Abstract—This article presents a data-learned linear Koopman embedding of nonlinear networked dynamics and uses it to enable real-time model predictive emergency voltage control in a power grid. The approach involves a novel data-driven “basis-dictionary free” lifting of the system dynamics into a higher dimensional linear space over which a model predictive control is exercised, making it both scalable and rapid for practical real-time implementation. A Koopman-inspired deep neural network (KDNN) encoder–decoder architecture for the linear embedding of the underlying networked dynamics under distributive control is presented, in which the end-to-end components of the KDNN, comprising of a triple of transforms is learned from the system trajectory data in one go: a neural network (NN)-based lifting to a higher dimension, a linear dynamics within that higher dimension, and an NN-based projection to the original space. This data-learned approach relieves the burden of the ad hoc selection of the nonlinear basis functions (e.g., radial or polynomial) used in conventional approaches for lifting to a higher dimensional linear space. We validate the efficacy and robustness of the approach via application to the standard IEEE 39-bus system.

Index Terms—Data-driven method, Koopman operator, model predictive control (MPC), neural network (NN), voltage control.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Motivation and Related Works

Designing an efficient control methodology for power grids faces tremendous challenges because of their distributed networked architecture and complex nonlinear dynamics governed by differential-algebraic equations (DAE). Generally, power systems have different layers of controls for different operation modes; among those, emergency controls are of utmost importance for grid security and resilience. Owing to the complexity, the prevalent special protection systems (SPS) for emergency controls are mostly rule-based and easy to implement but limited in their level of resilience. As a result, more recently, researchers have explored optimization-based methods, such as model predictive control (MPC) to develop an analytical approach relying on system dynamics and real-time measurements. But, due to the massive integration of renewable generations, dynamic loads, and inverter-based resources, model complexities and uncertainties are increasing, so having an exact model is difficult. Plus, due to nonlinearity and high-dimensional dynamics, model-based optimizations have high computational burdens, making them time-consuming and not amenable to real-time execution. To this end, the emerging data-driven approaches offer opportunities to control designs in complex networked cyber-physical systems (CPSs) [1], [2]. The data-driven approaches not only avoid the need for knowing the model in advance but also make the control computation fast and real-time, trading a small modeling accuracy for a substantial gain in computation speed. Among the data-driven approaches, model-free deep reinforcement learning (DRL) is gaining importance [3], [4]. However, providing analytical guarantees for DRL-based control is still ongoing research and is currently not ready for direct interactions with real-world power grids [5].

Here, we develop a data-driven approach for power systems modeling that lifts the nonlinear dynamics to a higher dimensional linear space and performs the MPC on this linear embedding, making it free of analytical models (that are generally unavailable for complex power grids), scalable, and real-time (for having the control computed in the linear state-space). Also, the lifting is done in a certain NN-based encoder–decoder architecture that avoids the conventional ad hoc selection of basis functions (polynomial or radial) for lifting. We first briefly summarize the conventional MPC-based existing works in power systems applications, their computational limitation, and the current lifting approaches for linear embedding and their limitations as well.

1) MPC-Based Approaches in Power Systems: An overview of MPC in power systems can be found in [6]. Quasi-steady-state (QSS) model approximation and sensitivity-based approaches are presented in [7]. MPC formulations with trajectory sensitivity-based approximation of nonlinear DAE are provided in [8], [9], and [10] for emergency voltage control. In [11], a speed-up of trajectory sensitivity computation utilizing the “very dishonest newton (VDHN)” method for the jacobian update is utilized in the MPC context. In recent studies, linear state-space models of power systems are leveraged in MPC-based load frequency control [12], [13], active frequency response [14], and optimal power allocation of energy storage devices [15].

In summary, MPC-based methods are promising for emergency control of power systems, but their real-world application using online optimization over nonlinear DAE faces a major
computational issue, making the MPC inapplicable in real time. This computational bottleneck cannot be overcome even by incorporating different approximation techniques, for instance, sensitivity-based linearization [10].

2) Koopman-Based Lifting and Their Applications in Power Systems: To leverage the scalability of control design in the setting of linear state-space models, Koopman operators have been proposed to provide a higher dimensional linear representation of a nonlinear system [16]. The lifting uses nonlinear basis functions, and the lifted linear dynamics, when projected to the original space, provide an approximation to the original nonlinear dynamics [17], [18]. Finding the suitable basis functions for the lifting operation is a nontrivial problem: in fact, the standard approaches utilize an ad hoc predefined dictionary of basis functions (e.g., polynomial or radial) that are not necessarily optimal. The Koopman-based lifting and control design based on it have been explored in power systems applications: [19] solved an MPC-based transient stabilization problem utilizing classical swing dynamics of power systems [20]. A Koopman-based model predictive power system stabilizer (PSS) is designed in [21]. The authors in [22] integrate Koopman-based system identification and controller design for oscillation damping. The Koopman-based controller for decentralized frequency control problem with the time-delayed embedding of measurements is studied in [23]. In [24], data-driven characterization of power system dynamics is investigated using the Koopman operator theory. Overall, the following can be summarized.

1) The Koopman-based embedding in power systems is mostly based on simplified models of power system dynamics so that a predefined dictionary of basis functions (e.g., see [19, eq. (2)]) can be used.

2) Building an appropriate dictionary of basis functions for complex power system dynamics comprising higher-order generator models, exciter models, load models, etc., is challenging, and this restricts the application of Koopman-based methods in power system control design. This issue has also been observed in other complex nonlinear applications.

3) In recent research [25], [26], [27], [28], [29], [30], [31], DNN-based basis functions have been explored mostly in non-networked systems. Within the power systems (an example of a networked system), only [32] considers learning-based lifting for transient stability problems, but based on a simplified model of the swing dynamics (similar to the simplified model used in [19]).

B. Our Approach and Key Contributions

Motivated by these observations, we present a Koopman-inspired deep neural network architecture, termed KDNN, for a linear embedding of the nonlinear voltage dynamics, by drawing data from the system evolution based on its complete differential-algebraic dynamics (without any approximation) and design an MPC-based emergency voltage control over the linear embedding. The approach presented is applicable to any networked system. The proposed KDNN employs an encode–decoder architecture, embedding an interim linear stage. The validity of the proposed KDNN-based MPC scheme is established by implementing an emergency voltage recovery scheme following a severe fault in the IEEE 39-bus system. The performance and robustness of the scheme are demonstrated via ±20% load variations around the nominal model as well as under different contingencies. In summary, the key contributions of the work presented include the following.

1) A Koopman-inspired linear embedding to map the nonlinear voltage dynamics to a lifted linear state-space for the emergency voltage control in power systems, considering the higher order generator models, exciter models, load models, etc. (unlike the previous works which used the simplified swing dynamics), and also allowing the recovery of bus voltages through control actions (e.g., reactive power compensation).

Our approach is “basis-dictionary free” unlike the standard approaches that pick ad hoc basis functions (polynomial or radial) that are not necessarily optimal. To this end, we formulate an encoder–decoder architecture comprising of the following:

a) NN-based data-learned basis functions for lifting;
b) data-learned linear Koopman operators associated with the lifted states and control inputs;
c) data-learned projection function used for mapping down to the original state space.

This encoder–decoder-based neural architecture is trained in an end-to-end manner in one go, learning directly from data the unknown basis function, the linear Koopman operators, and the projection function together. Such end-to-end learning also eliminates the risks of numerical issues associated with iterative learning of neural basis functions versus the least-square estimation of Koopman operators, as is the case in [32].

2) We provided a detailed noise robustness analysis of the neural lifting by providing bounds on the lifted states given the bounds on the original voltage states, meaning that by design, the lifting is bounded input bounded output stable.

3) The MPC computation for emergency voltage control is directly performed in the lifted linear state space, which makes the MPC scalable as well as real time for power system application: We demonstrate a 36-fold speed-up of control computation on the IEEE 39-bus system.

II. FORMULATION OF PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

This section starts by considering the nonlinear power system dynamics representation in the DAE form that implicitly models the bus voltage dynamics under corresponding controls. We then briefly overview the Koopman operators and present the proposed data-driven KDNN architecture for embedding the nonlinear voltage dynamics into a higher dimensional linear space. Finally, we formulate the MPC framework in the lifted linear space to stabilize voltage trajectories following any disturbances.

A. Power System Model

The dynamics of a power system can be captured in the form of a nonlinear DAE, given as follows:

$$\dot{X} = F(X, Y, U); \quad 0 = G(X, Y, U)$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)
where $X :=$ state variables, $Y :=$ algebraic variables, and $U :=$ control inputs. Here, we are interested in the voltage stability control, so the relevant dynamics is the response of bus voltages $V \subseteq Y$ to the control input $U$ (reactive VAR compensation in our setting). Note that the DAEs (1) are an interacting system of simultaneous equations written compactly employing vectors: its state equations $F$ are corresponding to the state variables, whereas the vector of all the network constraints involving voltages, active, and reactive powers form the algebraic equations $G$.

As noted previously, the use of the nonlinear model (1) is not scalable for real-time MPC-based voltage stabilization, and instead, we aim to learn the relevant part of the dynamics, namely the controlled voltage dynamics, utilizing the data obtained from the DAE model trajectories in the proposed KDNN framework. Since the system trajectory data are available in discrete time, we examine the voltage dynamics in discrete time, indexed by integer variable $k \geq 0$, as

$$V_{k+1} = T(V_k, U_k) \tag{2}$$

where $V_k := [V_k^1, \ldots, V_k^n]_T$ is the voltage vector and $U_k := [U_k^1, \ldots, U_k^m]_T$ is the control vector at $k$th control instant in a $n$-bus power grid with $m$ number of control inputs. The underlying voltage dynamics, as a function of controls distributed over the entire network, in vector form is given as (2), whose dimension is the number of network nodes.

In a practical setting, the control implementation occurs at a larger time period $T_c$, compared to the voltage discretization time period, $T_v$. We let $H = T_c/T_v$ denote the length of voltage trajectory history between any two control instants. The controls are held constant between the two control instances, while the voltage dynamics continue to evolve, forming a time series of length $H$ between any two control instants. Thus, at each control instant $k$, the “voltage-state” is taken to be the time-series of voltage values between the control instants $k - 1$ and $k$, that can be captured in a matrix form: $V_{k}^{\text{hist}} = [V_{k,j}]$, where $i = 1, \ldots, n,$ and $j = 0, \ldots, H - 1$. In contrast, the control input $U_k$ takes a new value only at the instant $k$. Henceforth, with a slight abuse of notation, we use $V_k$ to represent $V_{k}^{\text{hist}}$.

Next, we discuss the lifting of the nonlinear mapping $T(\cdot, \cdot)$ of (2) to a higher dimensional linear state space by way of employing the theory of Koopman operators.

### B. Preliminaries on the Koopman Operator

Let us consider discrete-time nonlinear dynamics as

$$x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) \tag{3}$$

where $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$, and $f$ is the vector field. We adopt the lifting mechanism presented in [18], which only lifts the state variables $x$ to a higher dimension, leaving the control variables $u$ unlifted. According to the Koopman operator theory for finite-dimensional linear approximation of the nonlinear system defined by (3), there exist $N \gg n$, real-valued nonlinear basis functions (lifting functions) $G_i: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, N$ forming $\mathcal{G} = [G_1, \ldots, G_N]^\top$, which lifts the original state space to the higher dimensional state-space so that in the lifted space, the system follows the linear dynamics

$$\mathcal{G}(x_{k+1}) = A \mathcal{G}(x_k) + B u_k \tag{4}$$

where $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$ are the Koopman operators associated with the state and control spaces, respectively.

One way to obtain the Koopman operators for a finite-dimensional approximation such as (4) is to utilize the method of extended dynamic mode decomposition (EDMD) [17], [18], where a predefined dictionary of basis functions is assumed known. The approach requires collecting $T$ tuples $\{(x_k, u_k, x_{k+1})\}_{k=1}^{T}$ from various trajectory data of the given nonlinear system under different initial conditions. The collected trajectory data are arranged as: $X = [x_1, \ldots, x_T]$, $X^+ = [x_2, \ldots, x_{T+1}]$, $U = [u_1, \ldots, u_T]$, where the $i$th elements $x(i)$, $X^+(i)$, and $U(i)$ satisfy the dynamics (3), namely, $X^+(i) = f(X(i), U(i))$. For a given dictionary of mappings: $\mathcal{G}(x) = [\hat{G}(x_1) \ldots \hat{G}(x_T)]^\top$, the lifted space state representations are: $X_{\text{lift}} = [\hat{G}(x_1) \ldots \hat{G}(x_T)]$, and $X_{\text{lift}}^+ = [\hat{G}(x_2) \ldots \hat{G}(x_{T+1})]$. Then, the matrices $A$ and $B$ can be obtained by solving a least-square optimization problem

$$\min_{A,B} \|X_{\text{lift}}^+ - A X_{\text{lift}} - BU\|_F$$  \tag{5}

where $\| \cdot \|_F$ denotes the Frobenius norm of a matrix. The solution of (5) gives

$$[A \ B] = X_{\text{lift}} [X_{\text{lift}}^\top U]^\top$$  \tag{6}

where $\dagger$ denotes the Moore–Penrose pseudo-inverse of a matrix. In standard EDMD formulation, the projection from the higher dimensional space to the original lower dimensional space is achieved by $C \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times N}$, computed by solving

$$\min_{C} \|X - CX_{\text{lift}}\|_F$$  \tag{7}

which yields $C = XX_{\text{lift}}^\dagger$. The computation of (6) is sometimes prohibitive for large datasets ($T \gg N$), in which case it is beneficial to instead solve a “normal form” equation obtained by multiplying $\mathcal{V} := [X_{\text{lift}} \ U] [X_{\text{lift}}^\top U]^\top$ on both sides of (6) to obtain

$$[A \ B] \mathcal{V} = \mathcal{W},$$

where $\mathcal{W} := X_{\text{lift}}^+ [X_{\text{lift}}^\top U]^\top$. Then, $[A \ B] = \mathcal{W} \mathcal{V}^\dagger$, in which the dimension of $\mathcal{W}$ and $\mathcal{V}$ are $N \times (N + m)$, and $(N + m) \times (N + m)$, respectively, and are independent of the number of data samples $T$. Analogously, we can solve the normal form associated with $C = XX_{\text{lift}}^\dagger$ to get $C = \mathcal{W} \mathcal{V}^\dagger$, with $\mathcal{W} = XX_{\text{lift}}^\dagger$, and $\mathcal{V} = X_{\text{lift}} X_{\text{lift}}^\dagger$ having dimensions $n \times N$ and $N \times N$, respectively, that are again independent of $T$.

### C. Proposed NN-Based Koopman Embedding

Instead of relying on any predefined dictionary of basis function choices, here we explore the power of artificial intelligence (AI) in data-driven learning of the basis functions, represented as deep neural networks (DNNs), as in [27]. Viewing the linear embedding to be a special case of a DNN, our approach learns not only the lifting functions (mapping to a higher dimension) but also the linear embedding (in the higher dimension), as well

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as the projections (mapping to the original lower dimension), all three in one go.

Following the Koopman operator theory that approximates (3) as (4), we can write the voltage dynamics (2) in the lifted linear space as

\[ \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_{k+1}) = \mathcal{A}(\hat{V}_k) + \mathcal{B} \mathbf{U}_k \]  

(8)

where \( \hat{V}_k = V_k - V_{\text{ref}} \). Note that this implies that at the reference point, \( \hat{V}_k = 0 \).

Our encoder–decoder KDNN architecture to realize (8) is presented in Fig. 1, where the matrix structure of \( V_k \) (same as \( \hat{V}_k \)) of dimension \([n, H]\) is flattened to form an vector input of length \( \pi = n \times H \).

1) Construction of the Encoder: The flattened vector input \( \hat{V}_k \) is passed through a fully connected neural network (FCNN) layer (feed-forward structure) with \( N \) neurons and element-wise nonlinear activation function \( \tanh(\cdot) \). This transformation lifts the actual state, voltage-series \( V_k \), to a higher dimensional state \( \hat{Z}_k = \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_k) \), where \( \mathcal{G}(\cdot) \) represents the nonlinear function associated with the NN-based encoder operation.

2) Linear Embedding: Once lifted to a suitable higher dimension, the linear transformation of \( \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_k) \) by the Koopman operator \( \mathcal{A}(\cdot) \) is an instance of another FCNN (with identity activation function) to be trained as shown in Fig. 1. Similarly, the input \( \mathbf{U}_k \) is also processed through the Koopman operator \( \mathcal{B}(\cdot) \), which is yet another instance of an FCNN with an identity activation function (see Fig. 1). The output of these two operations is added in the lifted space to obtain \( \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_k)) + \mathcal{B} \mathbf{U}_k \), which equals \( \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_{k+1}) \) as per (8).

3) Construction of the Decoder: Finally, to project to the original state-space, we utilize a decoder architecture \( \mathcal{G}^{-1}(\cdot) \) shown in Fig. 1. The decoder, an FCNN layer with \( \pi \) neurons and element-wise nonlinear activation function \( \tanh(\cdot) \) denoted by \( \mathcal{G}^{-1}(\cdot) \), does the inverse operation of the encoder \( \mathcal{G}(\cdot) \), and takes \( \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_{k+1}) = \mathcal{A}(\mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_k)) + \mathcal{B} \mathbf{U}_k \) as input and maps it to predicted \( \hat{V}_{k+1} \).

4) Loss Function for End-to-End Training: The end-to-end KDNN is parameterized by \( \theta \), and can be expressed as \( \mathcal{F}(\cdot, \theta) \).

We formulate a loss function based on four mappings, that makes the trained KDNN robust to errors.

1) \( \hat{V}_{k+1}^{\text{pred}} \) obtained from \( \{\hat{V}_k, \mathbf{U}_k\} \) through (8), and decoder mapping \( \mathcal{G}^{-1}(\cdot) \) is compared against ground-truth \( \hat{V}_{k+1} \).
2) The encoder value \( \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_k) \) is passed through \( \mathcal{G}^{-1}(\cdot) \) to obtain the estimated version \( \hat{V}_{k+1}^{\text{pred}, (b)} \), which is compared against the ground-truth \( \hat{V}_{k+1} \).
3) \( \hat{V}_{k+1} \) is passed through the encoder \( \mathcal{G}(\cdot) \) and decoder \( \mathcal{G}^{-1}(\cdot) \) to obtain the estimated version \( \hat{V}_{k+1}^{\text{pred}, (c)} \), which is compared against the ground-truth \( \hat{V}_{k+1} \).
4) \( \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_{k+1})^{\text{pred}} \) obtained using (8) in step (1), and \( \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_{k+1})^{\text{pred}} \) obtained by passing \( \hat{V}_{k+1} \) through the encoder \( \mathcal{G}(\cdot) \) in step (3).

Accordingly, the mean squared error loss function is formulated as follows:

\[
\mathcal{L}(\theta) = \frac{1}{L} \sum_i \left[ (\hat{V}_{k+1} - \hat{V}_{k+1}^{\text{pred}, (a)})^2_i + (\hat{V}_k - \hat{V}_{k+1}^{\text{pred}, (b)})^2_i + (\hat{V}_{k+1} - \hat{V}_{k+1}^{\text{pred}, (c)})^2_i \right]_i \tag{9}
\]

where \( L \) denotes the batch size and \( i \) denotes the \( i \)th sample of a single minibatch. We used minibatch stochastic gradient descent to train \( \mathcal{F}(\cdot, \theta) \).

D. Formulation of MPC Problem

Here, the objective of the control design is to minimize the postdisturbance voltage deviations with respect to a user-defined reference value \( V_{\text{ref}} = 1.00 \) p.u. For this, we employ MPC, which, at each control instant, computes an optimal sequence of control inputs for the remaining control horizon by optimizing a predicted future behavior of the underlying system, implements the first control action of the computed sequence, and then, repeats the same process with the new measurements at the next control instant [10]. This iterative control computation, employing new state measurements, helps to correct the effects of modeling error as compensated by the new measurement taken. Using the trained KDNN architecture, we can extract the functions \( \mathcal{G}(\cdot), \mathcal{A}(\cdot), \) and \( \mathcal{B}(\cdot) \) that are then utilized in the computation of the MPC in the lifted linear space as formulated next.

The measured voltages \( V_k \) are lifted to \( Z_k := \mathcal{G}(\hat{V}_k) \). Note that at \( V_k = V_{\text{ref}}, \hat{V}_k = 0 \), which implies that \( Z_{\text{ref}} = \mathcal{G}(V - V_{\text{ref}}) = \tanh(0) = 0 \), for zero bias in neural lifting (see Section III). Accordingly, at any control instant \( k \), the model-predictive optimization problem in the lifted space is an instance of linear quadratic regulator as follows:

\[
\min_{\mathbf{U}_k, \ldots, \mathbf{U}_{k+N_k-1}} \sum_{i=0}^{N_k-1} [Z_{k+i+1}^\top Q Z_{k+i+1} + U_{k+i+1}^\top R U_{k+i+1}] \tag{10a} \\
\text{s.t.} \quad Z_{k+i+1} = \mathcal{A} Z_{k+i} + \mathcal{B} U_{k+i} \quad \forall i \in [0, N_k - 1] \tag{10b} \\
U_{\text{min}} \leq U_{k+i} \leq U_{\text{max}} \quad \forall i \in [0, N_k - 1] \tag{10c} \\
Z_{k+N_k} \in Z_{\text{terminal}} \tag{10d}
\]
where $N_k$ is the number of remaining control instants at the instant $k$, $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$ and $R \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$ are the user-specified weight matrices (with $N$ being the dimension of lifted space, and $m$ being the dimension of the control space), $U_{\text{max}}$ and $U_{\text{min}}$ are the lower/upper control bounds, and $Z_{\text{terminal}}$ is the desired final set in the lifted space, as detailed in Section III. Showing stability of the proposed MPC then boils down to showing that $Z_{\text{terminal}}$ is contained in the region of attraction of the equilibrium under the computed MPC. On the other hand, for the feasibility of the MPC, some states in $Z_{\text{terminal}}$ must be reachable from the initial state. The computation of the region of attraction and that of forward reachability can be found in existing literature such as [33], [34], [35], and [36].

III. PROPERTIES OF NEURAL LIFTING

A. Terminal Constraints and Tracking in Lifted Space

We first show that the terminal constraints in the original space can be mapped to constraints in the lifted space.

**Proposition 1.** (Terminal Constraints): The terminal constraints on voltage, namely, $V_{\text{min}} \leq V \leq V_{\text{max}}$ can be mapped to a corresponding constraint set $Z_{\text{terminal}}$ in the lifted space, under positive weights and zero bias in the neural lifting.

**Proof:** Noting that the lifting function corresponds to a single-layered fully connected feed-forward network, given a voltage $V$, or equivalently, $\tilde{V} = V - V_{\text{ref}}$, the lifted state $Z = \mathcal{G}(\tilde{V}) \in \mathbb{R}^N$ can be expressed as

$$Z = \phi(W \tilde{V} + b) \equiv \tanh(W \tilde{V} + b)$$

where $W \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times \pi}$ is the weight matrix, $b \in \mathbb{R}^N$ is the bias vector, and $\phi(\cdot) \equiv \tanh(\cdot)$ is the activation function.

Under the positivity of the entries of the weight matrix $W = [W_{ij}]$, namely, $W_{ij} \geq 0 \forall i, j$, and zero bias, $b = 0$, given the element-wise bound on voltage, $V_{\text{min}} \leq \tilde{V} \leq V_{\text{max}} \forall i = 1, \ldots, \pi$, we can obtain element-wise bound on $Z_j = \tanh(\sum_{i=1}^\pi W_{ij} \tilde{V}_i)$ by employing the monotonicity of $\tanh(\cdot)$ as

$$Z_{j,\text{min}} \leq Z_j \leq Z_{j,\text{max}} \ \forall j = 1, \ldots, N$$

(12)

where $Z_{j,\text{min}} := \tanh(\sum_{i=1}^\pi W_{ij} \tilde{V}_{\text{min}})$ and $Z_{j,\text{max}} := \tanh(\sum_{i=1}^\pi W_{ij} \tilde{V}_{\text{max}})$. These element-wise bounds $\{Z_{j,\text{min}}, Z_{j,\text{max}}\}$ $\forall j$ yield the terminal constraint set $Z_{\text{terminal}}$, as desired. \hfill \blacksquare

**Remark 1:** Reference [37] notes that the $\tanh(\cdot)$ activation has a slope that is sector-bounded in $[0, 1]$, and that can be expressed as a quadratic constraint (QC). Using this, it determines a QC bound on $Z$ given the bound on $\tilde{V}$. However, this requires solving a semidefinite programming in a higher dimensional lifted space that is numerically challenging. To mitigate this issue, we have provided previously the element-wise simpler bounds for the lifted states.

The next proposition justifies the reference tracking in the lifted space, by showing that it implies reference tracking also in the original space. Recall that the objective of the standard nonlinear MPC is to minimize the deviation of the predicted trajectory from the desired reference in the original space. Proposition 2 shows that the encoder function $\mathcal{G}(\cdot)$ (with zero bias) preserves the closeness to reference, thereby justifying the tracking in the lifted space as in (10a).

**Proposition 2:** For any $\epsilon > 0$, $\|Z\|_2 \leq \epsilon$ implies that there exists $\delta > 0$ such that $\|W - V_{\text{ref}}\|_2 \leq \delta$. Conversely for any $\epsilon' > 0$, $\|V - V_{\text{ref}}\|_2 \leq \epsilon'$ implies the existence of $\delta' > 0$ such that $\|Z\|_2 \leq \delta'$.

**Proof:** Start by proving the first statement. $\|Z\|_2 \leq \epsilon$, implies that $\sum_i Z_i^2(i) \leq \epsilon^2$ (here $Z(i)$ denotes the $i$th element of $Z$), which implies $\forall i, Z(i) \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow \tanh((W - W_{\text{ref}})(i)) \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow \|\tanh((W - W_{\text{ref}})(i))\| \leq \epsilon$. Due to symmetry, $|\tanh(\cdot)| = |\tanh(\cdot)|$. Hence, $|\tanh((W - W_{\text{ref}})(i))| \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow |\tanh((W - W_{\text{ref}})(i))| \leq \epsilon \Rightarrow |W - W_{\text{ref}}(i)| \leq \tanh^{-1}(\epsilon)$, where the last implication follows from the monotonicity and non-decreasing property of $\tanh(\cdot)$. Taking squared sum over all elements, we have $\sum_i |W - W_{\text{ref}}(i)| \leq \sqrt{N} \times (\tanh^{-1}(\epsilon))^2$ (recall $N$ is the dimension of $Z$), which is equivalent to $\|W - W_{\text{ref}}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{N} \times (\tanh^{-1}(\epsilon))^2$.

Finally, from the property of norm, we have $\|V - V_{\text{ref}}\|_2 \leq \sqrt{N} \times (\tanh^{-1}(\epsilon))^2 := \delta > 0$, where the smallest singular value $\sigma_{\text{min}}(W) > 0$ for a full rank $W$. This proves the first part; the second part can be established in a similar manner, and it can be shown that $\delta' = \sqrt{N} \times (\tanh((\epsilon')^2\|W\|_2))^2$, where we need to utilize the fact that $\|W(V - V_{\text{ref}})\|_2 \leq \delta$.

It follows from Proposition 2 that the reference tracking in the original voltage space can be mapped to the reference tracking in the lifted space.

B. Noise/Disturbance Robustness of Lifting Operation

Considering the safety-critical nature of power systems, certifying the robustness of neural lifting against input uncertainties is important. In this regard, we show here the boundedness of the perturbation in the lifted space whenever the perturbation due to noise or input disturbance in the original space is bounded.

**Proposition 3.** (Noise-Robustness): For a bounded noise perturbation of voltage inputs, namely when $\forall i \in \mathbb{R}^\pi: V_{\text{min}} \leq \tilde{V}_i \leq V_{\text{max}}$, and the control bounds $[U_{\text{min}}, U_{\text{max}}]$ on the input $U$, the perturbation in the predicted states of the lifted space is also bounded under positive weights and zero bias in the neural encoding.

**Proof:** Following the derivation of (12) in Proposition 1, we have:

$Z_{j,\text{min}} \leq Z_j \leq Z_{j,\text{max}} \forall j = 1, \ldots, N$, where $Z_{j,\text{min}} := \tanh(\sum_{i=1}^\pi W_{ij} V_{\text{min}})$ and $Z_{j,\text{max}} := \tanh(\sum_{i=1}^\pi W_{ij} V_{\text{max}})$. Additionally, with the positivity of $A \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, with $A_{ij} > 0 \forall i, j$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times m}$, with $B_{ij} > 0 \forall i, j$, and the disturbance bounds $[U_{\text{min}}, U_{\text{max}}]$ on the control input $U$, the predicted states in lifted space $Z^+ = AZ + BU$ are bounded as

$$A Z_{\text{min}} + B U_{\text{min}} \leq Z^+ \leq A Z_{\text{max}} + B U_{\text{max}}$$

(13)

where $Z_{\text{min}} := [Z_{0,\text{min}}, \ldots, Z_{N,\text{min}}]^T$ and $Z_{\text{max}} := [Z_{0,\text{max}}, \ldots, Z_{N,\text{max}}]^T$.

It follows from Proposition 3, that the effect of noise or disturbance remains bounded when we move from the original nonlinear space to the lifted linear space, i.e., the proposed neural encoding is robust to noise and disturbance.
IV. TEST CASES, IMPLEMENTATION, AND RESULTS

This section presents the proof-of-validation of our proposed methodology with the IEEE 39-bus system. We start with the description of the test system, followed by the main results.

A. Test System Description

We consider a modified version of the standard IEEE 39-bus system to be able to study the emergency voltage control problems. The IEEE 39-bus system consists of ten generators from bus-30 to bus-39 and 46 transmission lines. The generators have Park-Concordia fourth-order state-space model with states rotor angle \( \delta \), speed \( \omega \), q-axis transient voltage \( e^q \) and d-axis transient voltage \( e^d \). Except for the slack one at bus 39, the generators are equipped with IEEE Type-1 excitation systems as mentioned in [38] and [39]. The parameter values of transmission lines, generators, excitation systems, base-load, and generation levels are taken from [38]. More details on the generators and exciter model can be found in the power system analysis toolbox (PSAT) manual [39]. The load dynamics are modeled using exponential recovery load [39], [40] for which load recovery time constants \( T_p = T_Q = 30 \), steady-state load exponents \( \alpha_s = 0.1, \alpha_t = 2, \beta_s = 2.8 \), and transient load exponents \( \beta_t = 4 \) are selected according to [10], with certain modifications to increase the criticality of load recovery. The system is simulated using the open-source simulator PSAT [39].

For our study, we selected a subnetwork of 12 load buses \( S = \{4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15\} \) [the red dotted region in Fig. 2(a)]. It is observed that after a fault at bus 15, which gets cleared by tripping a line between buses 15 and 16 within six cycles of system operation, voltages in the vicinity of the fault bus drop below the desired level almost immediately [see Fig. 2(b)] and without any corrective control this may cause a system collapse. Similar observations are also made for faults at other buses, for instance, buses 4, 7, and 8; the situation gets exacerbated under increased load conditions and limited generator excitation. This necessitates an emergency control mechanism, and we implemented our proposed MPC-based voltage stabilization policy following faults to keep the voltage trajectories close to a reference value \( V_{ref} = 1.00 \) p.u. The control inputs are reactive power compensation at buses 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 15 that can provide fast reactive support of up to 0.25 p.u. in each control step. To stabilize the voltage trajectories, we choose a five-step MPC with a control horizon of 15 s, divided into five segments of 3 s each, i.e., \( T_c = 3 \).

B. Training of KDNN

1) Training Data: For training the proposed KDNN, we created a large pool of training data by simulating the system under various operating conditions. As given in (1), the nominal model of a power system follows DAE dynamics, plus the nominal system is subject to unknown load fluctuations and faults, and we need to ensure that the training data capture those changes in operating conditions. To capture the dependencies on changing conditions, we introduce a parameter \( \Theta \) extending the DAE to \( X = F(X, Y, U, \Theta), 0 = G(X, Y, U, \Theta) \). In the training data generation phase, random variations of control inputs \( U \) in the range \([0,0.25]\) p.u. were introduced, and further, the parametric changes in \( \Theta \) were introduced by way of load variations of \( \pm 20\% \) around the nominal loads plus by applying three different contingencies. For each \( T_f \) sec simulation (\( T_f \approx 20 \) s for the IEEE-39 Bus system), we randomly chose a \( \Theta \) value, and randomly chose controls at each of the five control instants (i.e., \( \Theta \), namely the load and the contingency, were held constant in each short time period of \( T_f \) sec simulation). We repeated this procedure of trajectory generation multiple times. Finally, all these data were pooled together and used for the training of KDNN, ensuring that the KDNN is exposed to different operating conditions, thereby making it suitable for the dynamic variations of the power systems. We also show the applicability of our method by applying random load levels within \( \pm 20\% \) of nominal level, and five different contingencies. In total, we utilized 1000 random load conditions and faults at buses 15, 4, and 7, collecting a total of \( 1000 \times 5 \times 3 = 15000 \) data samples in the form of \( \{V_k, U_k, V_{k+1}\} \) triples. We divided the data into 70 : 30 to create the training and test datasets.

2) KDNN Architecture: As shown in Fig. 1, the lifting function \( G(\cdot) \) is built using an FCNN layer, where the number of neurons of the FCNN layer decides the dimension \( N \) of the lifted space. We considered a subnetwork of 12 buses, which implies \( n = 12 \), and observation history length \( H = 4 \) between any \((k-1)\)th to \(k\)th control instants (this is because the sampling rate for voltage values is higher than the control application rate, and so there are multiple voltage values between any two control values). We tested \( N = 256 > 5 \times n \times H \). The activation function of the FCNN layer is \( \tanh(\cdot) \) representing the nonlinearity of the layer \( G(\cdot) \). The linear transformation matrices \( A \) and \( B \) are also represented as single-layer FCNNs with 256 neurons, while their activation function is identity.

3) Training Parameters and Data Preprocessing: The optimizer chosen for the training is ADAM, with gradient momentum \( \beta_1 = 0.9/0.95 \) and rms momentum \( \beta_2 = 0.999/0.95 \). The loss function, batch size, learning rate, and performance metric are: mean squared error (MSE) loss, 32, \( 10^{-3} \), and \( R^2 \)-score, respectively. Prior to training the KDNN, the input and output data were processed as follows: First, \( V_{ref} = 1.00 \) was subtracted from the voltage values \( V_k \) to obtain the corresponding \( \tilde{V}_k \) values. Next, this adjusted data were normalized in the range \([-1, 1]\) preserving \( \tilde{V}_k \) at \( V_k = V_{ref} \) The control values \( U_k \) in the \([0,0.25]\) range were also normalized in the \([-1, 1]\) range.

4) Training and Testing Performance: We utilized TensorFlow to build and train the KDNN model. The training is done by minimizing a composite loss function of four components mentioned in Section II-C. To ensure bounded-input bounded-output...
property of the architecture for robustness to noise and other perturbations, the training is performed ensuring the positivity of weight matrices as well as matrices of the linear embedding (as discussed and elaborated in Sections II and III). The training losses in MSE are shown in Fig. 3(a).

To show the generalization property of our trained model, we evaluated the model performance on testing data (which was not used during training). For reconstruction of $\tilde{V}^{\text{pred},(a)}_k$, $\tilde{V}^{\text{pred},(b)}_k$, and $\tilde{V}^{\text{pred},(c)}_k$ using testing data and the trained model, we evaluated the performance in terms of MSE and the coefficient of determination $R^2 \in [0, 1]$ (recall an $R^2$ value of 1 indicates an exact fit). The plots given in Fig. 3(b)–(d) for the test MSE and Fig. 3(e)–(g) for the $R^2$-score demonstrate that the generalization performance of the trained model is satisfactory. Next noting that both training and testing performances are satisfactory, we utilized the trained KDNN to extract the functions $G(\cdot), A(\cdot)$, and $B(\cdot)$ for MPC computation in the lifted linear space.

5) Discussion on Model Training, Generalization Error, and Overfitting: The proposed KDNN learns the mapping of the voltage dynamics from the $k$th control instant voltage $V_k$ and control $U_k$ to the next control instant voltage, $V_{k+1} = T(V_k, U_k)$ under different operating conditions of the power system. For the training of the KDNN, we carried out certain key steps to ensure a good generalization performance.

1) We varied the load condition to within $\pm 20\%$ of the nominal load condition, applied contingencies, and employed random policies to execute control actions, storing the triples, $\{V_k, U_k, V_{k+1}\}$. This provides enough richness to the training data for reducing the generalization error.

2) We used $\tilde{V}_k$, which is a time series of voltage values in-between the $(k-1)$th and $k$th control instants, rather a single voltage value as training data.

3) The loss function involved four different ways of measuring error to provide multiple cross checks as presented in Section II-C, (9).

4) Finally, to avoid scaling-related issues due to different voltage levels at different buses, we subtracted the voltage values with respect to a common reference point $V_{\text{ref}}$ and normalized all data values in $[-1, 1]$, respectively.

We validated the effectiveness of data preprocessing of step (4) by performing cross validation, dividing the available training dataset randomly into train data (80%) and validation data (20%) during model training. The plots in Fig. 4 show that the variance in validation loss is lower in the case of training with the data preprocessing of step (4). Thus, preprocessing of dataset with step (4) further helped us reduce the fitting error. Also, as seen in Fig. 4(b), the training loss and validation loss closely matched, showing no sign of overfitting.

C. MPC Computation at the Embedded Linear Space

We computed the MPC-based controls to minimize the voltage deviations from a reference $V_{\text{ref}} = 1.00$ p.u. The design parameters are $Q = I_{N \times N}$, while $R = 0$, as the controls are reactive power (VAR) compensation, it does not incur any effective control cost for the power utility like load shedding (which curtails active loads). Since the steady-state voltage needs to be in the range of $[0.95, 1.05]$ p.u., in the MPC formulation for the final lifted state $Z_{k+N_k}$, we introduced the corresponding terminal constraint $Z_{\text{terminal}}$ with $V_{\text{terminal}} := [0.95, 1.05]$ and $V_{\text{ref}} = 1$, as detailed in Section III-A. For validating the robustness of the proposed control design, (a) 5 different load levels (80%, 90%, 100%, 110%, and 120% of the nominal load (N.L.)), and (b) 8 different fault buses (bus-15, bus-4, bus-7, bus-5, bus-6, bus-8, bus-10, bus-14) were selected. Note, all these faults were cleared by tripping respective transmission lines, resulting in different underlying network topologies. The MPC computations were done in the linear embedded state space, solving the constrained optimization (10). Next, the computed controls were applied to the original nonlinear system. The voltage profiles for each of the aforementioned cases are shown in Figs. 5–8, validating that the proposed scheme successfully achieved the desired voltage performance under different operating conditions, thereby confirming the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed methodology of designing controls using the KDNN-based lifted linear embedding of the nonlinear dynamics. Also, note that the voltage values at $t \approx 20$ are within the safe limits: $V_{\text{min}} = 0.95$ p.u. and $V_{\text{max}} = 1.05$ p.u.

We also computed the control actions at each control instant and plotted the accumulated control actions for the five different load cases in Figs. 9–12. The trend suggests that with the
load increase, the amount of VAR compensation (reactive power compensation) increased, and this trend is expected.

D. Discussion on Noise Robustness

Section III-B provides the theoretical understanding of noise robustness for the lifted states, and due to the high dimensional problem structure, it is difficult to represent bounds on lifted state variables. To validate this property, we carried out the MPC computation considering that the measurement voltages are affected by a Gaussian noise of mean 0, and standard deviation 1%. The voltage and control plots for (a) three random load

Fig. 5. Voltage plots for faults at Bus-15 and Bus-4.

Fig. 6. Voltage plots for faults at Bus-7 and Bus-5.

Fig. 7. Voltage plots for faults at Bus-6 and Bus-10.

Fig. 8. Voltage plots for faults at Bus-8 and Bus-14.

Fig. 9. Cumulative control plots for faults at Bus-15 and Bus-4.

Fig. 10. Cumulative control plots for faults at Bus-7 and Bus-5.
levels (within ±20% of nominal load) and (b) faults at bus-15 and 6 are shown in Figs. 13 and 14, respectively.

E. Comparison With Standard Approaches

1) Prediction Performance: Standard Koopman Versus KDNN: As mentioned in [27], an early work in an NN-based Koopman design, radial basis function, polynomials, and kernel functions are mostly common basis functions in the Koopman-operator-based control design. But the choice of an appropriate basis function is an open problem, and this is our primary motivation for utilizing NNs to use data to learn the appropriate basis functions. Here, we demonstrate the benefit of the proposed KDNN-based design compared to the standard EDMD method mentioned in Section II-B for approximating nonlinear implicit voltage dynamics. First, note that for the polynomial basis, the choice of candidate basis set increases double-exponentially with the dimension of original nonlinear dynamics, $n \times H$, as per the problem formulation. This makes creating an optimal choice of dictionary nonscalable and hence prohibitive. So, for comparison, we picked radial basis functions with a dictionary size of 2000. The centers of the radial basis functions were determined by K-means clustering over training data, while for the spread parameter, we selected $\sigma = 0.05$. We then followed (5)–(7) to find $A$, $B$, and $C$ over the same training data utilized to train the KDNN. Next, the computed matrices are used to find the predicted values of the voltage dynamics over the same testing data used for the KDNN testing. The mean squared errors (MSEs) of both predictions and $R^2$-score are plotted in Fig. 15, which clearly shows the superiority of our KDNN-based learned basis functions.

2) Traditional MPC Versus KDNN MPC: We compared the performance of our proposed method with the state-of-art MPC [10] for voltage recovery as well as control computation time. Both traditional MPC [10] and our proposed method uses the same MATLAB-based PSAT platform for the MPC implementation. What differs is that while [10] employs a
voltage trajectory sensitivity-based method that necessitates time-consuming dynamic simulation and additional MATLAB routines to compute the trajectory sensitivities, no such trajectory sensitivity computation is needed in the proposed setting as it solves only a linear MPC and that in fact results in the speed-up of the overall MPC computation. One can define a performance measure $J$ as an aggregation of the squared sum of the voltage trajectory deviations of the buses in $S$ with respect to the reference ($V_{ref} = 1.00 \text{ p.u.}$). We applied different fault conditions under random load levels, and the resulting performance measure $J$ as noted in Table I turns out to be almost the same (maximum percentage error being $\approx 1.2\%$) for both the traditional MPC [10] and the proposed KDNN MPC. A representative voltage plot to show the similarity is given in Fig. 16.

The contrast between the control computation time for trajectory-sensitivity-based state-of-art MPC [10] and that of the proposed KDNN-based MPC is shown in Table II. The KDNN-based approach shows an impressive 36-fold speed-up of the control computation time. It is important to note that even the traditional controllers, e.g., UVLS relaying scheme, generally needs $\sim 0.5$ s to decide a control action [41]. We used standard Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E3-1240 v6 at 3.70-GHz processor with 16-GB RAM for our implementation and computation.

### Table I

| Scenarios          | Performance measure ($J$) | Traditional MPC [10] | KDNN MPC  |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Fault at Bus-15    | 7.5769                    | 7.6106               |
| Fault at Bus-4     | 12.4760                   | 12.5362              |
| Fault at Bus-7     | 10.2480                   | 10.3150              |
| Fault at Bus-5     | 13.5311                   | 13.6130              |
| Fault at Bus-6     | 15.2707                   | 15.4424              |
| Fault at Bus-10    | 12.8511                   | 12.8845              |
| Fault at Bus-14    | 11.5472                   | 11.6870              |
| Fault at Bus-8     | 10.5985                   | 10.6714              |

### Table II

| Method               | Average time / MPC step |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Traditional MPC in [10] | 6.00 sec |
| KDNN MPC            | 0.18 sec                |

**F. Discussion on Real-World Control Room Application**

The training data for KDNN are obtained in a simulated environment. The use of simulation is standard practice for different offline studies within the power utility control room, e.g., state estimation, contingency analysis, and dynamic security analysis [42]. Moreover, with recent progress on test-bed simulators, digital twins are also adopted to match the simulation with real-time operation [43]. For the application of the proposed method, the control room operators need to set a nominal model of the system and generate offline training data for KDNN training as mentioned in Sections IV-A and IV-B; train the KDNN architecture offline, and finally, during the online deployment phase; and (c) collect the voltage measurements and solve the optimization problem (10) using the functions $G(\cdot), A(\cdot)$, and $B(\cdot)$ extracted from the trained KDNN.

Gaps between the simulation models and the real-world systems may exist, and in case over time, if the underlying power system dynamics differ greatly from its existing nominal model (because of major operational changes/modifications), then the existing nominal model itself must be updated by repeating the offline simulation of the model and the training of the KDNN.

### V. Conclusion

This article implemented a Koopman-inspired encoder–decoder framework for the data-driven linear embedding of networked systems dynamics, paving the way for designing a control strategy in the lifted linear state-space, making the MPC design scalable and real-time for power grids. We combined the power of deep learning with the Koopman operator theory for lifting nonlinear dynamics into a higher dimensional linear space. Our data-driven approach autolearns the basis/projection functions removing the burden of selecting those arbitrarily, traditionally taken to be polynomials or radial bases. The test results applied to the IEEE 39-bus system validated the proposed scheme’s performance in terms of efficacy, robustness against load variations and fault conditions, and further a 36-fold computational speed-up making MPC real-time. We also validated the superiority of our approach compared to the standard EDMD approaches for Koopman embedding, which employs predefined basis functions. The proposed promising technique of unraveling the implicit nonlinear dynamics, combining Koopman theory and deep learning methods, opens up a new direction of control design for complex nonlinear networked systems.
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