# PowerWorld Simulator: Tools Connections Menu





PowerWorld Simulator Users Group

June 18, 2025

Jamie Weber, Director of Software Development



Connections

Determine Path Distances to Buses...

Determine Shortest Path Between...

Find Radial Bus Paths

Find Circulating MW or Mvar Flows...

Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut) ...

Branches that Create Islands...

Set Selected Field for Network Cut...

Set Bus Field From Closest Bus

Find Parallel AC Branches

Driving Point Impedances...

Breaker Isolated Groups

Cycle Basis Analysis...

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### Future Events: Series of Webinars

#### https://www.powerworld.com/training/client-meetings

Title: What is New in PowerWorld Simulator 24
 Date and Time: May 20, 2025, 3:00 pm Central Time (UTC -5)
 Presenter: James Weber

2. Title: Historic Event Geomagnetic Disturbance (GMD) Analysis in PowerWorld Simulator Date and Time: May 28, 2025, 3:00 pm Central Time (UTC -5)
Presenter: Scott Dahman

3. Title: PowerWorld Simulator Geographic Regions and Routes Date and Time: June 11, 2025, 3:00 PM Central Time (UTC -5) Presenter: Thomas Overbye

4. Title: PowerWorld Simulator Connection Menu Tools
Date and Time: June 18, 2025, 2:00 pm Central Time (UTC -5)
Presenter: James Weber

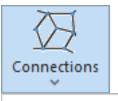
5. Title: PowerWorld Simulator Integration with EPRI GICHarm Date and Time: June 24, 2025, 3:00 pm Central Time (UTC -5) Presenter: Thomas Overbye

Register here



## Connections Tools: Revisit all of these Tools!

- Connection Menu tools
  - Calculations treat the transmission network as a mathematical "Graph"
    - Vertex of the Graph = Bus or Node of our Network
    - Edges of the Graph = Branch of our Network
    - Weights of the Graph are varied in the tools
      - Length of Branch
      - Series X reactance
      - Series Z impedance



Determine Path Distances to Buses...

Determine Shortest Path Between...

Find Radial Bus Paths

Find Circulating MW or Mvar Flows...

Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut) ...

Branches that Create Islands...

Set Selected Field for Network Cut...

Set Bus Field From Closest Bus

Find Parallel AC Branches

Driving Point Impedances...

Breaker Isolated Groups

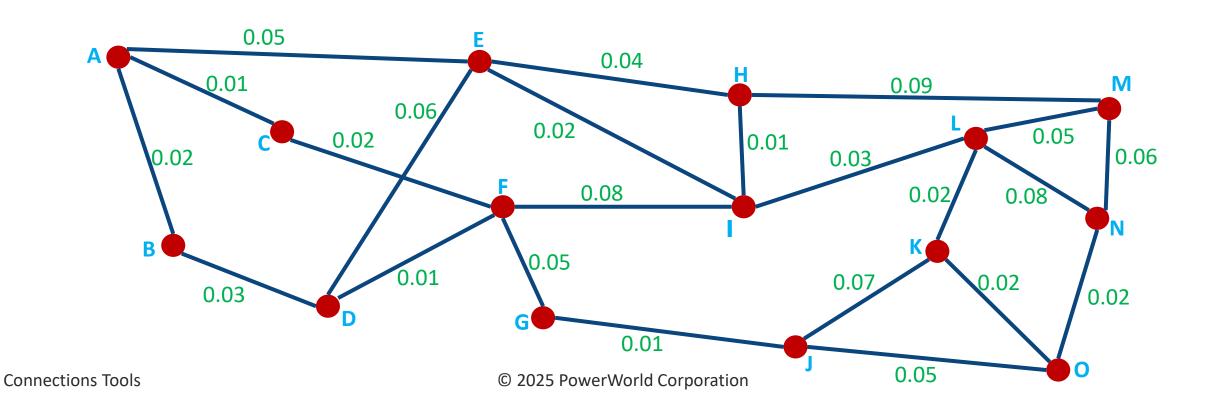
Cycle Basis Analysis...



# Graph: Vertex, Edge, Weight Undirected Graph: Weights have no direction

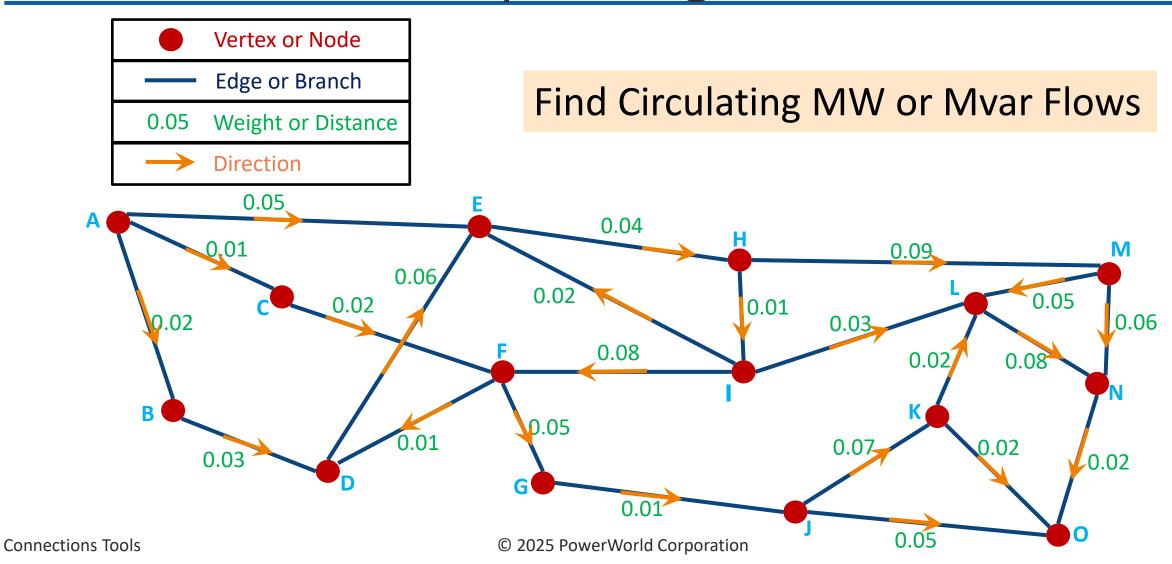


For a few Connection Tools, the Distance Measure is an Option





# Graph: Vertex, Edge, Weight Directed Graph: Weights have Direction



5

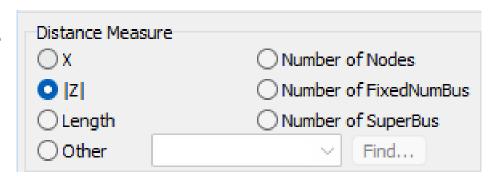


### Distance Measure Choices

- A few calculations require a user-input to specify what Distance Measurement should be used for a path distance
  - Determine Path Distance to Buses
  - Determine Shorted Path Between
  - Set Bus Field From Closest Bus

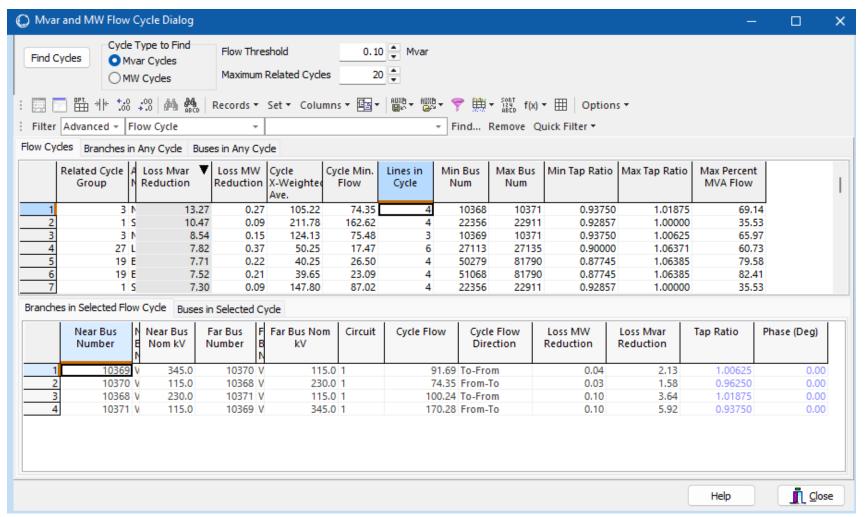
#### Distance Measure Choices

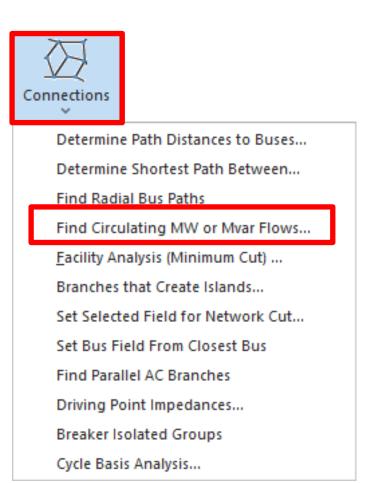
- X: use the series X impedance (some calculations require positive lengths)
- Z : use the series Z impedance
- Length: use the Branch object field Length (this is often not populated though)
- Other: specify your own field to use (such as a custom integer or float)
- Number of Nodes: every branch is assumed to have the same distance measure
- Number of FixedNumBus
  - Branches between same FixedNumBus have a measurement of 0 and other branches are 1
- Number of SuperBus
  - Branches between same SuperBus have a measurement of 0 and other branches are 1





# Tools, Connections, Find Circulating MW or Mvar Flows

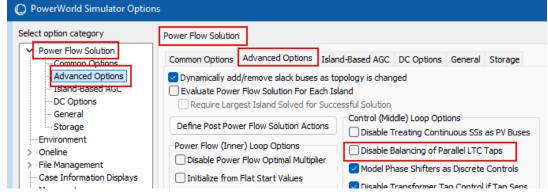






# Connections Tools: Circulating Myars

- Usually, these represent small input data mistakes
- Mostly they are unbalanced tap ratios on parallel paths
  - PowerWorld Simulator automatically detects more obvious mistakes like parallel taps between "ZBR Bus Groups".
    - Means multiple transformers share the same group of buses connected by low impedance branches as terminals
    - This is what "tap balancing" tools
    - Tap Balancing catches the obvious errors
    - Sometimes the network topologies are more complicated (Mvar Cycles can find these)





# Tools, Connections, Find Circulating MW or Mvar Flows

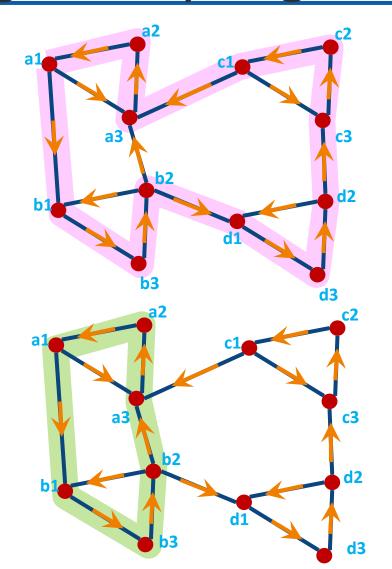
- Represents the power system as a directed graph: MW and Mvar flows have a flow direction
- Terminology
  - Flow Cycle = a series of transmission branches with positive flows that can be traversed to form a loop
  - Flow Threshold = Any flow with an absolute value less than this is ignored
  - Related Cycles = a pair of cycles are called related if <u>both</u> cycles can reach each other by a series of positive flow
    - These then create more large cycles with various combinations of smaller flow cycles.
       In a real power system this can result in potentially millions of combinations of cycles
    - PowerWorld has an input parameter for **Maximum Related Cycles** to prevent the presentation to you of too many results
      - Mathematicians call these Strongly Connected Components
      - PowerWorld will present you with the related cycles that have the largest minimum flow



### Related Cycles:

### The Count of Flow Cycles gets very large

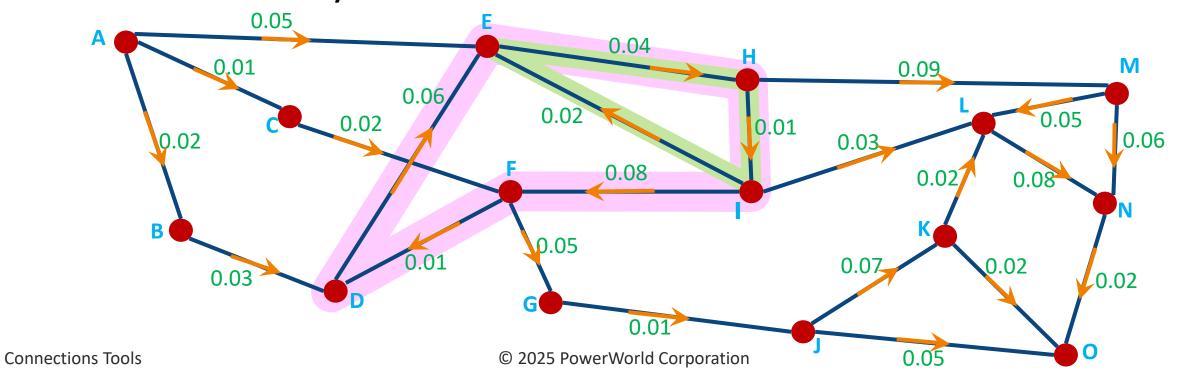
- a3,a2,a1
- b3,b2,b1
- c3,c2,c1
- d3,d2,d1
- a3,a2,a1,b1,b3,b2,d1,d3,d2,c3,c2,c1,a3
- a3,a2,a1,b1,b3,b2,a3
- And many, many more
- Mathematicians call this a "Strongly Connected Graph" meaning each vertex can be reach from all other vertices
  - PowerWorld calls them Related Cycles





# Find Circulating MW or Mvar Flows These are operating on a Directed Graph

- There are 2 "Flow Cycles" in the Graph Below
- $E \rightarrow H \rightarrow I \rightarrow E$  and  $E \rightarrow H \rightarrow I \rightarrow F \rightarrow D \rightarrow E$
- These 2 flow cycles are Related





## Causes of Flow Cycles in Power System Network Model

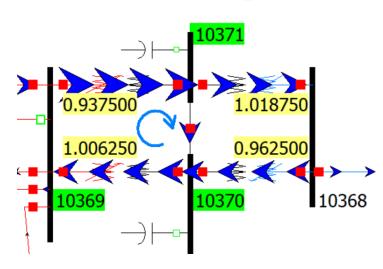
- We do not expect to see any flow cycles in a power system, but a few things can cause these
  cycles
- MW and Mvar Flow Cycles will occur for parallel paths between buses with
  - One path has a positive series X impedance
  - One path has a negative series X impedance
  - So parallel paths where one path has a series capacitor
    - Normally you do not see this because a series capacitors in series with another branch with a series X larger in magnitude than the series cap
    - Lines are not more than 100% compensated!
    - You might see a small positive impedance representing a switching device that bypasses the series cap and is parallel with it → those show up as both MW and Mvar cycles, but the flow is very small so ignore them
- Mvar Flow Cycles: Unbalanced Transformer Tap Ratios
  - This is a very common reason
  - We would recommend the use of this tool to fix these in your power system models
- MW Flow cycles: Unbalanced transformer phase shifts
  - This is a very rare occurrence, but also possible



## Mvar Cycle Examples: Almost always unbalanced tap ratios

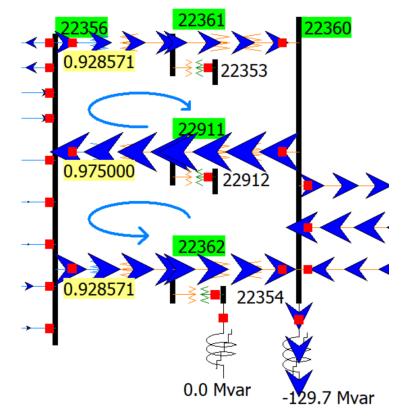
- DataCheckExample.pwb
- Mvar cycles

Bus Number
Tap Ratio
Circulating Myar

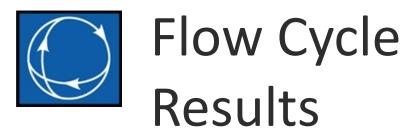


Notice the Blue arrows are going in a circle

Bus Number
Tap Ratio
Circulating Myar



#### DataCheckExample.pwb



	Related Cycle A Group N	l	Reduction	Cycle X-Weighted Ave.	Cycle Min. Flow	Lines in Cycle	Min Bus Num	Max Bus Num	Min Tap Ratio	Max Tap Ratio	Max Percent MVA Flow
- 1	3 N	13.27	0.27	105.22	74.35	4	10368	10371	0.93750	1.01875	69.14
2	1 5	10.47	0.09	211.78	162.62	4	22356	22911	0.92857	1.00000	35.53
3	3 1	8.54	0.15	124.13	75.48	3	10369	10371	0.93750	1.00625	65.97

Default Column	Description of Default Column					
Related Cycle Group	Cycles with the same integer are related					
Area Names	Names of the Areas of Buses in the Flow Cycle					
Loss Mvar Reduction	An estimate of how much the Mvar loss on all branches in the cycle will be reduced if the flow cycle is reduced by the X-Weighted average flow					
Cycle X-Weighted Ave	Weighted Average flow in the cycle (weighted by the Series X)					
Cycle Min Flow	The minimum flow on any branch in the flow cycle					
Lines in Cycle	Number of branches in the cycle					
Min and Max Bus Num	Minimum and maximum Bus Number in the flow cycle					
Min and Max Tap Ratio	The minimum and maximum transformer tap ratio for a transformer branch in this cycle. These are normally the cause of these cycles					

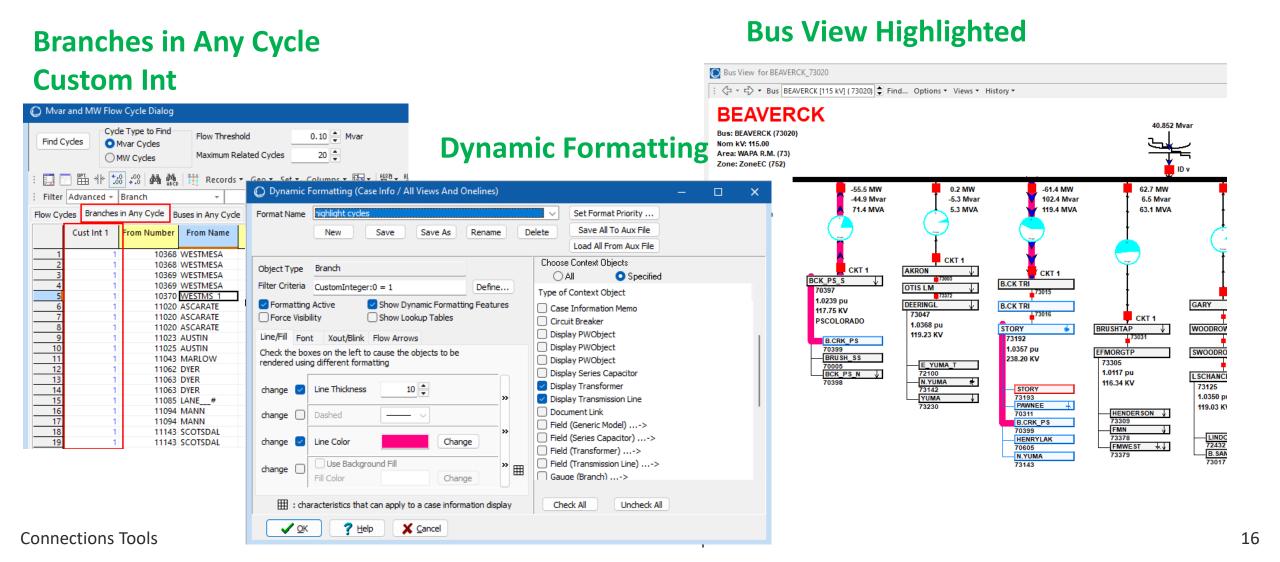


### Visualizing Results

- Use the Branches in Any Cycle and Buses in Any Cycle tab to set a parameter (for example a "Custom Float"
- Use the Parameter to select and format branches on a oneline
- Use the parameter to create a Dynamic Formatting
  - Set Custom Integer = 1 for all branches in a cycle
  - Set Dynamic Formatting to highlight transformers and transmission line display objects on all ones if CustomInteger = 1
  - Show the Bus View and bus 70320 in DataCheckExamples

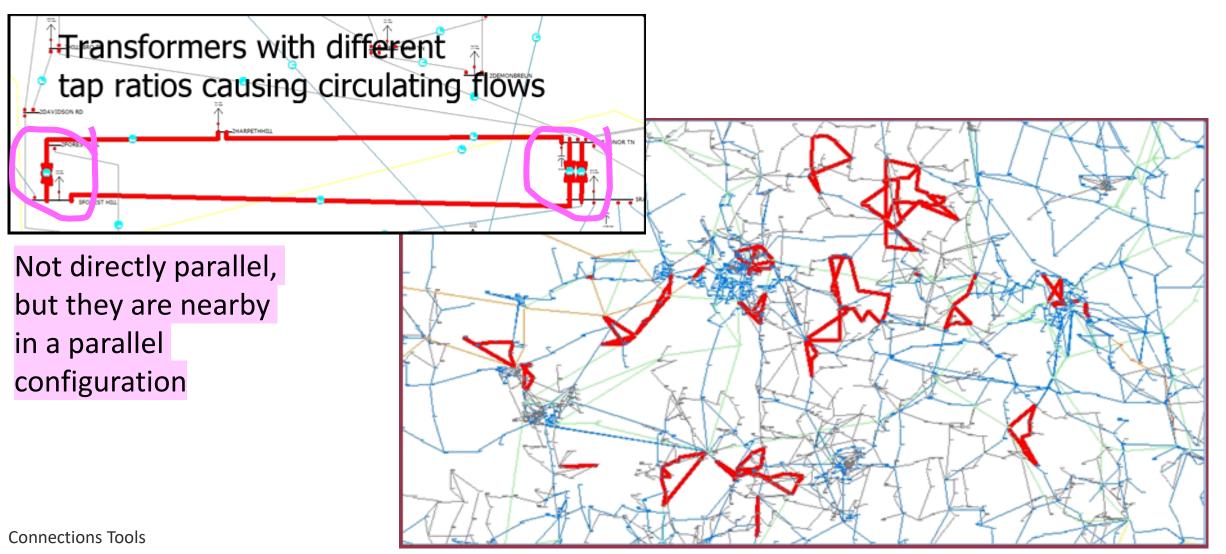


## Visualizing Results of Cycle Flows





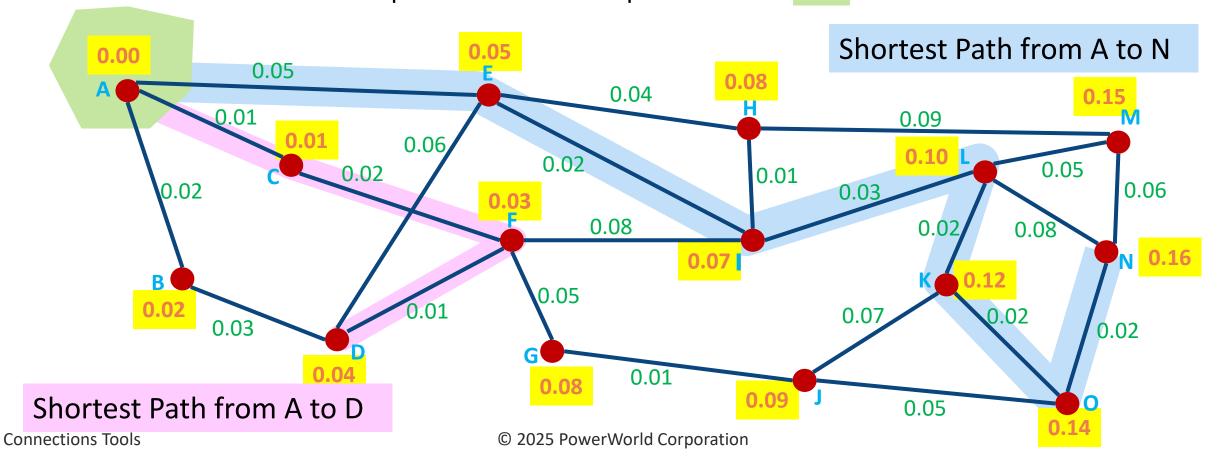
### Visualizing Results of Cycle Flows





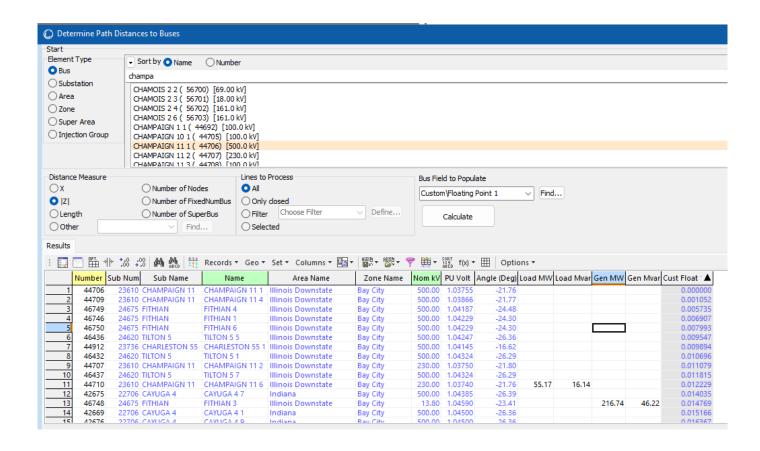
#### Determine Path Distances to Buses

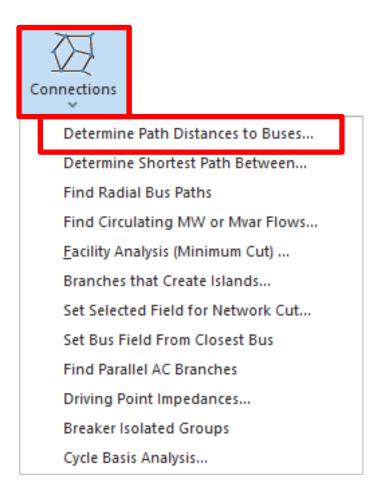
- Choose a Start: Point A in this example
- Calculation will populate a field with the yellow numbers showing the summation of the distances for the shortest path between each point and the Start





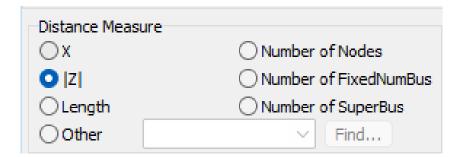
## Connection Menu: Determine Path Distances to Buses







# Distance Measure Choices (Reminder from earlier slide)



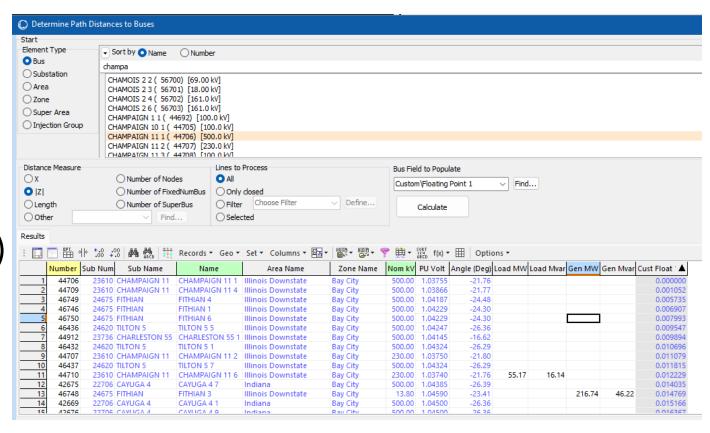
#### Distance Measure Choices

- X: use the series X impedance (some calculations require positive lengths)
- |Z| : use the series Z impedance
- Length: use the Branch object field Length (this is often not populated though)
- Other: specify your own field to use (such as a custom integer or float)
- Number of Nodes: every branch is assumed to have the same distance measure
- Number of FixedNumBus
  - Branches between same FixedNumBus have a measurement of 0 and other branches are 1
- Number of SuperBus
  - Branches between same SuperBus have a measurement of 0 and other branches are 1



### Determine Path Distances to Buses

- Choose a Start Element: All buses in the Start have distance = 0.000
- Distance Measure
  - Specify the numeric value used for branch distance
- Lines to Process
  - Lines not meeting this selection will be ignored
  - (treated as infinite distance)
- Bus Field To Populate
  - Result of calculation will be placed in this field



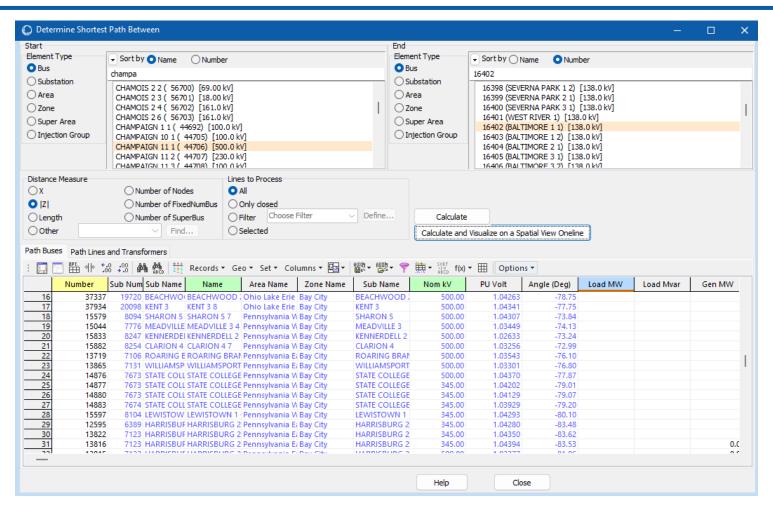


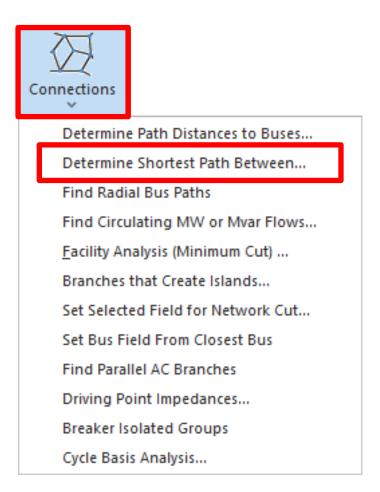
### Uses of Determine Path Distances to Buses

- Generator Interconnection Study or a Large Load Integration Study
  - More detailed Limit Monitoring Settings
    - Toggle the Monitor (YES/NO) field for branches and buses that are nearby the point of interconnection or integration
  - Contingency Analysis
    - Auto-insertion of contingencies of branches that are nearby the new facility



## Connection Menu: Determine Shortest Path Between

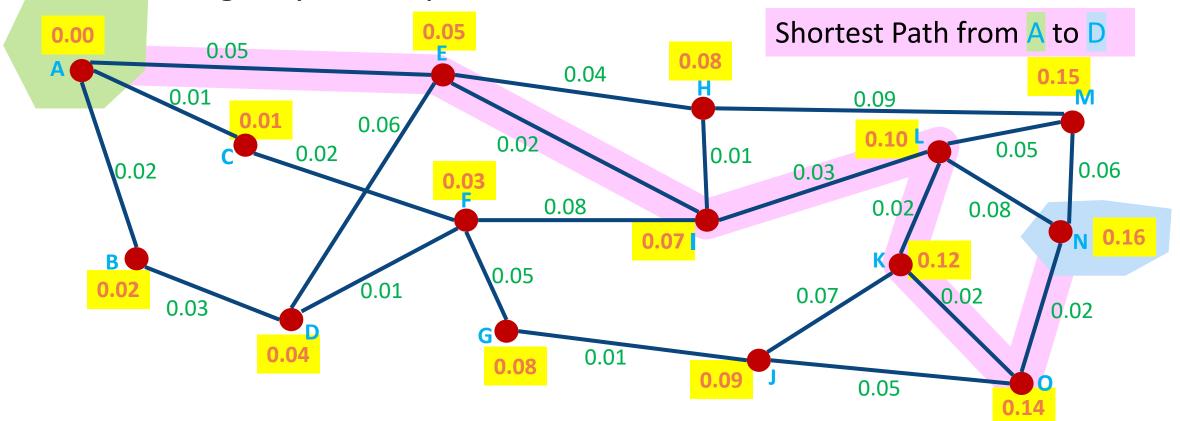






## Related Calculation: Determine Shortest Path Between

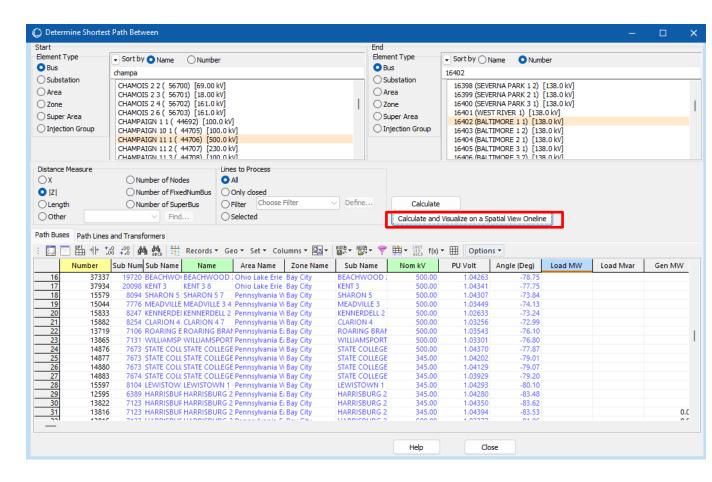
- Example: Start= Point A and End = Point N
- Result will give you the path Buses and the Path Lines/Transformers





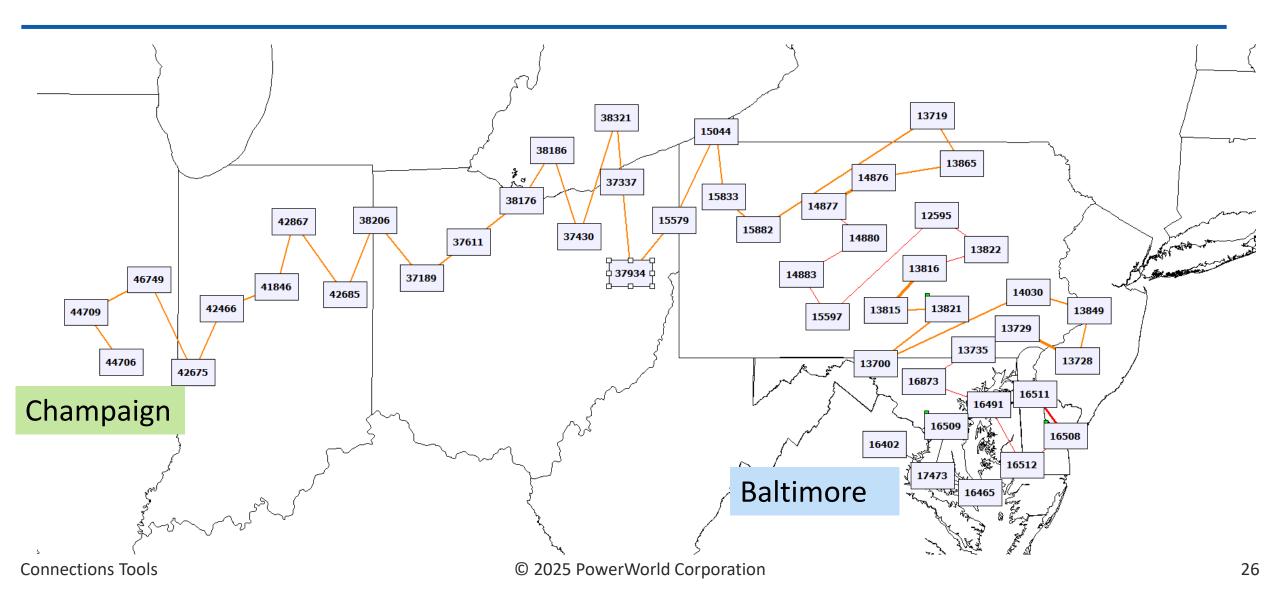
## Related Calculation: Determine Shortest Path Between

- Choose Start and End
- Choose Distance Measure
- Choose Lines to Process
- Result is two lists
  - Path Buses
  - Path Lines and Transformers
- If case has Geography
   Calculate and Visualize on a Spatial View Oneline



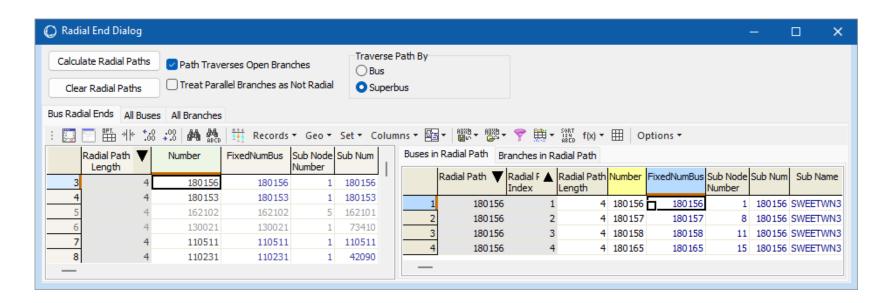


## Visualize on a Spatial View Oneline





### New Connection Tool: Set Bus Field From Closest Bust





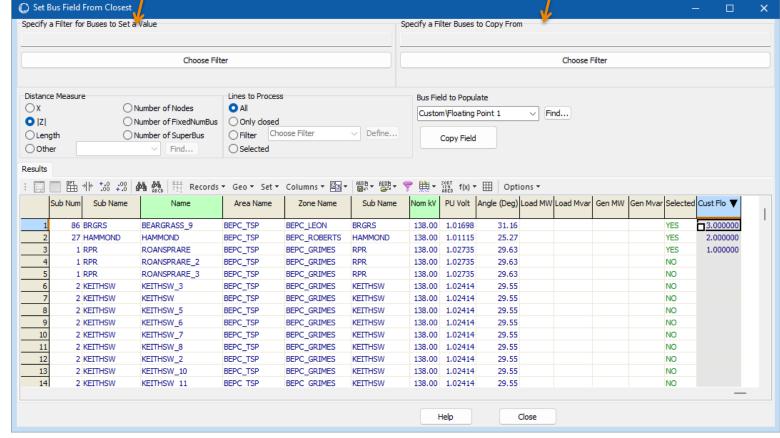


## New Connection Tool: Set Bus Field from Closest Bus

Choose Buses to

**Choose Buses to** 

"Set To"/ "Copy/From"





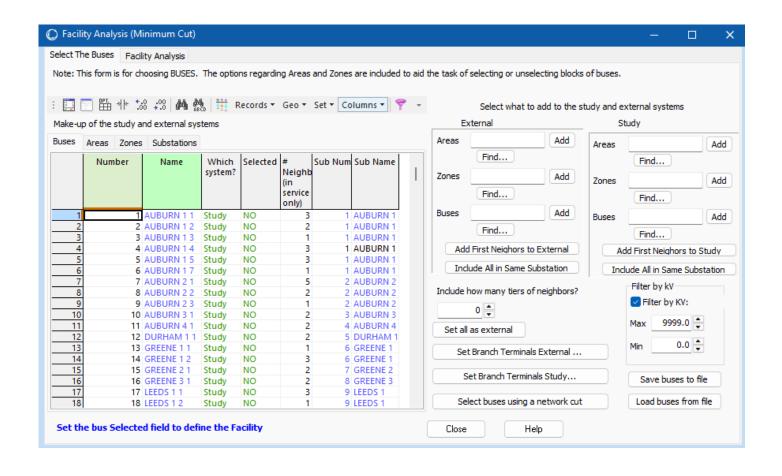
## Script command For SetBusFieldFromClosest

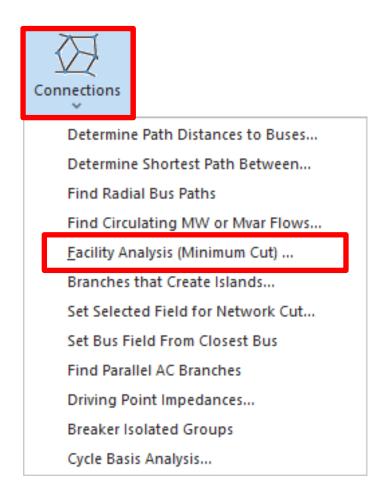
- SetBusFieldFromClosest(variablename, BusFilterSetTo, BusFilterFromThese, BranchFilterTraverse, BranchDistMeas);
  - VariableName: specified which field to copy between Bus objects
  - BusFilterTo: name of Filter specified buses to "Copy To"
  - BusFilterFromThese: name of filter of bus from which to copy
  - BranchFilterTranverse: specify which branches to traverse in the search
  - BranchDistMeas: X, Z, Length, Nodes, FixedNumBus, SuperBus, or Variablename (set how to measure distance)

SetBusFieldFromClosest(SubNumber, "SubNumber IsBlank", "SubNumber NotIsBlank", All, Z);



# Connection Menu: Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut)

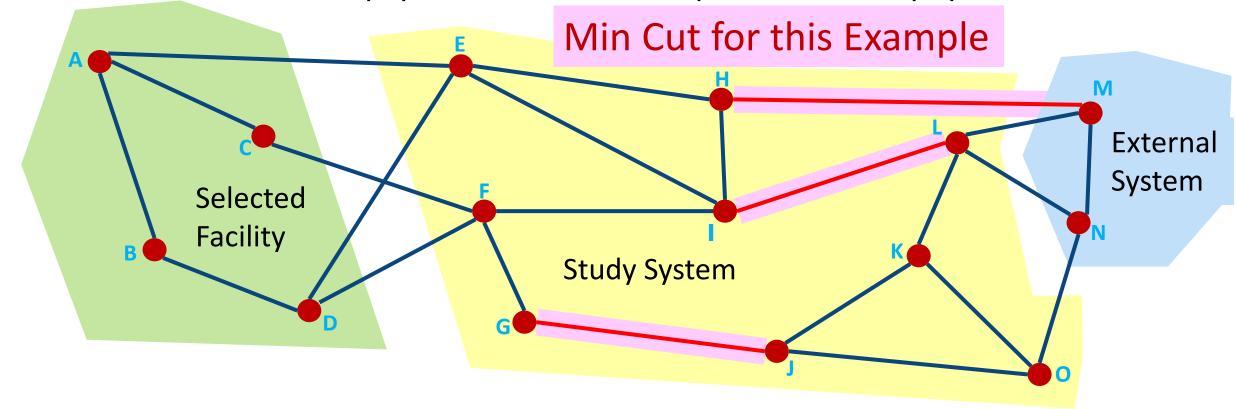






### Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut)

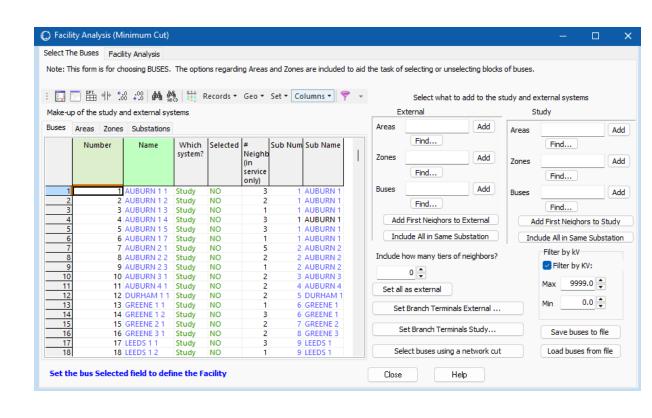
- Find the minimum number of branches in the Study System that when removed will disconnect the Selected Facility from the External System
- Note: Tie-lines to Study system are considered part of the Study System





## Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut) Dialog

- Specify Buses in the Facility
  - Selected = YES
- Specify Buses in External System
  - Which System?
  - Equiv = External
- Study System is then Buses with
  - (Selected = NO) AND (Equiv = Study)
- Dialog is built on top of the old Equivalencing dialog





# Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut) Dialog: Example on Conus82.pwb

- Selected = YES: Define the Facility
  - Areas 33 (Indiana)
- Which System = External : Define the part of the system you would like the facility to be disconnected from
  - Areas 1, 2, 3 (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont)
- Facility Analysis
  - Go to this tab to do the Minimum Cut Calculation

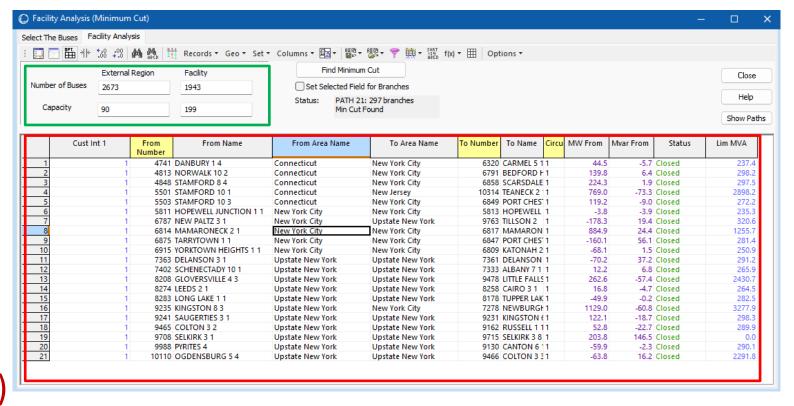


# Facility Analysis (Minimum Cut) Dialog: Example on Conus82.pwb

- Shows the Number of Buses in the External and Facility
- Capacity = Count of branches connecting each to the study system

List of Branches representing the minimum cut

(Added Custom Integer column to populate with a 1)



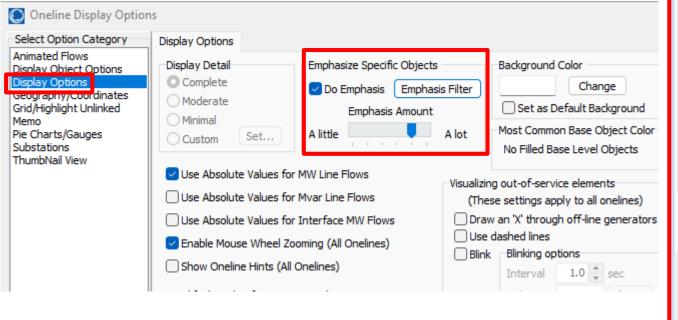


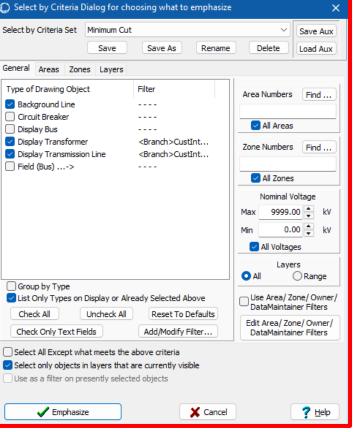
### Visualization of Minimum Cut

Change the Custom Integer for each branch in the minimum

Cust to 1 (shown on previous slide)

Use Emphasis Filter in Oneline Options

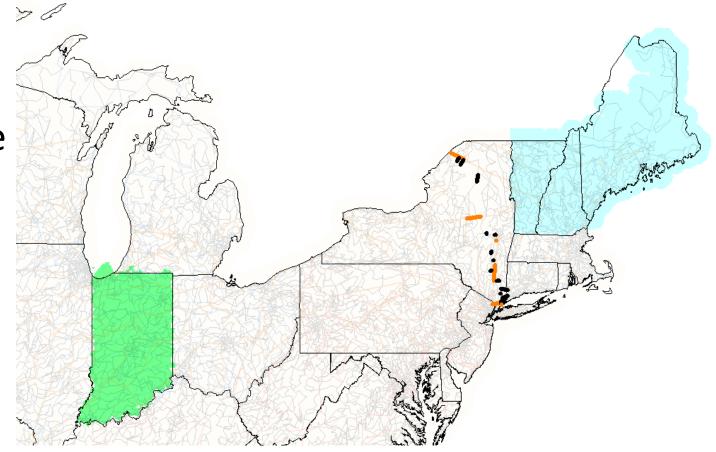






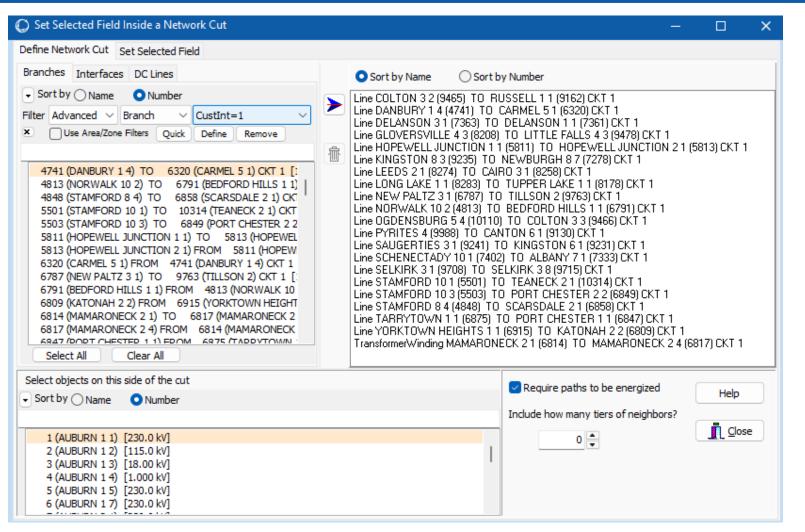
### Visualization of Minimum Cut

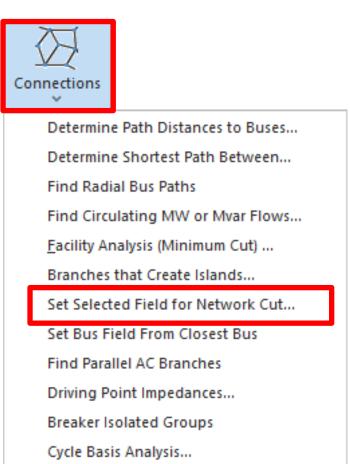
- Also use Select By Criteria to Select Branch ins the cut
- Format to make line have large thickness so we can see them
- Use Contouring to highlight area 1-3 in Blue and Area 33 in Green





### Connections Menu: Set Selected Field for Network Cut

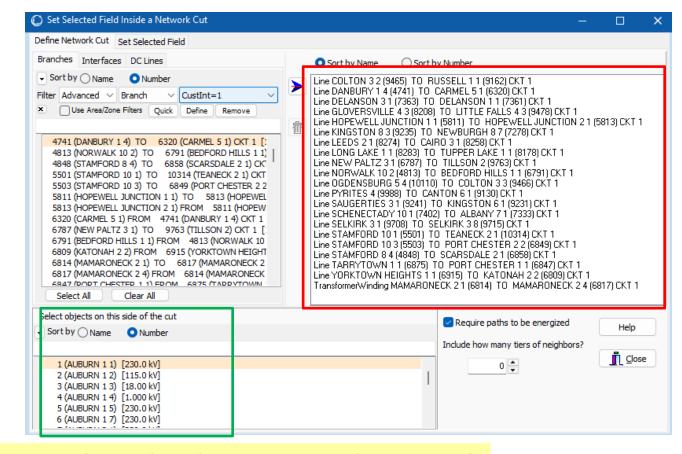






## Set Selected For Network Cut: Define Network Cut

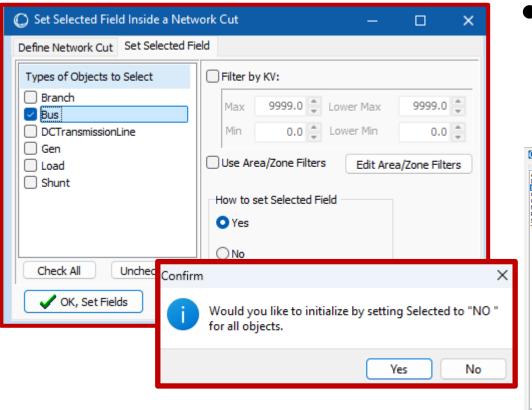
- Assumes you know what the network cut is ahead of time
- Input to tool
  - Specify the list of branches and interfaces that will cut the system into two parts
  - Specify a bus on the inside of the cut.
  - Then go to Set Selected Field tab



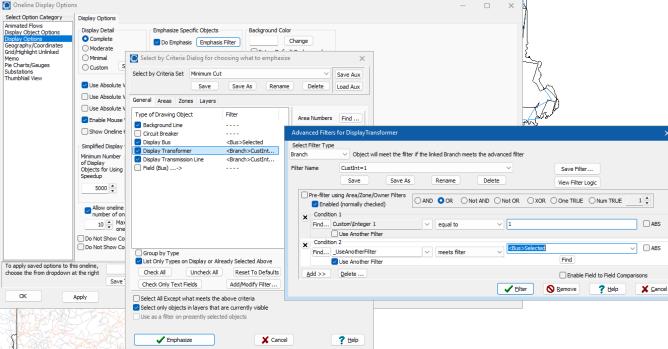
Most support questions on this tool are because a complete network cut has not actually been specified. Make sure it really is a cut



# Set Selected For Network Cut: Define Network Cut

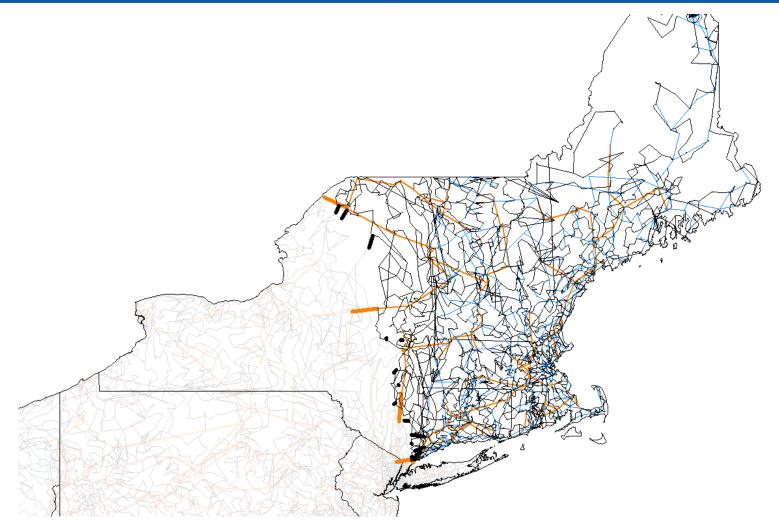


 Modify Emphasis Filter to emphasize branches that are Selected also)



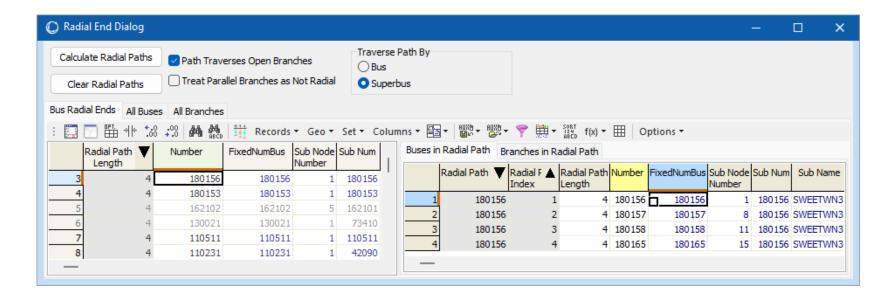


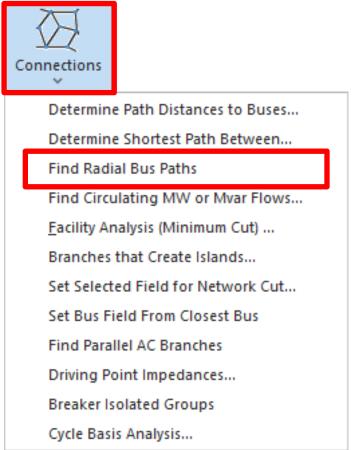
# Visualization of the portion of the system that is cut by the Minimum Cut





### New Connection Tool: Find Radial Bus Paths





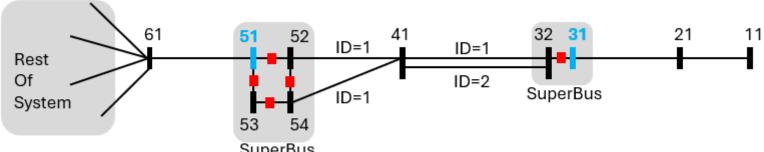


#### New Connection Tool: Find Radial Bus Paths

- Options
  - Traverse Open Branches



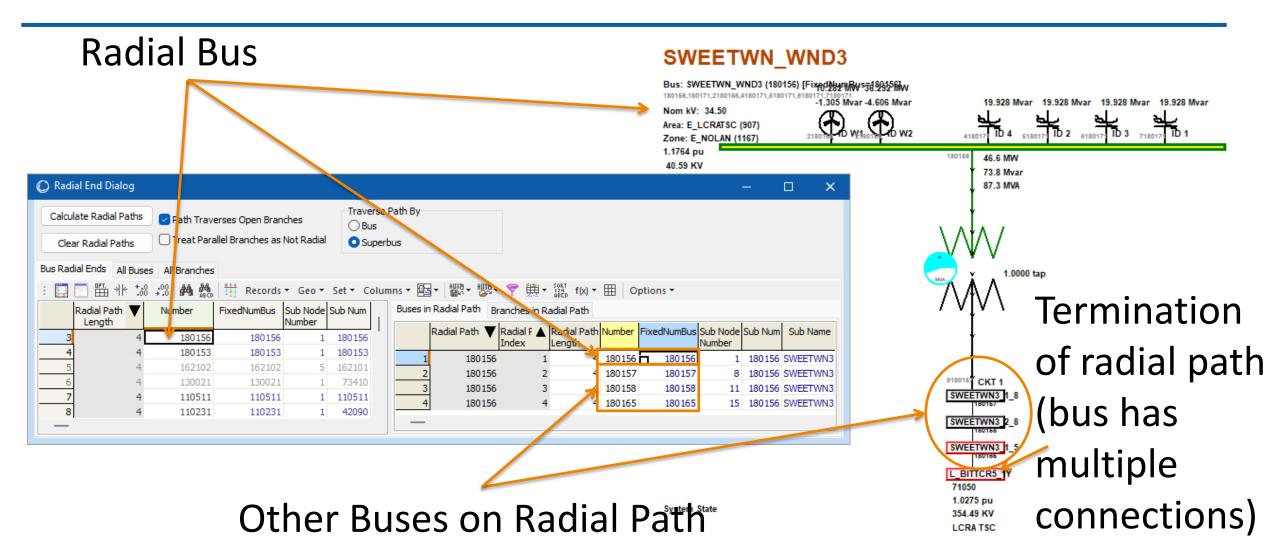
- Treat directly parallel branches as Not Radial
- Traverse path by Bus or SuperBus
- Identifies groups of buses that form radial paths and the branches that connect them
- In this example, grouped by Superbus, Superbus 11 is the radial bus, and 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, and 61 lie on the radial path



Connections Tools SuperBus 4.

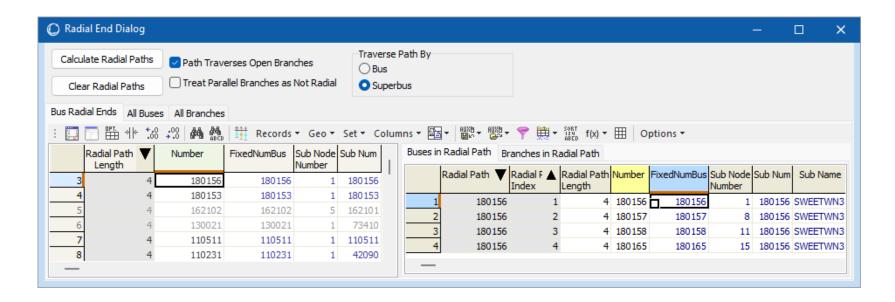


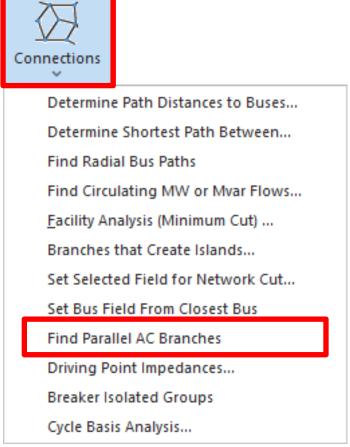
#### Find Radial Bus Paths





### Connections Menu: Find Parallel AC Branches

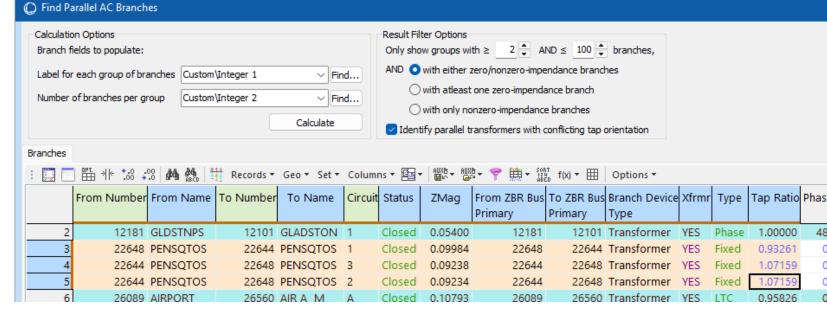






## More Existing Tools: Find Parallel AC Branches

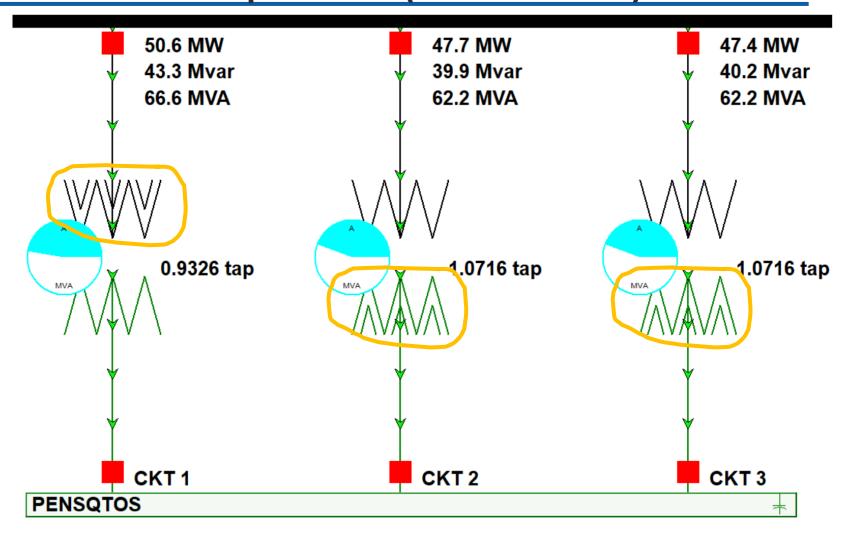
- Good for finding parallel transformers with "from/to" bus terminals flipped. Makes coordinating transformer taps confusing
- Buses 22648 and 22644 are 3 parallel transformers, but from/to bus designations are flipped
  - Tap ratios are1.07159 and0.93261
  - Yes... Balanced...
  - But confusing
    - You should flip these from/to





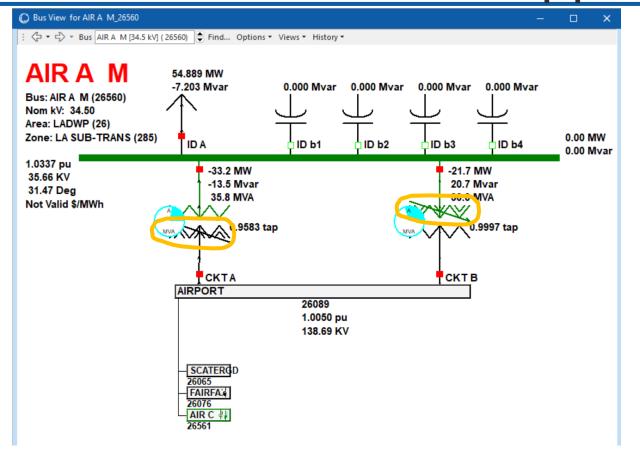
# New Transformer Winding Symbol Indicates the Variable Tap side (from bus)

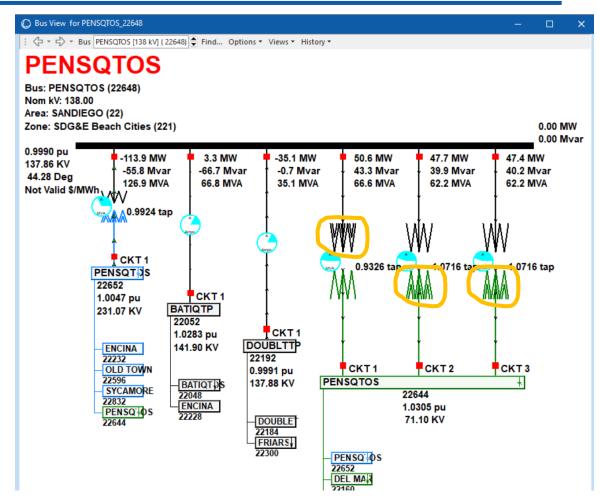
Double lines
 represent the
 From Bus
 (Variable Tap side)





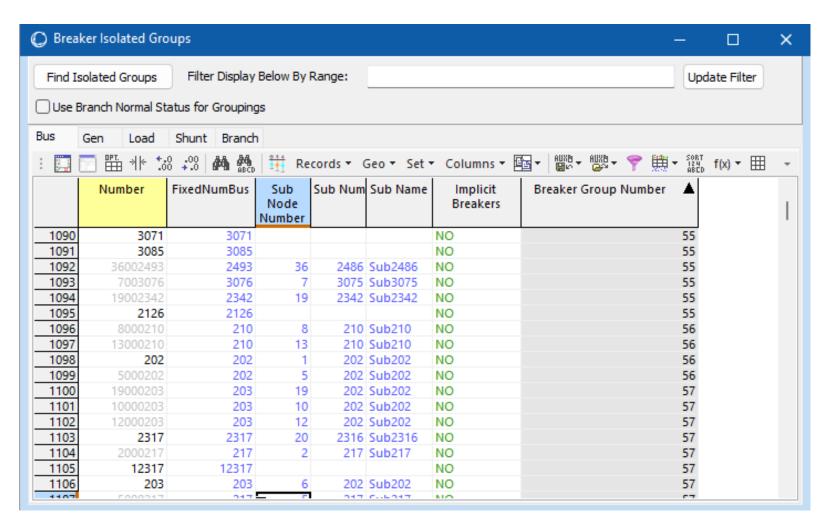
# Parallel Transformer with From/To Bus Numbers flipped from each other

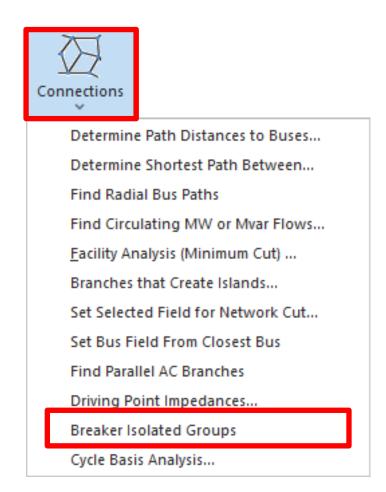






### Connections Menu: Breaker Isolated Groups







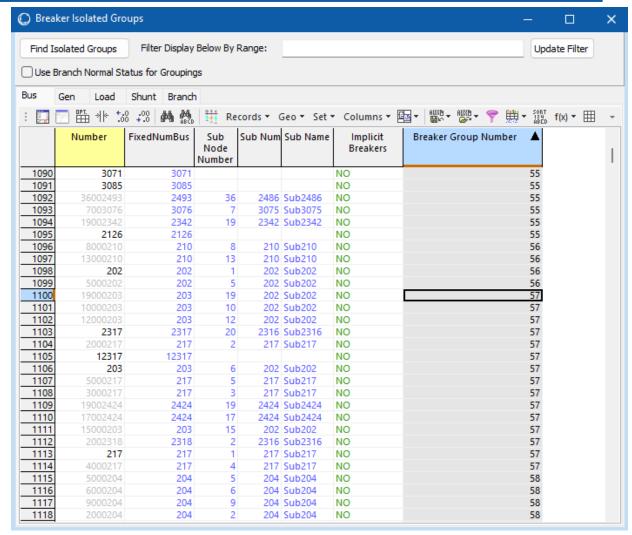
### Connections Menu: Breaker Isolated Groups

- Can be used with a Full-Topology Model
  - All the breakers/disconnects and other switching devices are in the model
  - Algorithm will look for groups of buses and their connected devices that are isolated by opening the same group of switching devices
- Alternative, populate the bus field called "Implicit Breakers" (YES or NO)
  - YES means every branch connected to this bus is assumed to have switching devices at a bus end which is marked Implicit Breakers = YES
  - Similar search algorithm



# Breaker Isolated Groups: Just Click Find Isolated Groups

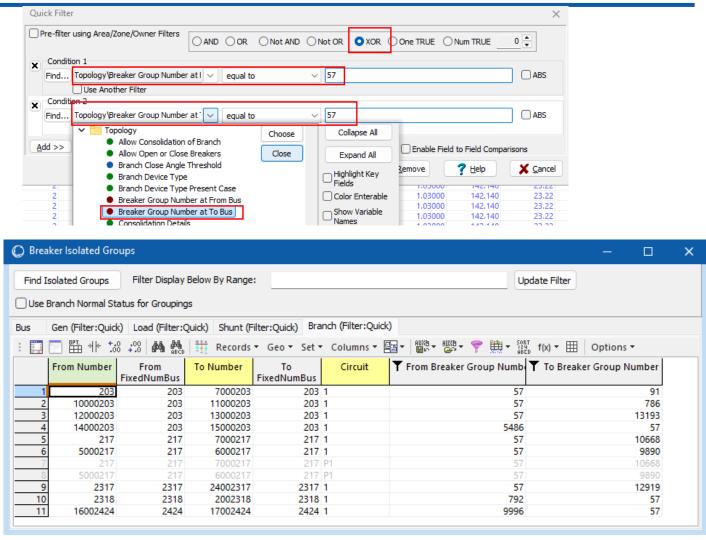
- Bus Breaker Group Number Integer will be populated with an integer
  - Buses that are grouped together have the same integer
  - Generators, Loads, Shunt shows a column with Breaker Group Number
  - Branches table will show the from and to bus integer





#### Showing the Branches that Isolate a Group

- Filter Branch table to show the logical XOR of the From/To Breaker Group Number being equal to the integer group number of interest
  - This gives only the branches that will create an isolated group
- These are the switching devices that will isolate this group





#### **Connections Tools Summary**

- There are a lot of different tools
- Some are new features
- Others have been in PowerWorld Simulator a long time
- We have not traditionally covered these in a training session due to limited time

 Make good use of them, and the visualization tools that go with them



# In-Person PowerWorld Simulator Training Sept 30 – Oct 2: ERCOT, Austin, Texas

- September 30 October 2: PowerWorld Training hosted by ERCOT in Austin, Texas
  - Agenda (registration is done for each day, so attend a few days or all 5 days)
     https://www.powerworld.com/files/TrainingAgendaERCOT202509.pdf
    - Tuesday: OPF, LMP Markets, Contingency Analysis, SCOPF
    - Tuesday: Advanced OPF, Case Info, Auxiliary Files, OPF automation
    - Wednesday: Transient Stability
  - Location/Time
    - Location: ERCOT, 8000 Metropolis Drive Austin, Texas 78744
    - 8:30 AM start time each day. Ends 4:30 or 4:45 PM
  - https://www.powerworld.com/training/training-calendar
- We are looking forward to it!