

Power Grid Visualization

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Abstract:

The blackout on August 14th, 2003 affected 50 million people and cost businesses an estimated 6 billion dollars. If better visualization methods had been around to detect the power grid failures in the early stages of the blackout, the damage may have been far less. Even though the maintenance of the national power grid is essential, there is very little research in visualization methods that will help in the discovery of errors in the grid. Like many other areas of visualization, half the battle is obtaining the data. I will discuss how the data is acquired and how it is being used.