

Illustrative Examples of Reactive Capability (D-Curves) and Corresponding Compensation under Package E

Andrew Levitt
Market Design and Economics Department
Reactive Power Compensation Task Force
September 20, 2022

www.pjm.com | Public PJM©2022



Summary of Package E Compensation Metric

Flat rate: a generator's revenue is MVAR_Capability*Rate

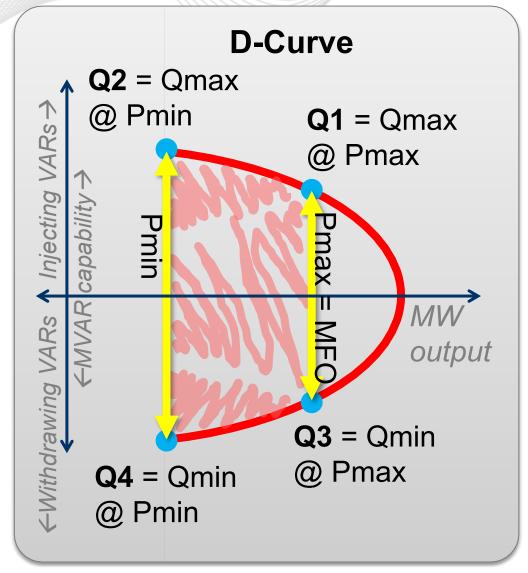
• For illustration, assume Rate is \$1,000/MVAR-yr (hypothetically).

A generator's **D-curve** shows the maximum reactive capability (both injecting & withdrawing VARs, or "Q") as a function of real power (i.e., MW or "P") output.

• In general, machine designs mean more MW output means less MVAR capability.

MVAR_Capability is [average of Q1 and Q2] minus [average of Q3 and Q4]. This basically amounts to: injecting capability (averaged at Pmax and Pmin) plus withdrawing capability (averaged at Pmax and Pmin).

- VAR withdrawal is negative Q, hence the "minus".
- Pmin is the lowest power the generator is capable of making while online (not less than zero).
- Pmax is Maximum Facility Output or the functional equivalent.



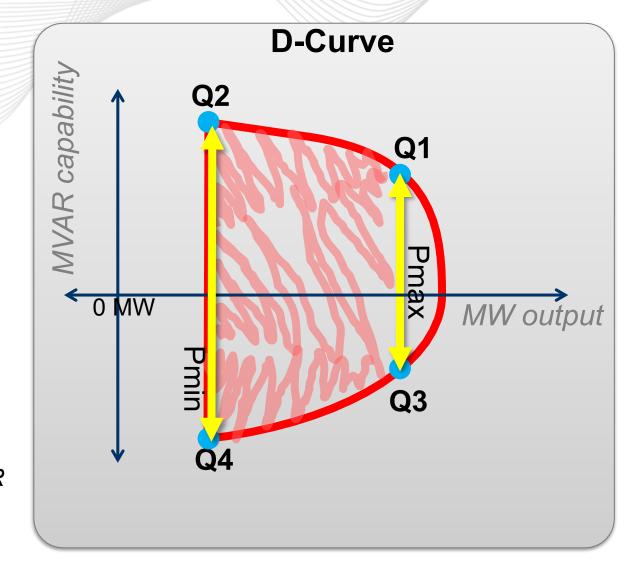


Illustrative Example of a 100 MW Steam Generator

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 at Pmax (100 MW) = 40 MVAR
 - Q2 at Pmin (50 MW) = 50 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 at Pmax = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 at Pmin = -40 MVAR
- Average(40,50) Average(-33,-40) = 81.5
- Compensation = \$1,000*81.5 = **\$81,500/yr**

Typical interconnection agreements require a minimum reactive capability that amounts to roughly 1/3d of MFO. In theory, the "nose" of the D-curve is typically not available.

Synchronous machine designs generally have lower VAR withdrawal capability than injection capability.

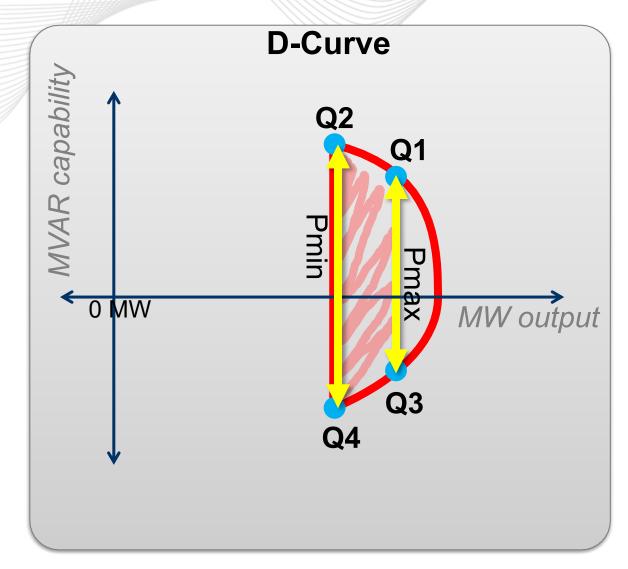




Illustrative Example of a 100 MW Combustion Turbine

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 at Pmax (100 MW) = 40 MVAR
 - Q2 at Pmin (80 MW) = 45 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 at Pmax = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 at Pmin = -35 MVAR
- Average(40,45) Average(-33,-35) = 76.5
- Compensation = \$1,000*76.5 = **\$76,500/yr**

A CT might have a narrower dispatchable range than a steam generator, which might reduce the reactive capability available to PJM.



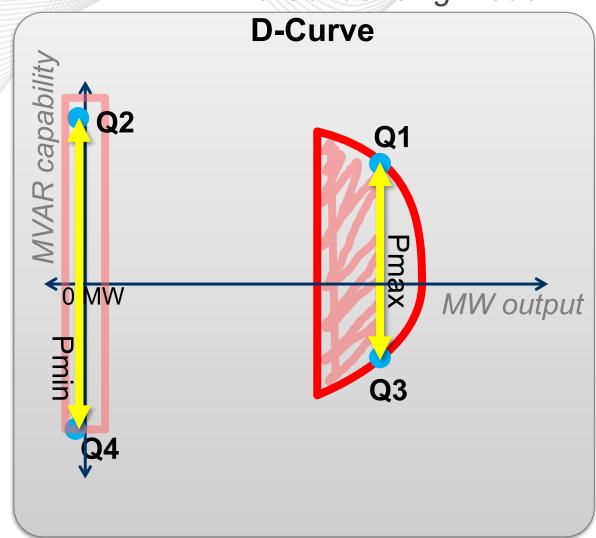


Illustrative Example of a Combustion Turbine

w/ Condensing Mode

A synchronous machine generator with "condensing mode" can operate at 0 MW.

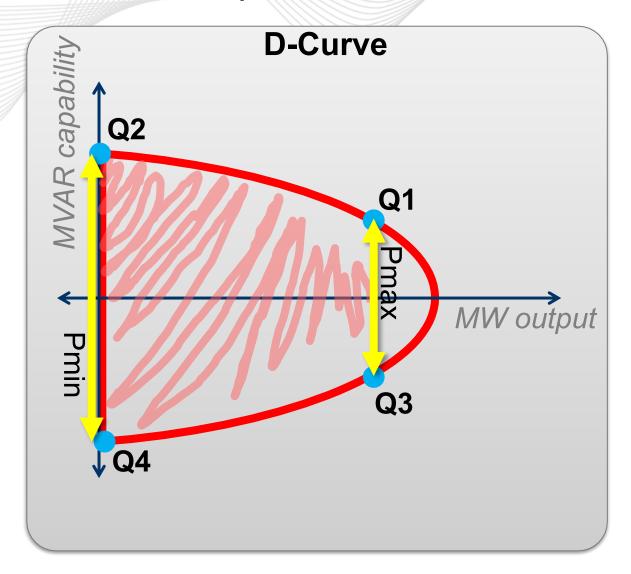
- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 40 MVAR
 - Q2 = 50 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -40 MVAR
- Average(40,50) Average(-33,-40) = 81.5
- Compensation = \$1,000*81.5 = \$81,500/yr





Illustrative Example of a Solar Plant

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 45 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -45 MVAR
- Average (33,45) Average (-33,-45) = 78
- Compensation = \$1,000*78 = **\$78,000/yr**Inverter reactive capability matches power capability (they have a circular D-curve at the inverter terminals), however high impedance between PJM and large solar farm inverters reduces the reactive capability.

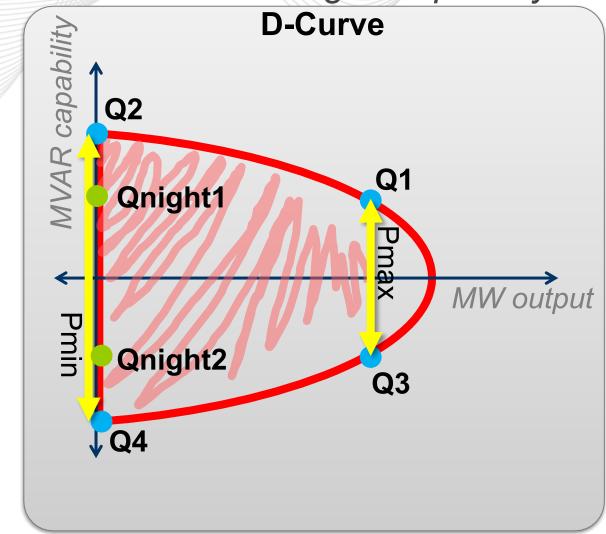




Illustrative Example of a Solar Plant w/ Reactive at Night Capability

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 45 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -45 MVAR
- Average (33,45) Average (-33,-45) = 78
- Compensation = \$1,000*78 = \$78,000/yr

Reactive capability at 0 MW at night might be lower than capability at 0 MW during the day (i.e., when dispatched to 0 MW). Therefore, no change vs. previous example.

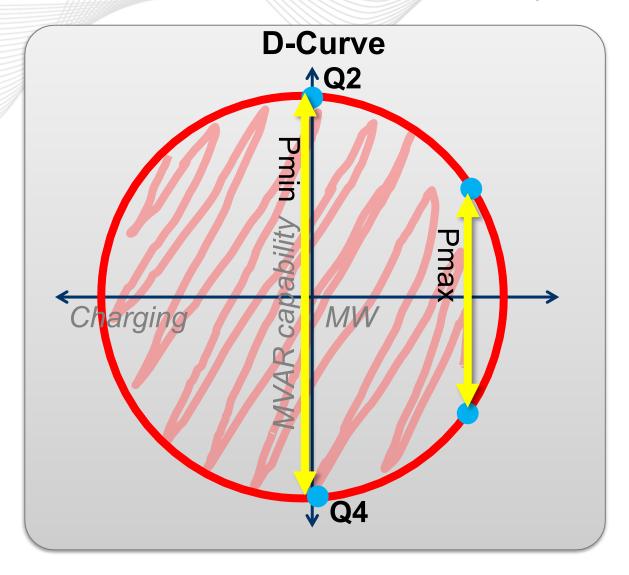




Illustrative Example of a Battery

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 100 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -100 MVAR
- Average(33,100) Average (-33,-100) = 133
- Compensation = \$1,000*133 = \$133,000/yr

Battery inverters would be located close to the POI, with little impedance to PJM. The full circular inverter capability is therefore available to PJM.

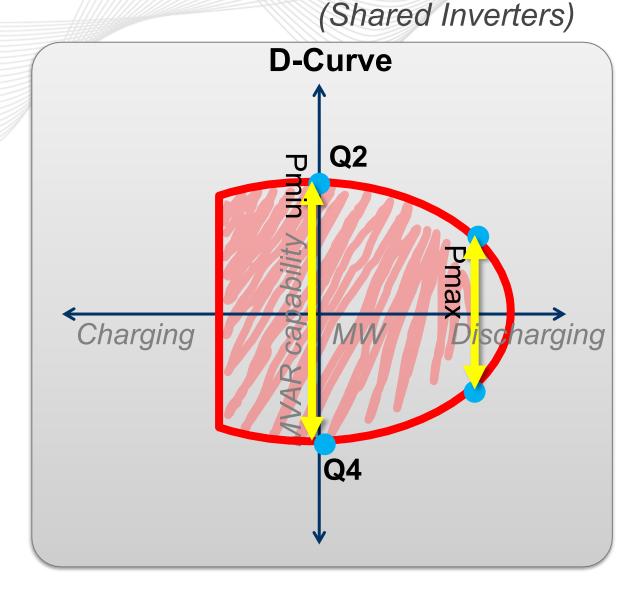




Illustrative Example of a Solar-Battery Hybrid

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 45 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -45 MVAR
- Average (33,45) Average (-33,-45) = 78
- Compensation = \$1,000*78 = **\$78,000/yr**

This hypothetical solar-battery hybrid uses the solar inverters to operate the batteries. It is the same as the standalone solar example, except also has charging MW.

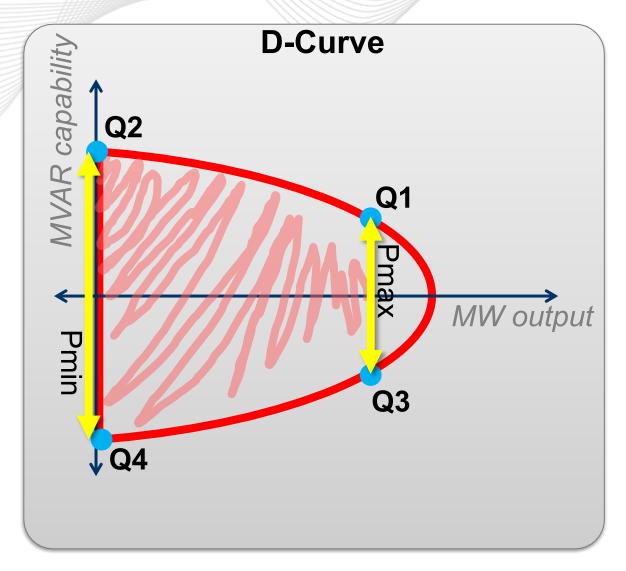




Illustrative Example of New-Technology Wind Plant

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 45 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -45 MVAR
- Average(33,45) Average (-33,-45) = 78
- Compensation = \$1,000*78 = \$78,000/yr

New wind generator technology is fully inverterbased, similar to solar. This result is the same as the solar example.



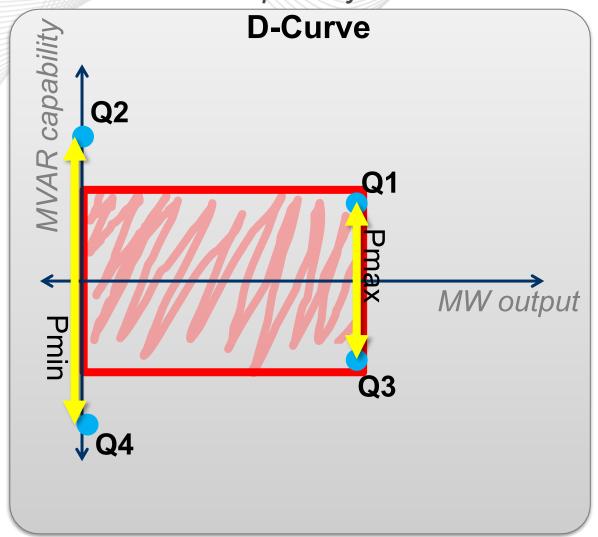


Illustrative Example of Old-Technology Wind Plant

w/ Full Reactive Capability at All Times

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 33 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -33 MVAR
- Average(33,33) Average (-33,-33) = 66
- Compensation = \$1,000*66 = \$66,000/yr

Old wind generator technology is only partly inverter based. They don't use the generators for reactive, instead using dedicated equipment that doesn't vary with power output..





Illustrative Example of Old-Technology Wind Plant w/ Fixed Power Factor Control Only as-per ISA

- VAR injection capability:
 - Q1 = 33 MVAR
 - Q2 = 0 MVAR
- VAR withdrawal capability:
 - Q3 = -33 MVAR
 - Q4 = -0 MVAR
- Average(33,0) Average (-33,-0) = 33
- Compensation = \$1,000*33 = \$33,000/yr

This example's dedicated VAR equipment was programmed to only provide reactive capability required by the ISA, which is a fixed power factor that drops with lower MW. This is consistent with the ISA power factor obligation, but does not provide the full capability of the equipment.

