

# Introduction to PowerWorld Simulator: Interface and Common Tools

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## I14: Equivalents



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# Power System Equivalents

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- Background
- Equivalencing in PowerWorld Simulator
- Deleting an External System
- Examples
  - small 7 bus case
  - 10,452 bus MAIN case
- Merging Systems

# Introduction

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- Equivalencing is a general technique for representing one system by a second system, in which the second system approximates the behavior of the original system.
- Practically every system used in power flow studies is an “equivalent.”

# Properties

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- Equivalent systems usually
  - are smaller and less detailed
    - solve quicker
    - require less storage
    - require less up-to-date data
  - contain fictitious elements
    - can make modeling/updating more difficult
  - only approximate the behavior of the original

# Modeling

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- Equivalent systems need NOT correspond exactly to the actual power system
- Elements can be used to examine limits not typically considered in power flow analysis
  - transient stability limits
  - oscillatory stability limits
  - voltage stability limits

# Study vs External Systems

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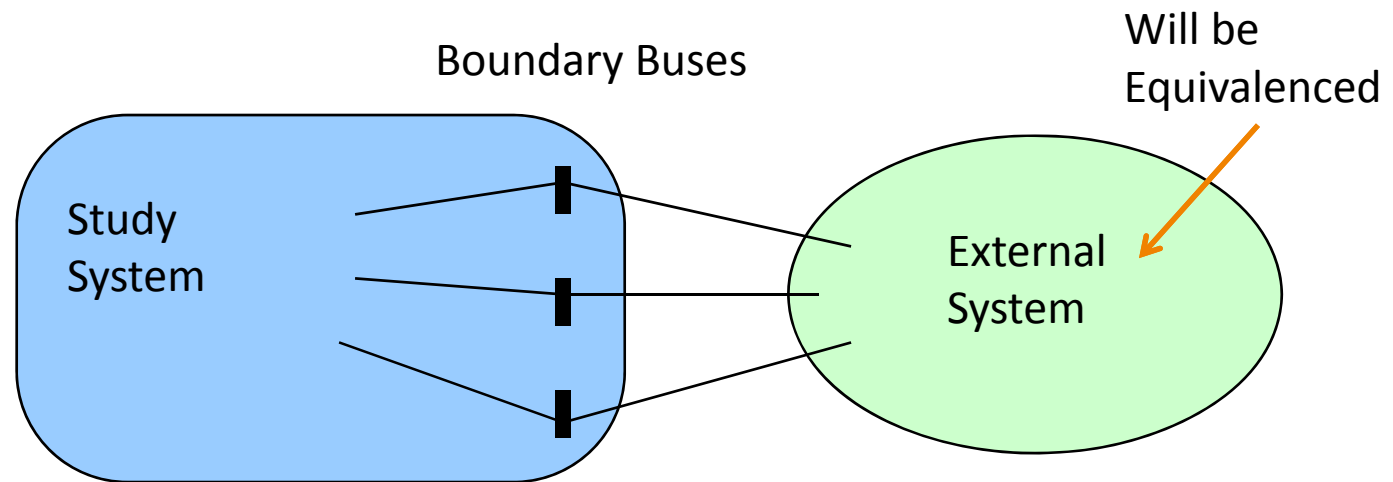


- Typically broken up into two systems
  - study system represented in detail
  - external system represented by an equivalent
- Two systems are joined at boundary buses
- Boundary buses are the buses in the study system that connect to the external system

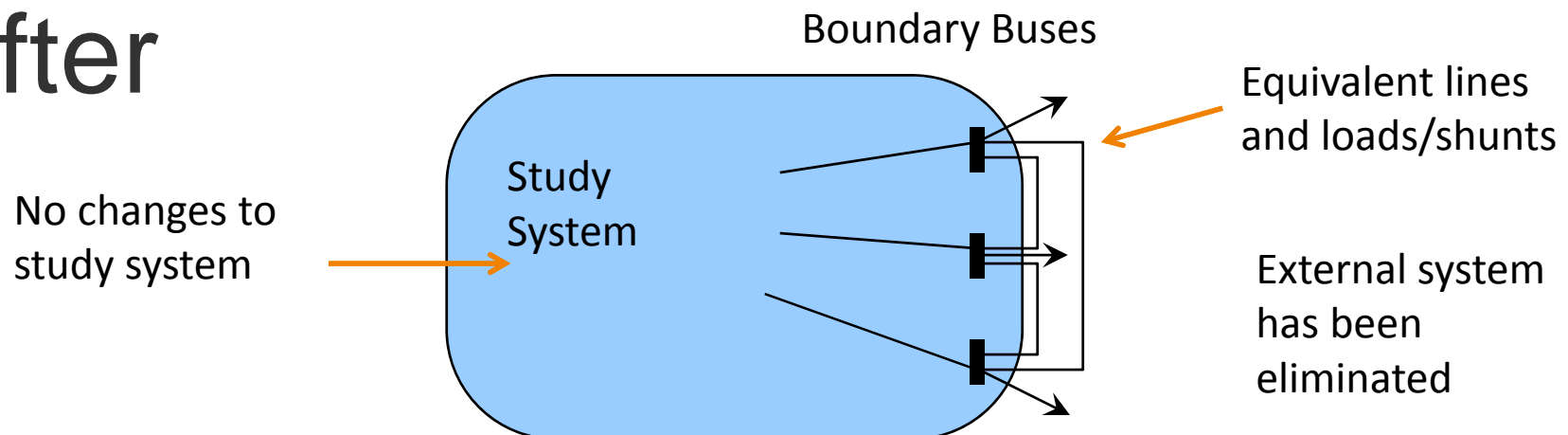
# Equivalencing Process



## Before



## After



# The “Optimal” Equivalent

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- It depends upon the application
- Requires engineering judgment between
  - size
  - accuracy
  - complexity



# Equivalencing in PowerWorld

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- Based on Ward Injection Method
- Generalization of Thevenin Equivalent
  - simple example is representing two parallel resistors by a single equivalent resistor
  - for linear single-port dc subsystem, the subsystem can be represented by a resistor in series with a voltage source
  - multi-port Thevenin equivalent

# Ybus Reduction



- Partition bus admittance matrix (Ybus) into study and external systems

$$\mathbf{I} = \mathbf{Y} \mathbf{V}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_{Study} \\ I_{External} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Y_{S,S} & Y_{S,E} \\ Y_{E,S} & Y_{E,E} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} V_{Study} \\ V_{External} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Ybus Reduction



- Eliminate the external buses

$$I_{Study} = (Y_{S,S} - Y_{S,E} Y_{E,E}^{-1} Y_{E,S}) V_{Study} + Y_{S,E} Y_{E,E}^{-1} I_{External}$$

Ybus for the  
study system

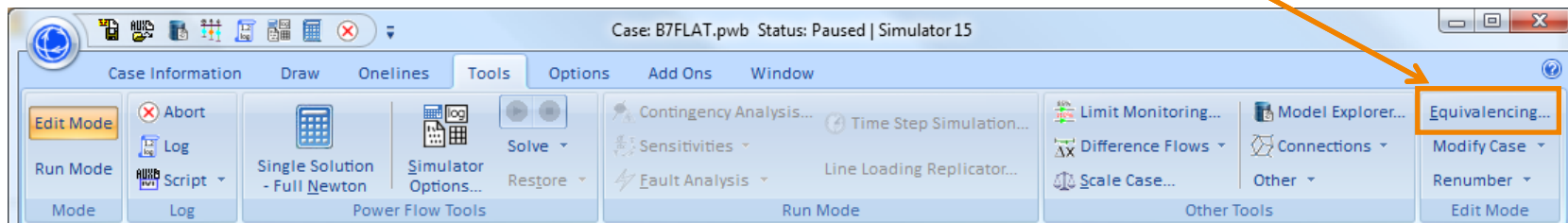
Results in new equivalent  
lines joining the boundary  
buses and shunts at the  
boundary buses

*Equivalent*  
current at  
boundary  
buses

# Equivalents Display



- Equivalencing in Simulator is done in the Edit Mode using the Power System Equivalent Display.
- To view select (in Edit Mode):
  - **Tools** ribbon tab → **Equivalencing**



# Equivalents Display

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- This display is used to perform 4 tasks on 2 tabs
- Select the Buses Tab
  - partition system into the study and external systems (always must be done)
- Create The Equivalent Tab
  - create an equivalent (optional)
  - save the external system in a file (optional)
  - delete the external system, without creating an equivalent (optional)

# Bus Selection



First partition  
system into  
the study  
subsystem  
and the  
external  
subsystem

**Power System Equivalents**

Select The Buses | Create The Equivalent

Note: This form is for choosing BUSES. The options regarding Areas and Zones are included to aid the task of selecting or unselecting blocks of buses.

Make-up of the study and external systems

Buses	Areas	Zones
1	13	PEACHBTM
2	15	WHITPAIN
3	19	BURCHES
4	24	LIMERICK
5	30	CONE G1
6	31	CONE G2
7	32	KEYS G1
8	33	KEYS G2
9	34	PCHBTM 2
10	35	PCHBTM 3
11	36	SALEM G1
12	37	SALEM G2
13	38	SUSQ 2
14	39	HOPE CG1
15	40	C CLF1
16	41	C CLF2
17	42	LIMERCK2
18	249	SENECA#1

Select what to add to the study and external systems

External

Areas  Add

Zones  Add

Buses  Add

Include how many tiers of neighbors?

Set all as external

Set Branch Terminals External ...

Set Branch Terminals Study...

Select buses using a network cut

Study

Areas  Add

Zones  Add

Buses  Add

☒ Filter by KV:

Max

Min

Save buses to file

Load buses from file

Switch to the next page to create equivalents

Close Help

Can set buses,  
areas or zones  
as part of the  
external or  
study  
subsystem

Allows saving and loading bus numbers  
of external system to a text file

# Partitioning the System

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- Use Buses, Areas, and Zones tabs to change external/study status of buses or all the buses in an area.
- Use Add to Study System or External System to add ranges of buses/areas/zones to the appropriate system
- Include how many tiers of neighbors?
  - When a bus is selected to add to either the external or study system, this value indicates how many tiers of neighbors to include in the selection
- Filter by kV, Max, Min
  - If Filter by kV option is selected, only those buses selected to add having a nominal voltage between the specified Min and Max will be selected

# Partitioning the System

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- Set external or study buses by filtering branches and including the terminal buses of branches meeting the filter
- Select buses using a network cut
- Save Buses stores list of buses in study system in a file (one bus number per line); Load Buses loads this list.



# Create Equivalent



Builds the equivalent system, removing the external subsystem

Allows saving external subsystem to a file

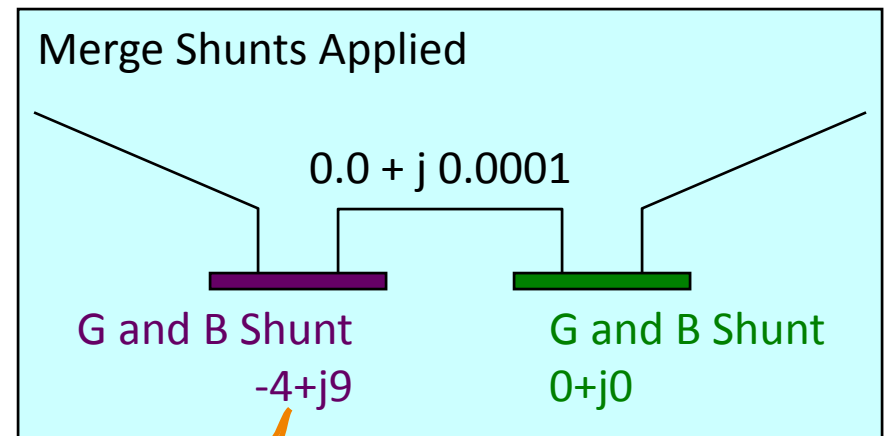
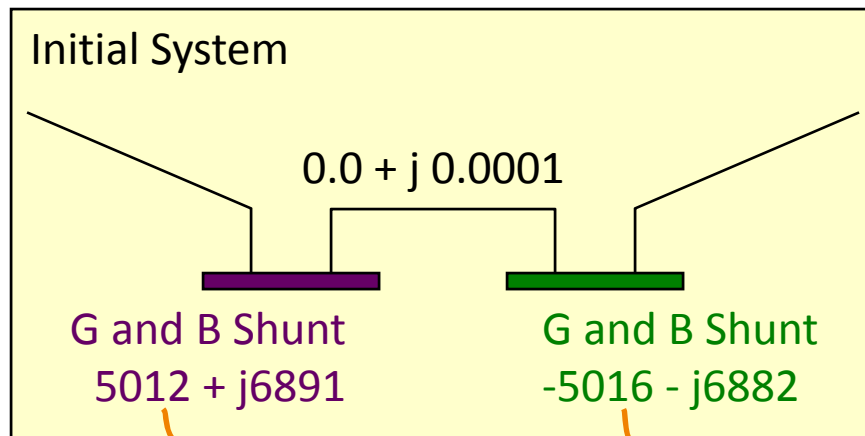
Deletes external subsystem without building an equivalent

Merge Shunts fixes a data error seen in some models

# Merge Bus Shunts Across Zero-Impedance Branches



- Feature was added to help fix some problem cases PowerWorld has seen from clients
  - Very large Bus Shunt values were showing up across very low impedance branches
  - They essentially cancel each other out though so it seems to be a data error
  - Merge Shunts fixes this data error



# Saving External System



- Either just the external system, or the external system and its tie-lines to study system can be saved in a file.
- When used with **Tools** ribbon tab → **Modify Case** → **Append Case** this allows systems to be merged together.

Save External System in File

☐ Entire External System

☒ Entire External System and Ties

Save External System

# Deleting External System



- Deletes the entire external system from the case, including any tie-lines.
- Again, when used with **Tools** ribbon tab → **Modify Case** → **Append Case** this allows systems to be merged together.
- **Remove External Objects from Onelines** deletes any objects referencing the external system from the open onelines.
- Empty Areas, Zones, and Substations in the external system can be deleted.

Delete External System

☐ Remove External Objects from Onelines

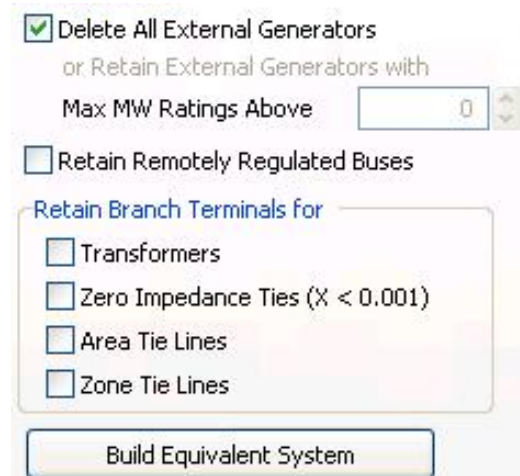
☒ Delete empty Areas/Zones/Substations included in the External System

Delete External System

# Build Equivalent



- Builds the Equivalent. This section has the following options:
  - Explicitly retain generators in the external system with maximum MW ratings above a user-specified threshold.
  - Retain remotely regulated buses makes sure that buses that are being remotely regulated by devices in the study system are always retained.
  - Retain the branch terminals for transformers, zero impedance ties, area tie lines, and/or zone tie lines.



The screenshot shows a software dialog box titled "Build Equivalent System". It contains several options for building the equivalent system:

- ☒ Delete All External Generators or Retain External Generators with Max MW Ratings Above
- ☐ Retain Remotely Regulated Buses
- Retain Branch Terminals for**
  - ☐ Transformers
  - ☐ Zero Impedance Ties ( $X < 0.001$ )
  - ☐ Area Tie Lines
  - ☐ Zone Tie Lines

At the bottom of the dialog is a button labeled "Build Equivalent System".

# Build Equivalent



- **Max Per Unit Impedance for Equivalent Lines** removes equivalent lines with impedances above this threshold value
- Define the **Two Character Circuit ID for New Equivalent Lines**
- **Remove External Objects from Onelines** deletes objects referencing the external system from the open onelines
- Convert equivalent shunts into equivalent constant power loads
- **Remove Radial Systems** results in all radial connections in the network being reduced to the nearest non-radial bus
- Delete areas, zones, and substations that are completely emptied of any power system devices
- Adjust the area unspecified interchange to zero out the ACE to prevent any MW discrepancies from going to the system slack

Max Per Unit Impedance for Equivalent Lines

Two Character Circuit ID for New Equivalent Lines

☐ Remove External Objects from Onelines

☐ Convert Equivalent Shunts to PQ Load

☐ Remove Radial Systems

☒ Delete Empty Areas/Zones/Substations that occur from Equivalencing

☐ Adjust Area Unspecified Interchange to Zero Out ACE

# Seven Bus Example



- Open B7FLAT case and in Edit Mode use Tools ribbon tab → **Equivalencing** to open display.
  - Select buses 5, 6, and 7 as the study system; use Save Buses to File to save numbers to file.

	Number	Name	Which system?	# Neighbors (ignore stations)
1	1	One	External	
2	2	Two	External	
3	3	Three	External	
4	4	Four	External	
5	5	Five	Study	
6	6	Six	Study	
7	7	Seven	Study	

# Delete External System Example



- Go to the Create The Equivalent Tab
  - Check the box **Remove External Objects from Onelines**
  - Click **Delete External System**.
    - Click **Yes** when asked “Are you sure ....?”
  - DO NOT SOLVE the case
  - DO NOT SAVE the case

Power System Equivalents

Select The Buses | Create The Equivalent

Build Equivalent

☒ Delete All External Generators  
or Retain External Generators with  
Max MW Ratings Above

☐ Retain Remotely Regulated Buses

Retain Branch Terminals for

☐ Transformers

☐ Zero Impedance Ties ( $X < 0.001$ )

☐ Area Tie Lines

☐ Zone Tie Lines

Max Per Unit Impedance for Equivalent

Two Character Circuit ID for New Equiv

☐ Remove External Objects from Oneline

☐ Convert Equivalent Shunts to PQ Load

☐ Remove Radial Systems

☒ Delete Empty Areas/Zones/Substations Equivalent

☐ Adjust Area Unspecified Interchange

Build Equivalent System

The following are alternative non-equivalencing tasks that can be applied to the External System:

Save External System in File

☐ Entire External System

☒ Entire External System and Ties

Save External System

Delete External System

☒ Remove External Objects from Onelines

☒ Delete empty Areas/Zones/Substations included in the External System

Delete External System

Save To Aux

Help

Close

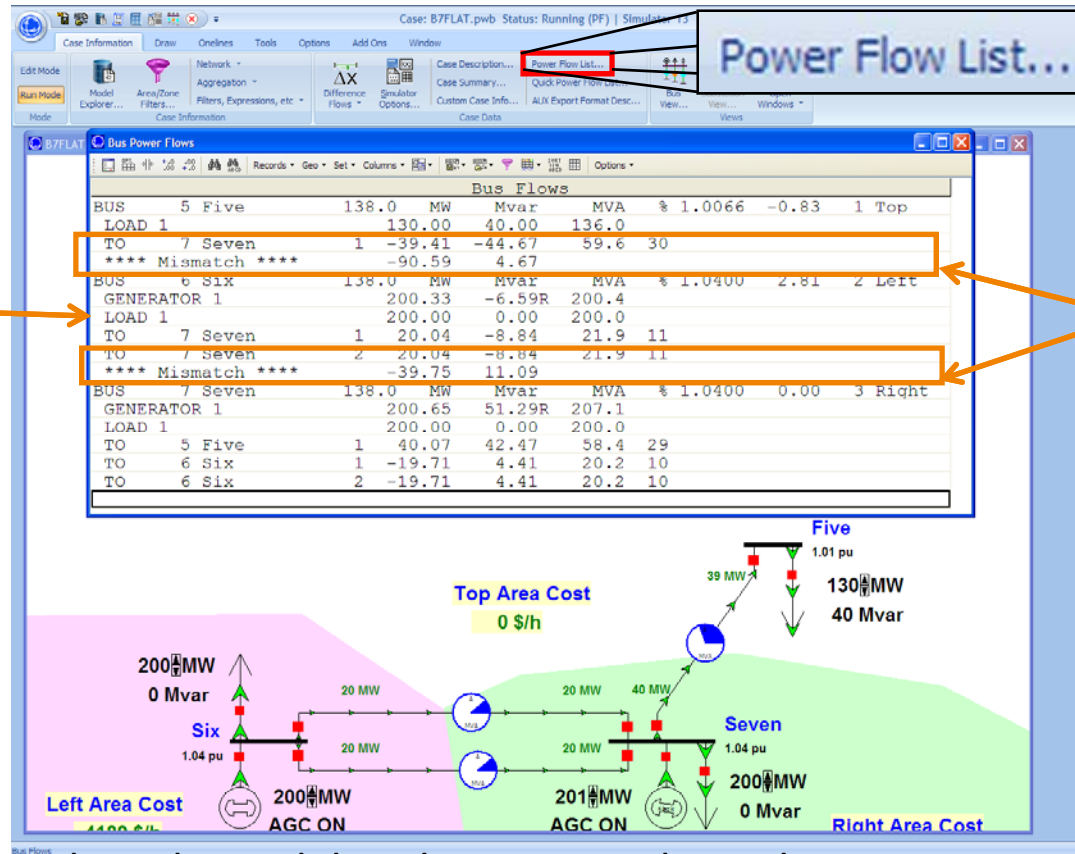


# Deleting the External System



- On the **Case Information** Ribbon Tab, Click **Power Flow List...**

All objects  
referencing  
the external  
system have  
been removed



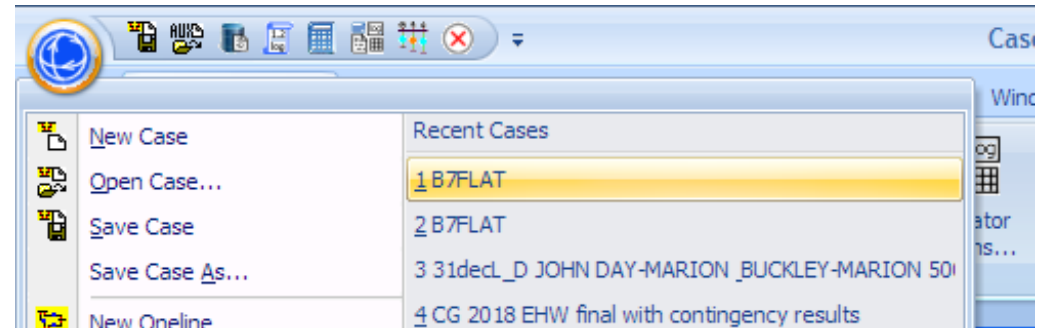
Initial  
mismatches  
at boundary  
buses

Buses 1-4 have been deleted, not Equivalenced. Hence no equivalent lines/shunts have been added.

# Equivalencing External System



- Do NOT SAVE
- Reload B7FLAT
- Click **Equivalencing**
- Again Set buses 5-7 as the Study system.



**Power System Equivalents**

Select The Buses | Create The Equivalent

Note: This form is for choosing BUSES. The options regarding Areas a

Make-up of the study and external systems

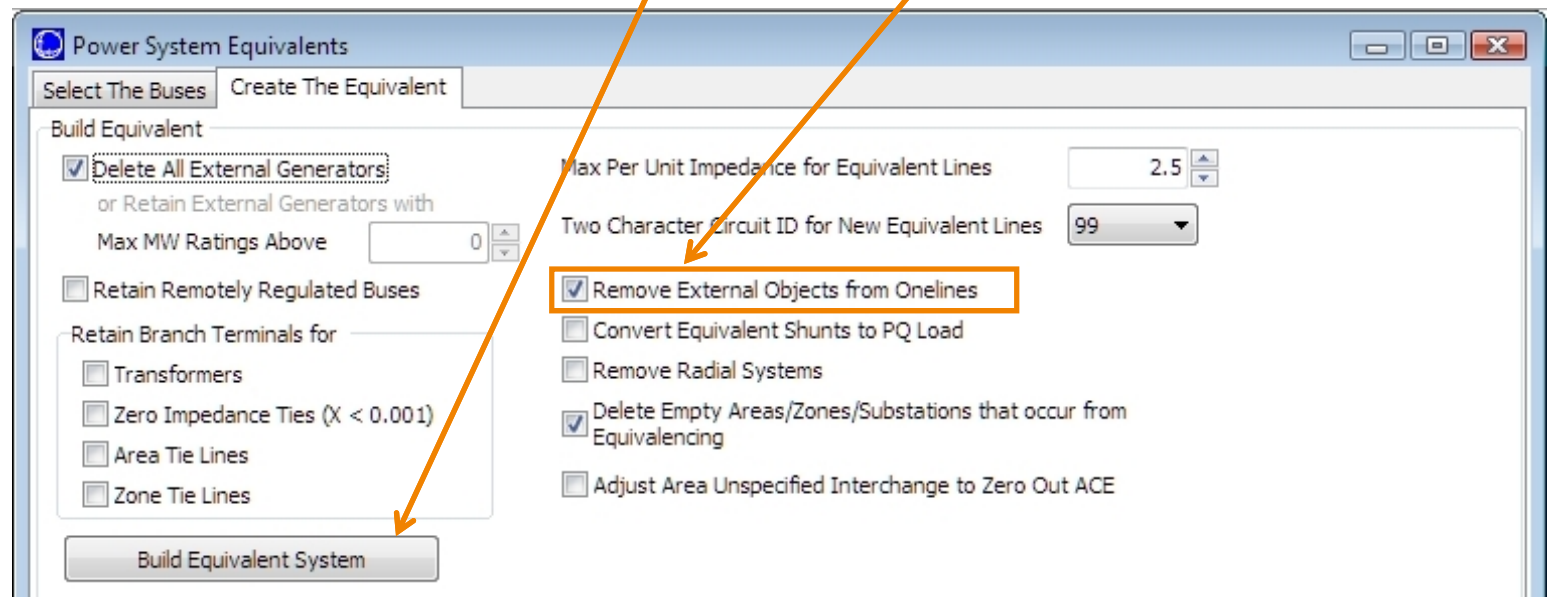
Buses | Areas | Zones

	Number	Name	Which system?	# Neighbo (ignore sta
1	1	One	External	
2	2	Two	External	
3	3	Three	External	
4	4	Four	External	
5	5	Five	Study	
6	6	Six	Study	
7	7	Seven	Study	

# Build Equivalent System Example



- Go to the Create The Equivalent Tab
  - Check the box **Remove External Objects from Onelines**
  - Click **Build Equivalent System**
    - Click **Yes** when asked  
“Create an equivalent ....?”

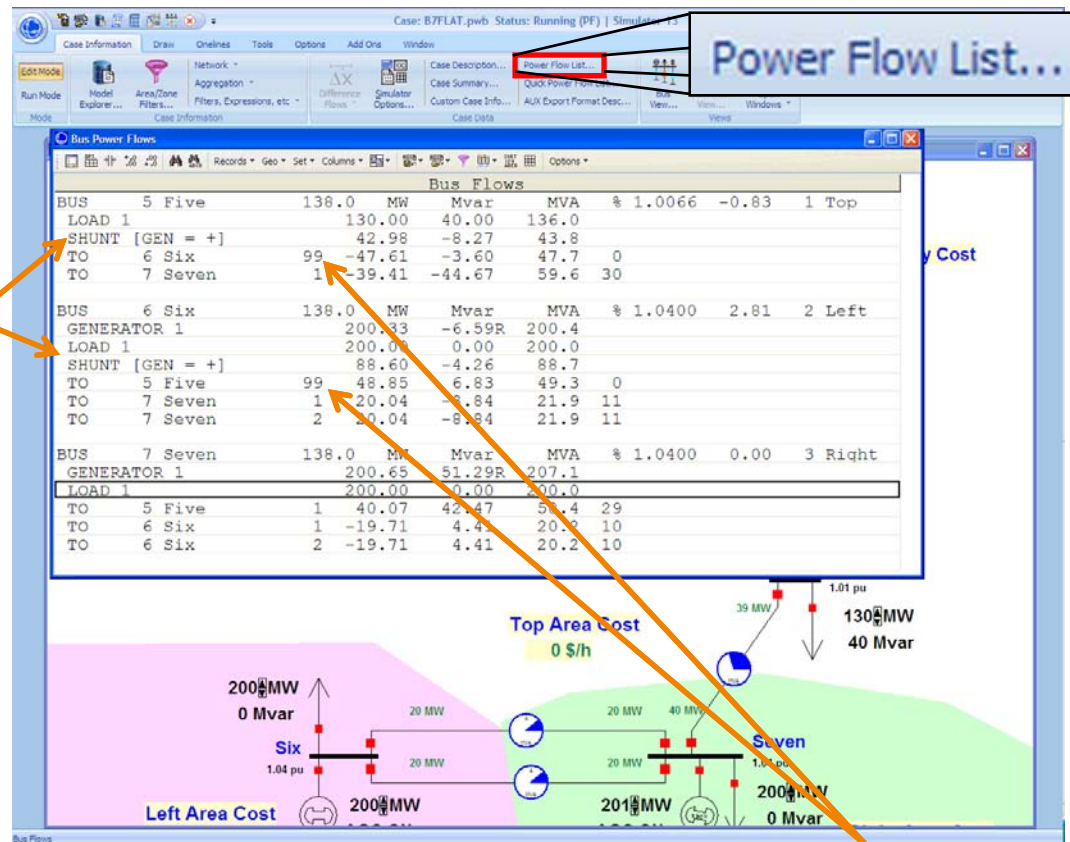


# Build Equivalent System Example



- On the **Case Information** Ribbon Tab, Click **Power Flow List...**

Bus Shunts have also been added at Buses 5 and 6



No Initial mismatches at boundary buses

No changes to internal Study system (bus 7)

New Branch between bus 5 and 6 has been added with Circuit ID "99"

# Equivalents and the Slack Bus

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- Every system requires a slack bus.
- When creating an equivalent, sometimes the slack bus is “Equivalenced”.
- Simulator notifies user when this will occur.
- When this occurs, a new slack bus must be defined.

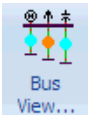
# MAIN Example

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- Open Midwest.raw
- Click Single Solution
- Case has 10,452 buses in 35 control areas.
- In example we'll reduce this number substantially, looking at accuracy of results
  - requires studying contingent response of equivalent versus original system
  - wide variety of cases should be studied

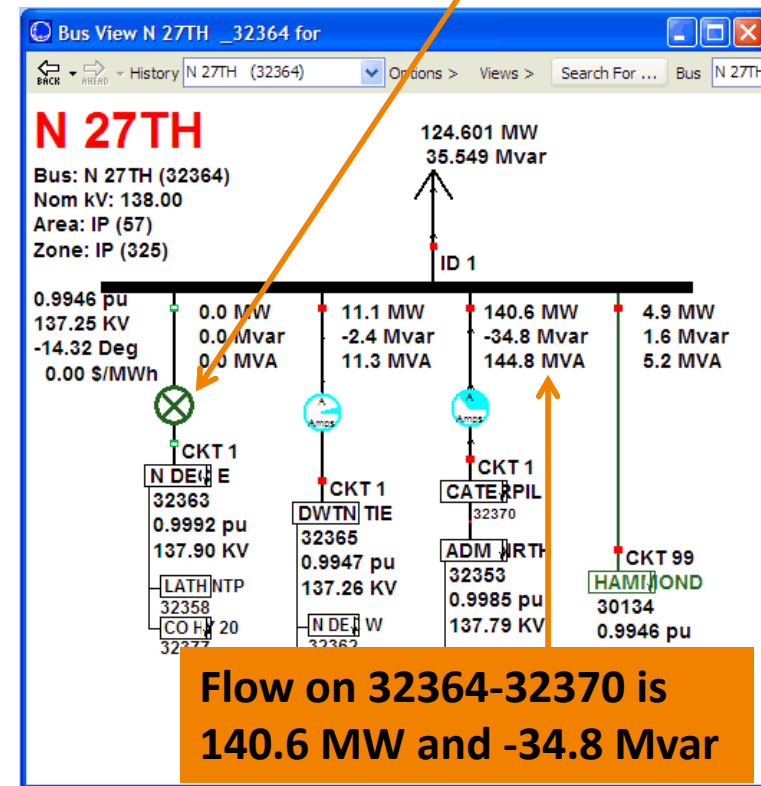
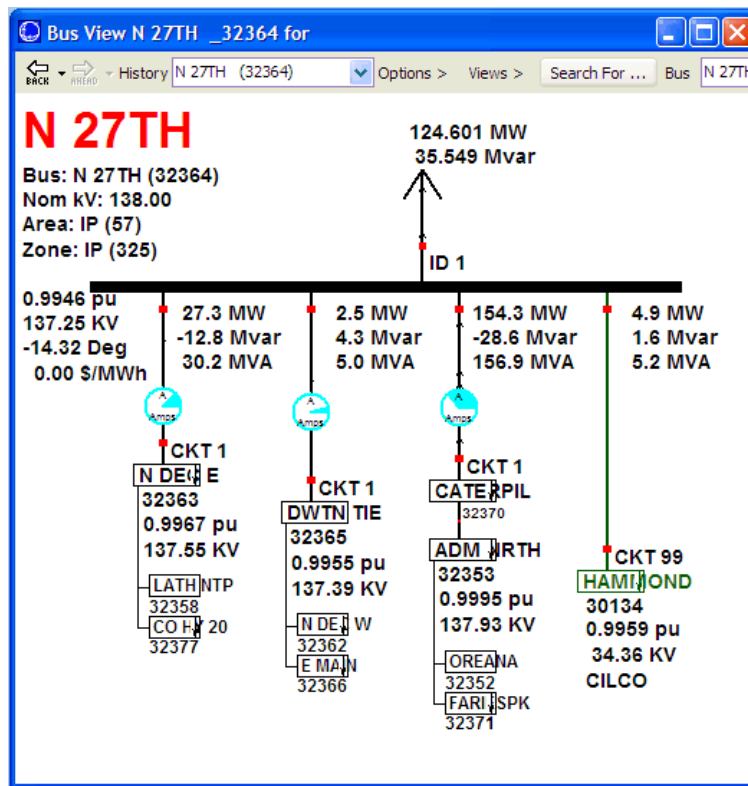
# Original System Contingency



## Open the Bus View to Bus 32364

Before Contingency

Take Line from 32364 – 32363 out of service and Hit Single Solution



# IP Area Equivalent



- Open **Equivalencing** again
- Click **Set all as external**
- Enter 57 under Study Areas and Click **Add**

**Power System Equivalents**

Select The Buses | Create The Equivalent

Note: This form is for choosing BUSES. The options regarding Areas and Zones are included to aid the task of selecting or unselecting blocks of buses.

Make-up of the study and external systems

Buses	Areas	Zones
1	13 PEACHBTM	External
2	15 WHITPAIN	External
3	19 BURCHES	External
4	24 LIMERICK	External
5	30 CONE G1	External
6	31 CONE G2	External
7	32 KEYS G1	External
8	33 KEYS G2	External
9	34 PCHBTM 2	External
10	35 PCHBTM 3	External
11	36 SALEM G1	External

Select what to add to the study and external systems

External

Areas  Add Find...

Zones  Add Find...

Buses  Add Find...

Include how many tiers of neighbors?

**Set all as external**

Set Branch Terminals External ...

Set Branch Terminals Study

Study

Areas  Add Find...

Zones  Add Find...

Buses  Add Find...

Filter by KV: ☒

Max  Min

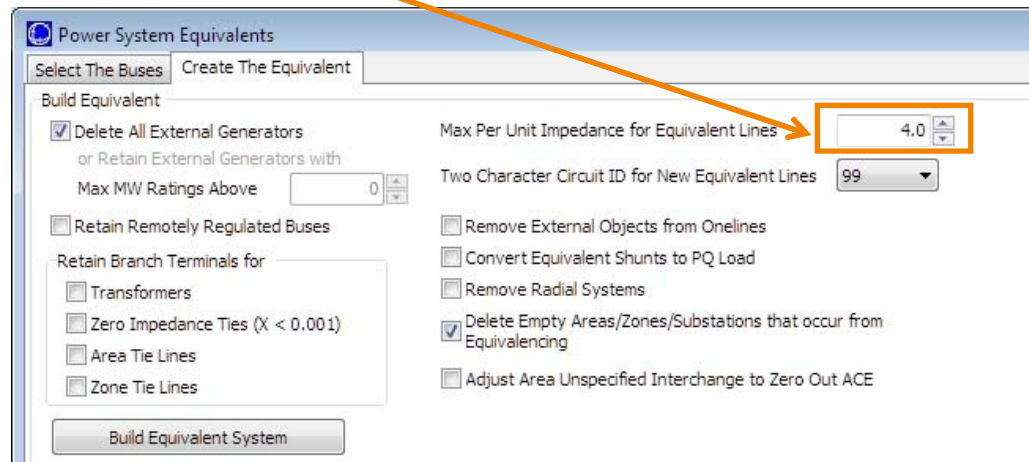
Save buses to file



# Build Equivalent System for IP



- Go to the Create The Equivalent Tab
  - Set Max Per Unit Impedance to 4.0 to eliminate high impedance equivalent branches
  - Make sure other check boxes are set
  - Click **Build Equivalent System**
  - Answer “Yes” to “Create an electrical equivalent, permanently removing 10281 buses, ....?”
- New Case has 171 buses now.
  - See this under **Case Summary...**

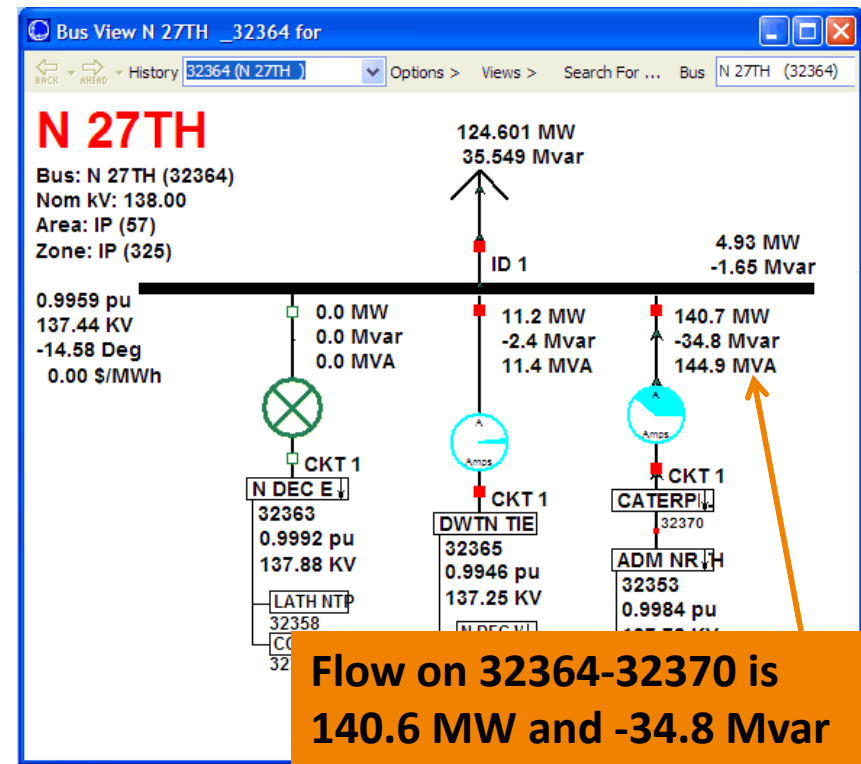
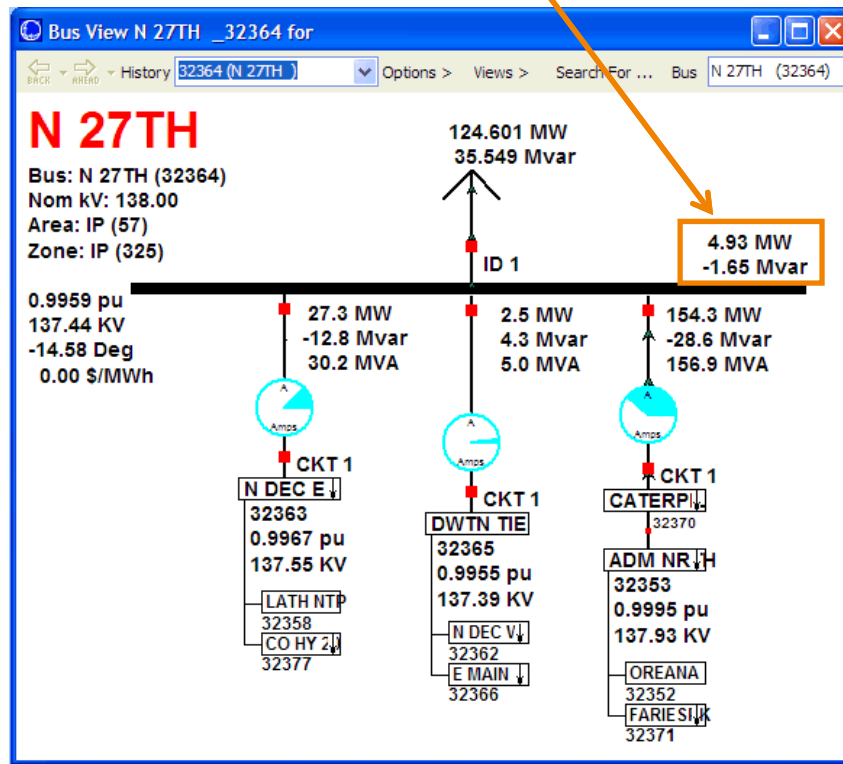


# Contingency Result using the 171 bus equivalent



Shunt equivalent element has been added for tie line to Hammond

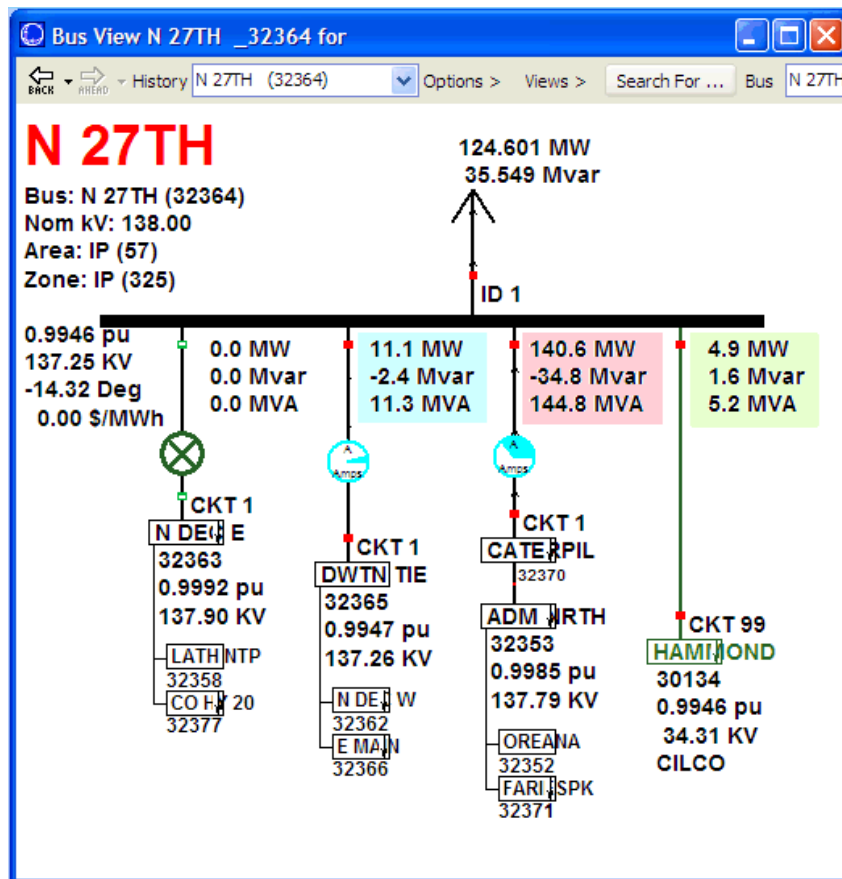
Take Line from 32364 – 32363 out of service and Hit Single Solution.  
Results are same as before!



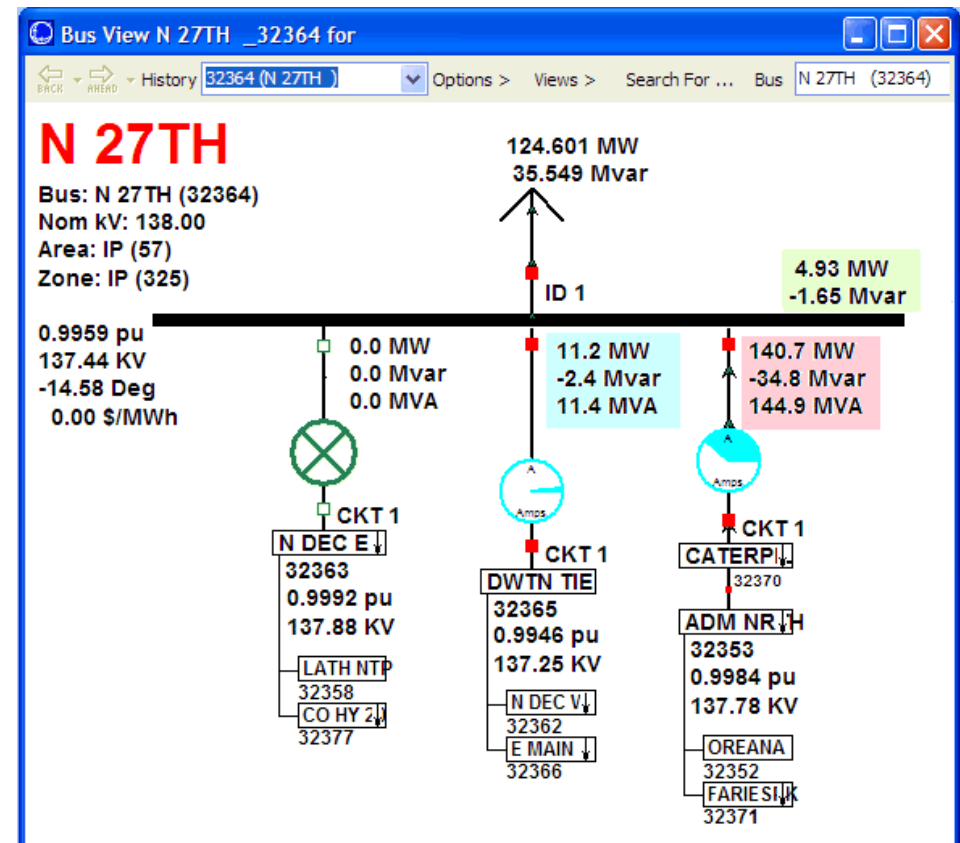
# Compare Contingency Result



Full Model (10,452 buses)



Equivalent Model (171 buses)



# Area Equivalent with a Few Buses

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- Sometimes it is useful to retain an area, representing it by a few buses, or even a single bus
  - with total load and generation for the area
  - allows modeling of interchanges between areas
  - can explicitly retain key tie-lines between areas
- Select a few buses in area to retain. Usually these buses contain large generators or connect to important tie-lines
- Equivalence the rest
- Modify equivalent load/generation to match original load for the area

# General Equivalencing Tips

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- Tends to be a trial and error process
- Continually compare accuracy of equivalent versus original system
- Avoid equivalencing automatic controls close to area of interest
  - PV generators
  - LTC/Phase shifting transformers
  - DC transmission lines
  - Switched Shunts

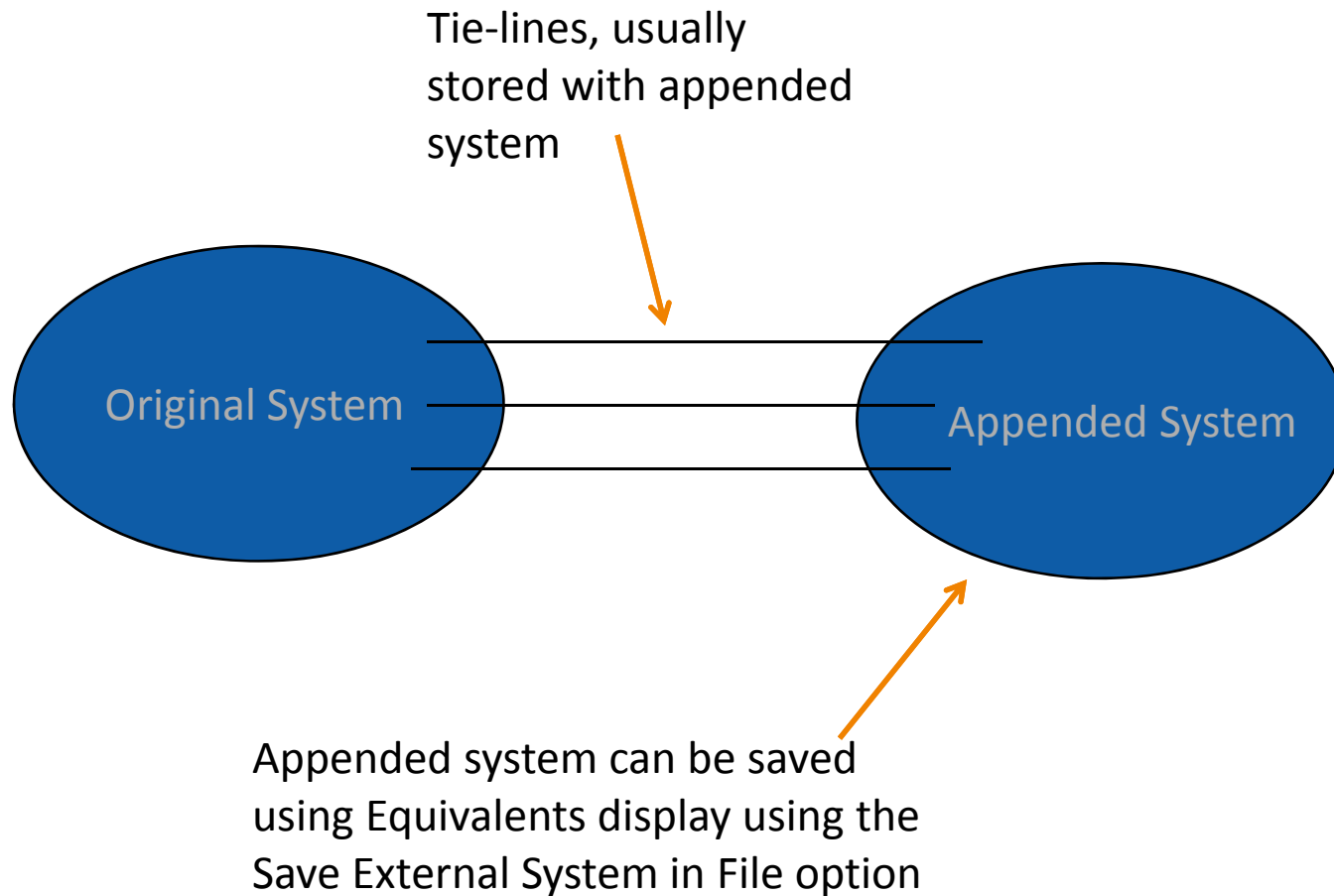
# Merging Systems

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- The ability to merge several systems together is often important. For example, merging a detailed model of own system with a less detailed external system (e.g., the MAIN model).
- In Edit mode use **Tools** ribbon tab → **Modify Case** → **Append Case**
- Append command completely overwrites any duplicated records.

# Merging Systems



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