*

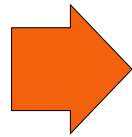
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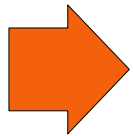


*Dymola: dead end because of IP issues*

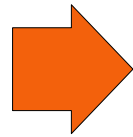
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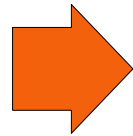
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*OMC: we can still look under the hood*

# Simulation

---

- Dymola simulates the system without fuss



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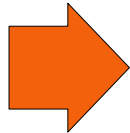
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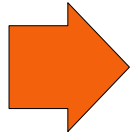
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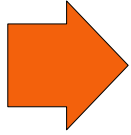
*Further investigation required*



*Most likely a scaling issue*

# Outlook

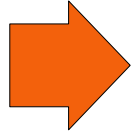
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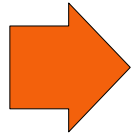
*OMC is (almost) capable of handling  
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*OMC is (almost) capable of handling the most challenging thermal power plant model of my entire career*



*With some further optimization, it could match or even surpass Dymola's performance (e.g. handling backward init to 20% load)*

---

# ***Case Study #4:***

## ***Power System Modelling with PowerGrids 2.0.0***

## Towards Pan-European Power Grid Modelling in Modelica: Design Principles and a Prototype for a Reference Power System Library

Andrea Bartolini<sup>1</sup> Francesco Casella<sup>2</sup> Adrien Guironnet<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria, Politecnico di Milano, Italy,  
[francesco.casella@polimi.it](mailto:francesco.casella@polimi.it)

<sup>3</sup>RTE, France, [adrien.guironnet@rte-france.com](mailto:adrien.guironnet@rte-france.com)

### Abstract

This paper presents the PowerGrids library, which is aimed at the modelling of large-scale power transmission and distribution system. The requirements and design principles of the library are extensively discussed, as well as some key implementation details. The library represents a prototype implementation of the presented requirements and design guidelines, and will form the basis for the future development of an industrial-grade open-source library to be used by European TSOs and DSOs.

*Keywords: Power System Modelling, Power Generation and Transmission, Pan-European Power System*

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  - Significant refactoring of interfaces, based on experience with 1.0.x
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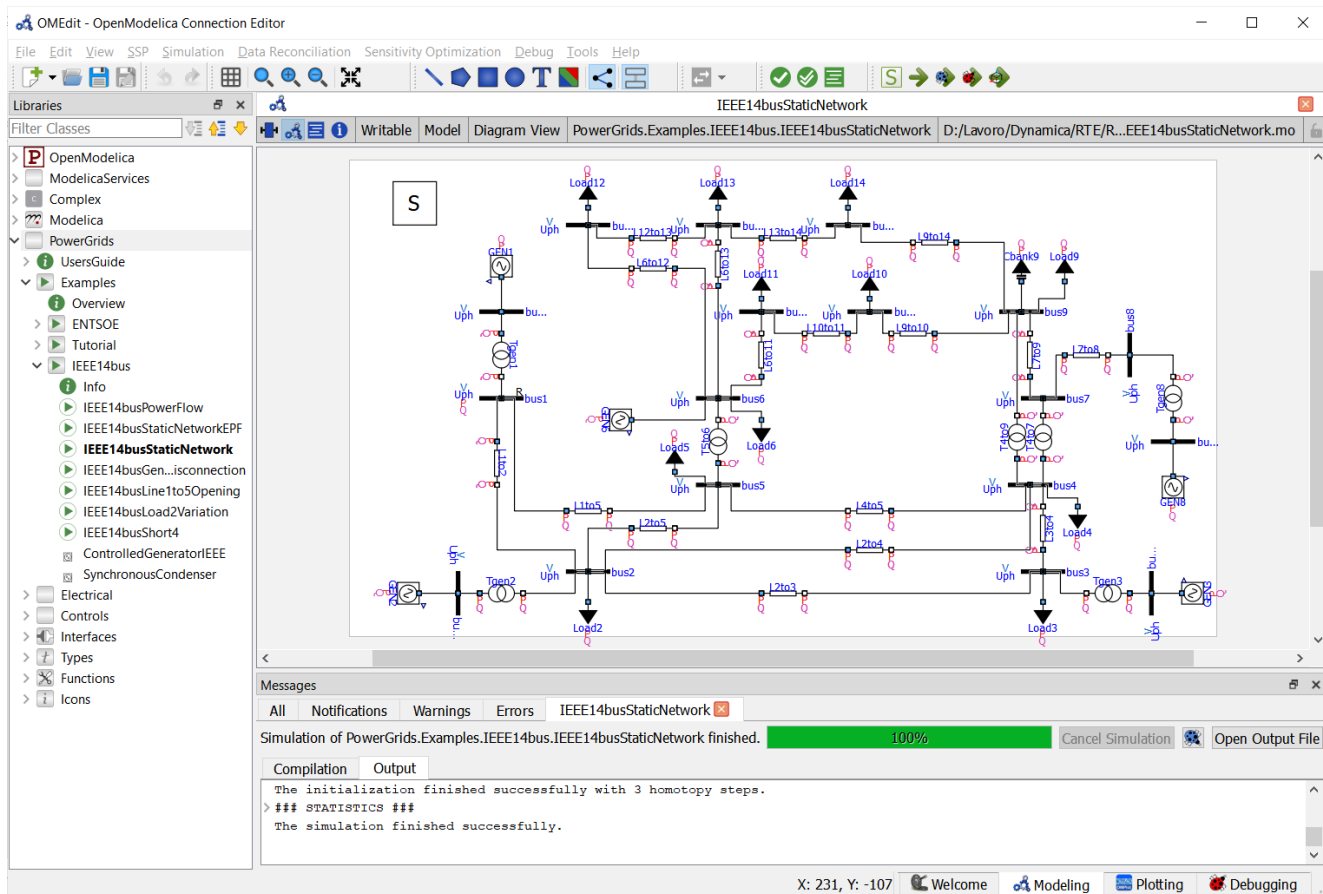
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  - **RTE** for the financial support to the development of OMC
  - Prof. **Massimo Ceraolo** (Univ. Pisa) for the financial support to the development of PowerGrids 2.0.0 and for the (relentless!) end-user feedback

# PowerGrids 2.0.0 + OpenModelica

- A fully open-source integrated environment for power system simulation
  - Usable for teaching and research
  - Integrated power flow computation for initialization
  - GUI for building and editing models and for simulation results display
  - State of the art numerical solvers (IDA + Kinsol + KLU)





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---

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- Simulation runtime: done, using IDA+Kinsol+KLU



# Current Test Results with New Backend

Model	Verified	Simulate	Total build	Model Parsing	Frontend	Backend	SimCode	Templates	Compile
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestDeadBand (sim)</a>	0.00 (1/8 failed)	0.01	1.61	1.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.59
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestDerivativeLag (sim)</a>	0.01 (1/35 failed)	0.01	1.59	1.70	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	1.55
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestDiscontinuousDeadBand (sim)</a>	0.00 (1/8 failed)	0.01	1.64	1.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.62
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestFirstOrderWithNonWindupLimiter</a>		0.00	0.16	1.73	0.01	0.13	0.00	0.02	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestIntegratorWithNonWindupLimiter</a>		0.00	0.04	1.68	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestLeadLag (sim)</a>	0.01 (1/38 failed)	0.01	1.64	1.67	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	1.60
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestLeadLagWithNonWindupLimiter</a>		0.00	0.16	1.70	0.01	0.13	0.00	0.02	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestLeadMOrderLag (sim)</a>	1.03 (301/1346 failed)	0.18	2.65	1.67	0.01	0.18	0.02	0.05	2.39
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestLimiterWithLag</a>		0.00	0.03	1.64	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestPIWithNonWindupLimiter</a>		0.00	0.03	1.68	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Controls.Test.TestRampTrackingFilter</a>		0.00	0.00	1.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.LoadImpedancePQ (sim)</a>	0.03 (228 verified)	0.08	2.47	1.52	0.03	0.17	0.01	0.03	2.23
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.OneBusImpedanceOneLoad (sim)</a>	0.00 (82 verified)	0.02	2.04	1.58	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.14	1.86
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.OneBusImpedanceOneVariableLoad (sim)</a>	0.02 (160 verified)	0.05	2.13	1.58	0.02	0.15	0.01	0.02	1.94
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.OneBusImpedanceVariableVoltageOneLoad (sim)</a>	0.01 (89 verified)	0.02	1.94	1.61	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.14	1.76
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.OneBusOneLoad (sim)</a>	0.00 (82 verified)	0.02	2.09	1.61	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.15	1.90
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.OneBusTransmissionLineOneLoad (sim)</a>	0.00 (138 verified)	0.05	2.21	1.60	0.03	0.16	0.01	0.02	1.99
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.OneBusTransmissionLineShuntOneLoad (sim)</a>	0.00 (138 verified)	0.05	2.23	1.61	0.03	0.16	0.01	0.03	2.02
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4Windings (sim)</a>	0.13 (5/148 failed)	0.29	2.26	1.60	0.03	0.15	0.01	0.02	2.05
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4WindingsAccurate (sim)</a>	0.03 (5/148 failed)	0.10	2.19	1.62	0.02	0.16	0.01	0.02	1.97
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4WindingsExact (sim)</a>	0.05 (15/148 failed)	0.09	2.21	1.58	0.02	0.15	0.01	0.02	2.01
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4WindingsNoLoad (sim)</a>	0.48 (5/148 failed)	1.06	2.17	1.62	0.03	0.15	0.01	0.02	1.97
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4WindingsNoLoadAccurate (sim)</a>	0.47 (5/148 failed)	1.35	2.18	1.62	0.02	0.14	0.01	0.02	1.99
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4WindingsNoLoadExact (sim)</a>	0.48 (5/148 failed)	1.38	2.21	1.60	0.02	0.14	0.01	0.02	2.02
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.SynchronousMachine4WindingsPowerSwing</a>		0.00	2.16	1.53	0.03	0.15	0.01	0.02	1.94
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.TestExciterRectifierRegulationCharacteristicIEEE (sim)</a>		0.01	1.74	1.57	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.71
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.TestExciterVoltageTransducerIEEE</a>		0.00	0.03	1.53	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.TestOneBusTransmissionLineWithBreakersOneLoad</a>		0.00	0.19	1.61	0.03	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.TestTapChangerLogicInterval</a>		0.00	0.03	1.49	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
<a href="#">PowerGrids.Electrical.Test.TestTapChangerLogicMax</a>		0.00	0.03	1.52	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00

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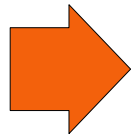
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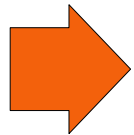


*Goal: run national- and continental-size power system models out of the box in OMC*

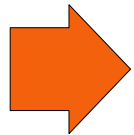
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*Support the challenges posed by the energy transition on the power systems in the EU and beyond*

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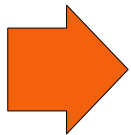
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***Bright future ahead!***

---

**Thank you for your  
kind attention!**