Openness and Transparency: Discussion & Examples from PyPSA Modelling for Europe

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Motivation: Openness and Transparency

Challenges of infrastructure planning

- integrated energy systems are **complex** (interacting networks, storage, DSM, etc.)
- results are **strongly driven by inputs and assumptions** (cost, demand, constraints)
- subject to many & changing **uncertainties** (technology cost & availability, acceptance, politics, geopolitics)
- many **trade-offs beyond cost** (environmental impact, acceptance, political/social support, land use, industry relocation versus security, e-fuel imports)
- many **competing interests** (fossil fuel suppliers, energy-intensive industry, NGOs, public)

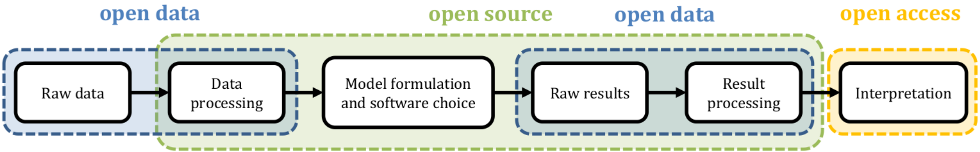
What is open modelling?

Open energy modelling means modelling with open software, open data and open publishing.

Open means that anybody is free to download the software/data/publications, inspect it, machine process it, share it with others, modify it, and redistribute the changes.

This is typically done by uploading the model to an online platform with an **open licence** telling users what their reuse rights are.

The **whole pipeline** should be open:



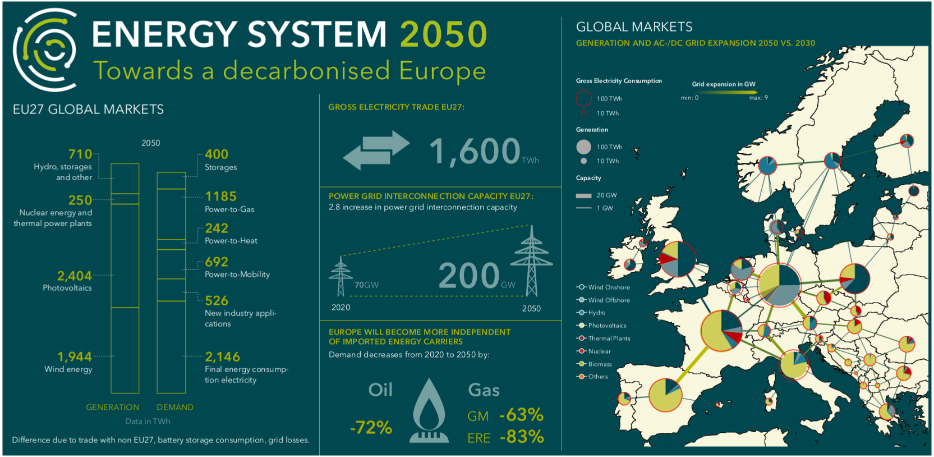
How does openness and transparency help?

openness . . .

- increases **transparency**, **reproducibility** and **credibility**, which lead to better research and policy advice (no more 'black boxes' determining hundreds of billions of energy spending)
- reduces **duplication of effort** and frees time/money to develop **new ideas**
- allows a **high level of customisability** given code is open
- enables **new actors to participate in debate** (e.g. NGOs, researchers, public)
- *can* improve research **quality** through feedback and correction
- allows easier **collaboration** (no need for contracts, NDAs, etc.)
- is essential given the increasing **complexity** of the energy system - we all need data from different domains (grids, buildings, transport, industry) and cannot collect it alone
- can increase **public acceptance** of difficult infrastructure trade-offs

See also S. Pfenninger et al, 'The importance of open data and software: Is energy research lagging behind?,' Energy Policy, V101, p211, 2017 and S. Pfenninger, 'Energy scientists

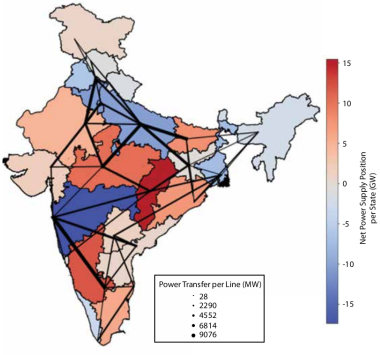
German **TSO TransnetBW** used an open model (PyPSA-Eur-Sec) to model the European energy system in 2050. Why? Easier to build on an existing model than reinvent the wheel.

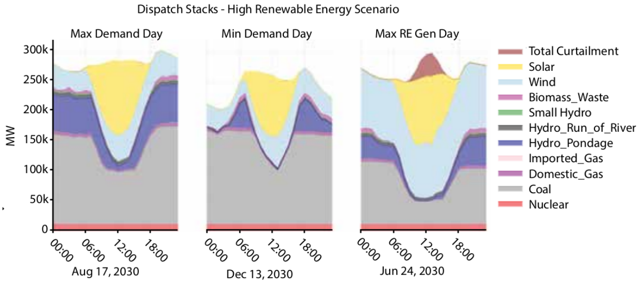


Source: TransnetBW, 2022

Open example: TERI in India

For a government-backed study of India's power system in 2030, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in New Delhi used open framework PyPSA. Why? **Easy to customize**, lower cost than commercial alternatives like PLEXOS, good for building up skills and reproducible by other stakeholders.



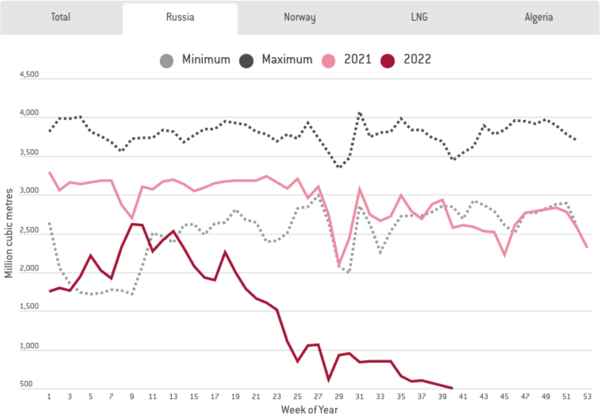


Source: TERI

Where open data would be helpful: current energy crises

Many NGOs, companies and research institutes want to investigate technical and policy fixes for the current energy crisis. However, **open data is sparse**, particularly on gas grid and demand. Think tanks like Breugel are left to cobble together stats from ENTSOs, Eurostat, DG ENER, etc.

Lack of data is hindering us from dealing with the current energy crises.



Source: ENTSO-G, https://transparency.entsog.eu/#/map

Note: Minimum and Maximum values are calculated from the period 2015-2020.

Data for the last week may be changed following updates to ENTSO-G points. As of 25/12/21, Norway imports at Emden were updated and Krk Croatian LNG was included resulting in changes to underlying data. On 01/04/2022, weeks 10,11,12 LNG data were revised downward due to a double-counting of Spanish LNG imports which arose as a result of changes to the reporting at the ENTSO-G transparency platform.

Source: Breugel, 2022

Where open data would be helpful: coming disputes of CCUTS, e-fuels

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There are many **controversial topics** we will need to discuss by 2050, where transparent debate will be important.

- Need for **carbon dioxide management** to capture from point sources, bring to hydrocarbon synthesis or sequestration sites.
- **Balance between imports and domestic energy production** given land use and security concerns.
- Benefits of **industry relocation** to low-cost sites.
- Need (or not) for **hydrogen infrastucture**, particularly if industry relocates, land transport & buildings electrify and e-fuels are imported.

Positive vision

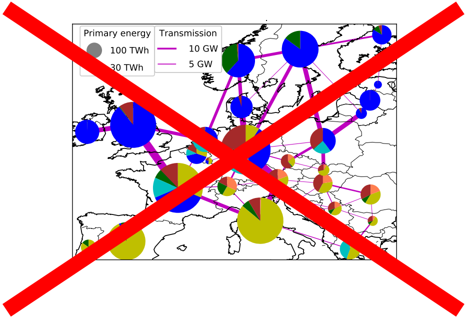
There has been **huge progress** in the availability of energy system data (ENTSO-E Transparency Platform, TYNDP Scenario Data, FBMC Core Grid Data).

A **positive vision**:

- TSOs collaborating on a **fully open model**, both for market model and grid simulations
- TSOs benefit from **customisability** of open code (unlike PLEXOS) and methodological developments from research
- Working open models **downloadable for each scenario** rather than just data files
- **Participation** of civil society; fast **policy response** based on open models

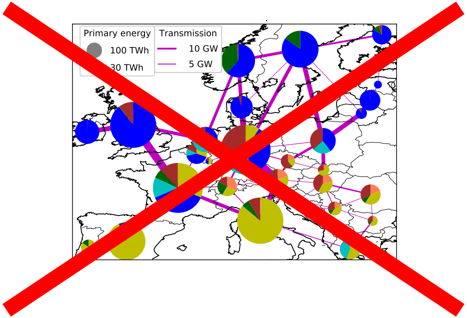
European Sector-Coupled Model PyPSA-Eur-Sec

Challenge 1: Need spatial resolution to see grid bottlenecks & infrastructure trade-offs. One node per country or continent won't work.

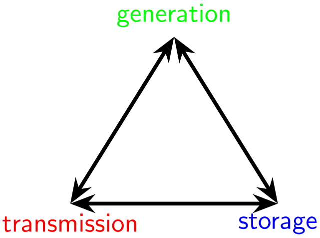


Modelling challenges: spatial resolution and sectoral co-optimisation

Challenge 1: Need spatial resolution to see grid bottlenecks & infrastructure trade-offs. One node per country or continent won't work.



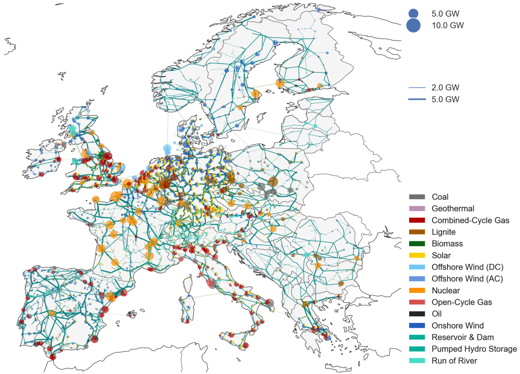
Challenge 2: Need to co-optimise balancing solutions with generation. Optimising separately won't work.



⇒ Need **very large** models, big data and methods for complexity management

Python for Power System Analysis (PyPSA)

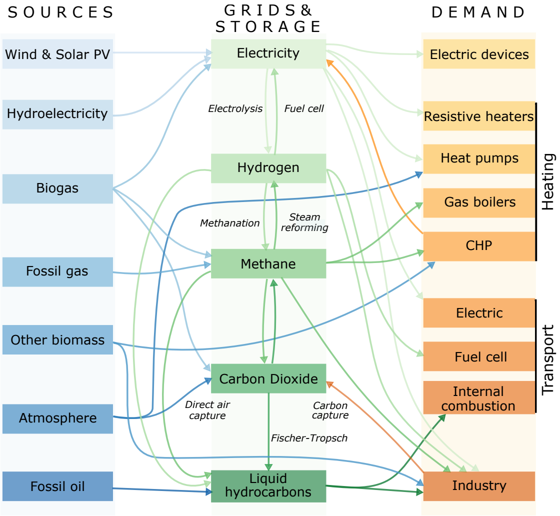
- **Open source** tool for modelling energy systems at **high resolution**.
- Fills missing gap between **power flow software** (e.g. PowerFactory, MATPOWER) and **energy system simulation software** (e.g. PLEXOS, TIMES, OSeMOSYS).
- Good grid modelling is increasingly important, for integration of **renewables** and **electrification** of transport, heating and industry.

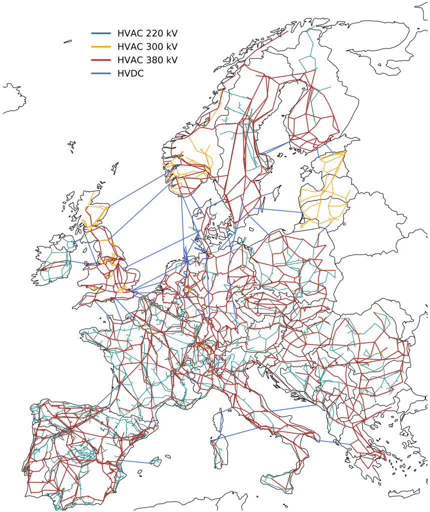


PyPSA is available on GitHub.

What is PyPSA-Eur-Sec?

Model for Europe with all energy flows... and bottlenecks in energy networks.



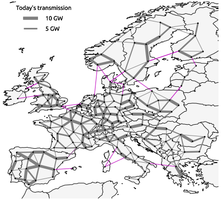


Data-driven energy modelling

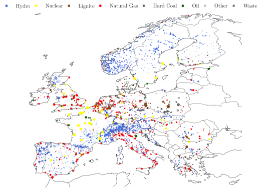
Lots of different types of data and process knowledge come together for the modelling.

Full pipeline of data processing from raw data to results is managed in an **open workflow**.

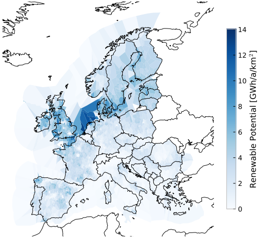
clustered network model



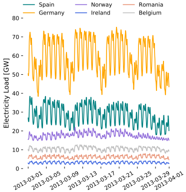
power plants and technology assumptions



renewable potentials and hourly time series for each region



demand projections time series



Results for 181-node model of European energy system

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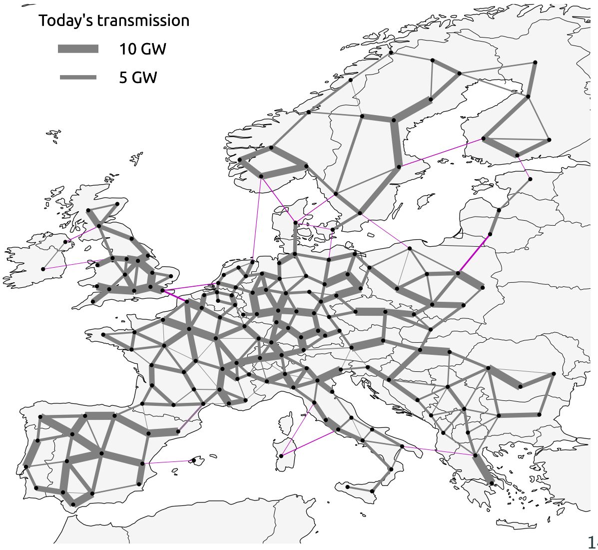
Model set-up:

- Couple **all energy sectors** (power, heat, transport, industry)
- Reduce net CO_2 emissions **to zero**
- Assume 181 **smaller bidding zones**
- **Conservative** technology assumptions (for 2030 from Danish Energy Agency)

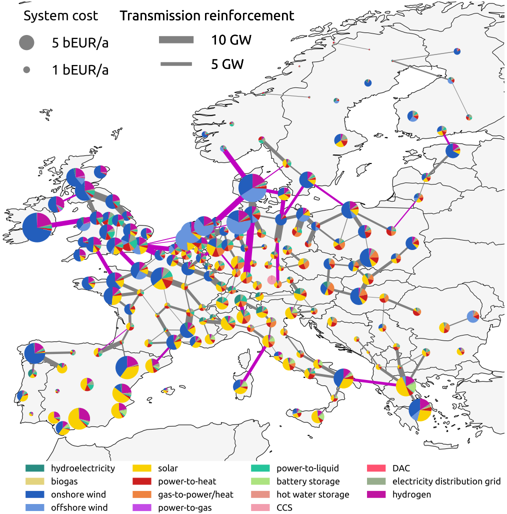
Examine effects of:

- **power grid expansion**
- **new hydrogen grid**
- **e-fuel imports**



Distribution of technologies: 50% more power grid volume

Electricity grid expansion of 162 TWkm...



Distribution of technologies: 50% more power grid volume

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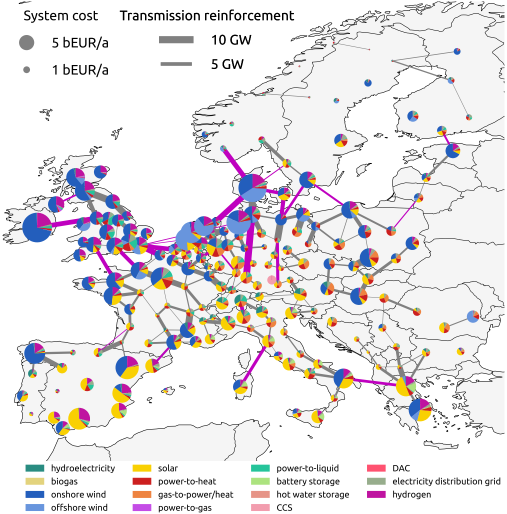
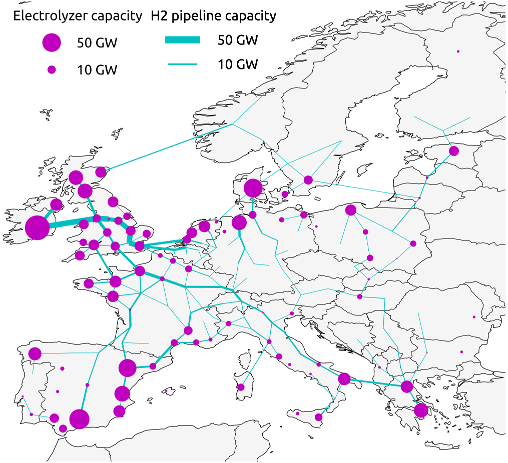
Electricity grid expansion of 162 TWkm...



...and new hydrogen grid of 260 TWkm.



Distribution of technologies: 25% more power grid volume

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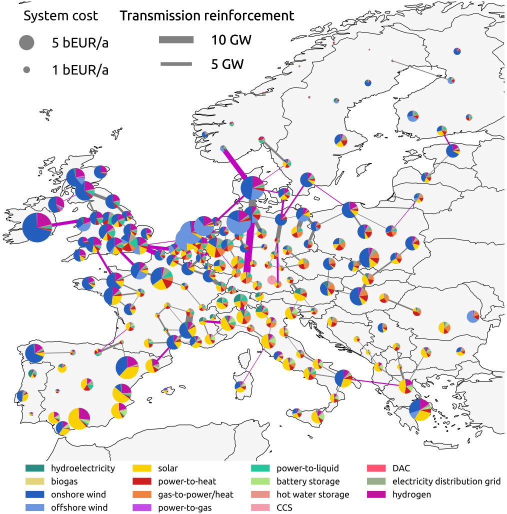
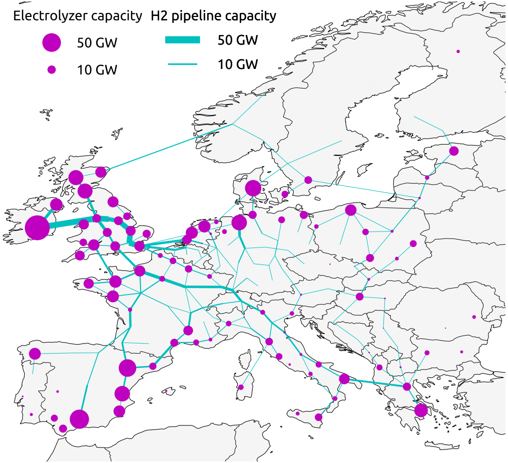
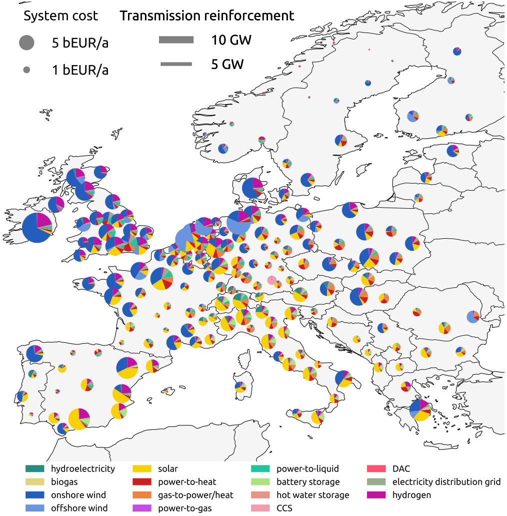
Electricity grid expansion of 81 TWkm... ...and new hydrogen grid of 282 TWkm.



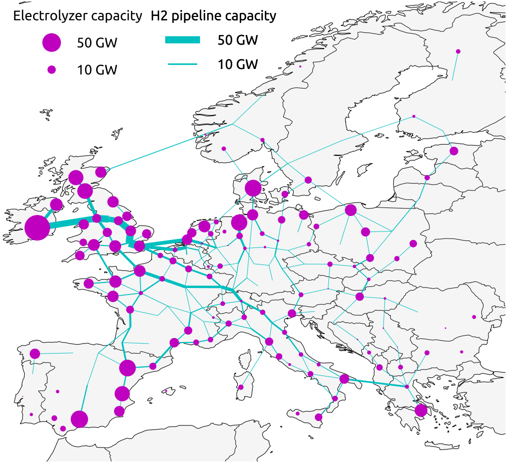


Distribution of technologies: no power grid expansion

No electricity grid expansion...



...and new hydrogen grid of 308 TWkm.



Benefit of power grid expansion for sector-coupled system

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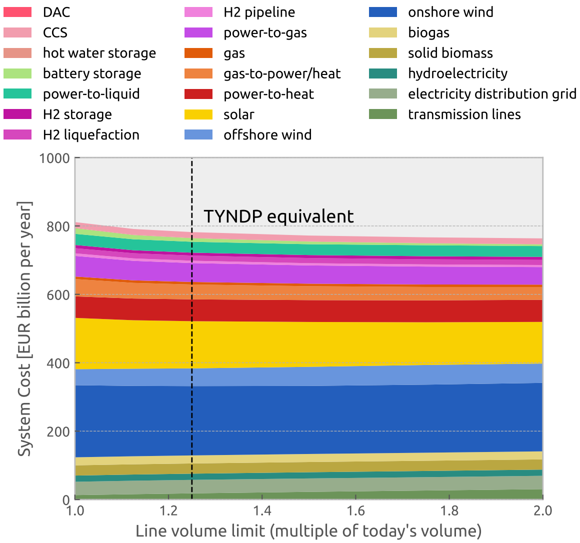
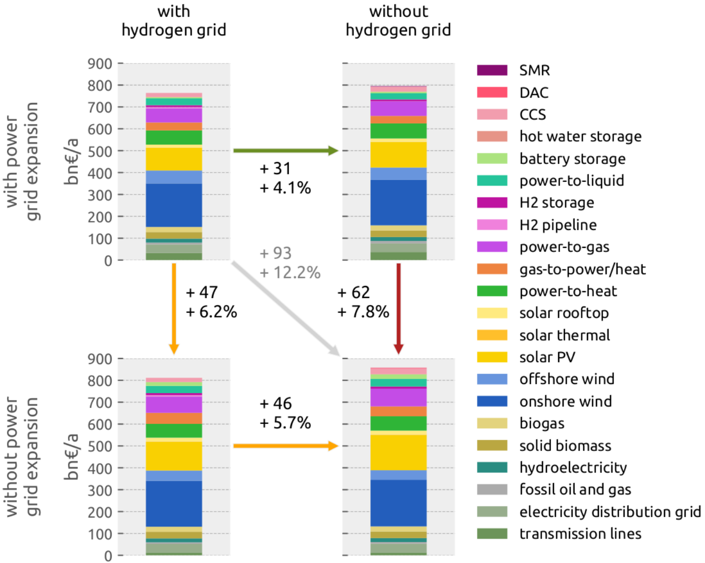


- Direct system costs **bit higher than today's system** (€ 700 billion per year with same assumptions)
- Systems **without grid expansion** are feasible, but more costly
- As grid is expanded, **costs reduce** from solar, power-to-gas and H_2 network; more offshore wind
- Total cost benefit of extra grid: $\sim$ € 47 billion per year
- **Over half of benefit available at 25% expansion** (like TYNDP)

With and without hydrogen network



- **Cost** of hydrogen network: € 6-8 billion per year
- **Net benefit** is much higher: € 31-46 billion per year (4-5% of total)
- Hydrogen network brings **robust benefit**
- Benefit is strongest without power grid expansion
- Power grid expansion is better if you have to choose; having both saves 11%

Source: Neumann et al, 2022

Energy grid in different cases

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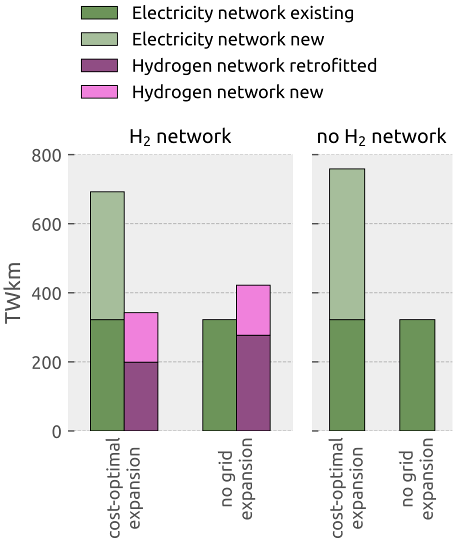
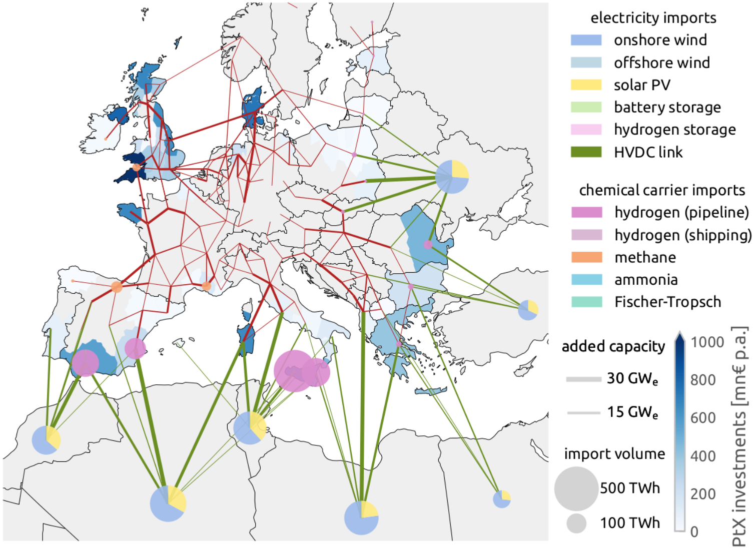


- Optimal hydrogen grid capacity rises as grid expansion is restricted
- Hydrogen grid is not a perfect substitute
- Around two-thirds of hydrogen grid can re-purpose existing methane network
- NB: These results come from an updated model which allows pipeline re-purposing

Source: Neumann et al, 2022

With e-fuel imports instead of autarky

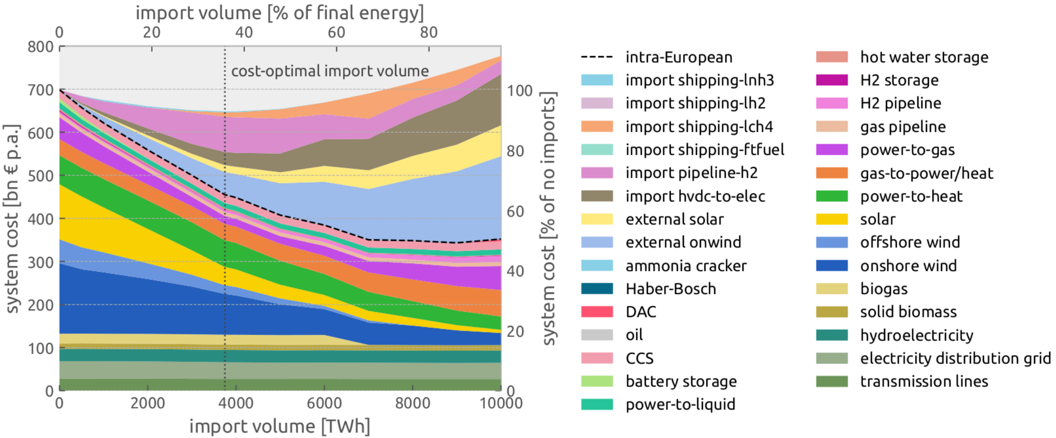


- Allowing imports of electricity, green hydrogen, e-fuels, **changes infrastructure needs completely**
- PtX out-sourced from Europe
- Electricity imported too, providing seasonal balancing

Source: Hampp, Brown, Neumann; 2022/3

E-fuel imports reduce costs, but not completely

Cost-optimal import volume of 3750 TWh, reducing costs by 7% versus autarky.



Source: Hampp, Brown, Neumann; 2022/3

Open source, open data, online customisable model

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All the code and data behind PyPSA-Eur-Sec is **open source**. You can run your own scenarios with your own assumptions in a simplified **online version** of the model:

`https://model.energy/scenarios/`

Basic scenario settings

Scenario name so you can identify the scenario later

no name

Fraction of 1990 CO2 emissions allowed	0	per unit
Sampling frequency (n-hourly for representative year)	193	integer >= 25

Demand

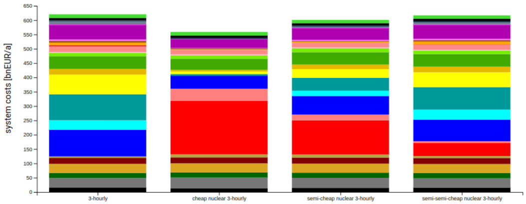
Demand for electricity in residential and services sector compared to today	0.9	per unit
Demand for space heating in buildings compared to today	0.71	per unit
Demand for hot water in buildings demand compared to today	1	per unit
Demand for land transport (road and rail) compared to today	1	per unit
Demand for shipping compared to today	1	per unit
Demand for aviation compared to today	1.2	per unit
Demand in industry compared to today	0.9	per unit

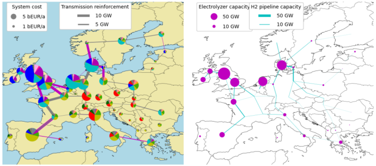
Sector coupling options

Yearly sequestration potential for carbon dioxide	200	MtCO2/a
Share of battery electric vehicles in land transport	0.85	per unit
Share of fuel cell electric vehicles in land transport	0.15	per unit

Breakdown of yearly system costs

All costs are in 2015 euros, EUR-2015.





Conclusions

Conclusions

- **Openness and transparency** and critical to ensure **re-usability**, **customisability** and **swift policy response** by diverse actors
- Openness is guaranteed by **open licences** for data and code
- **Positive vision**: downloadable open market and grid models for all TYNDP scenarios
- There are many **trade-offs** between unpopular infrastructure, cost and security
- BUT: many **near-optimal** compromise solutions with **favourable properties**
- **Hydrogen networks** can partially substitute for power grid expansion, but system costs are 3-5% higher; can also get away with neither power grid expansion nor H_2 network
- Many more **tricky topics to come**: e-fuel imports, industry relocation, carbon management infrastructure

More information

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All input data and code for PyPSA-Eur-Sec is open and free to download:

1. `https://github.com/pypsa/pypsa`: The modelling framework
2. `https://github.com/pypsa/pypsa-eur`: The power system model for Europe
3. `https://github.com/pypsa/pypsa-eur-sec`: The full energy system model for Europe

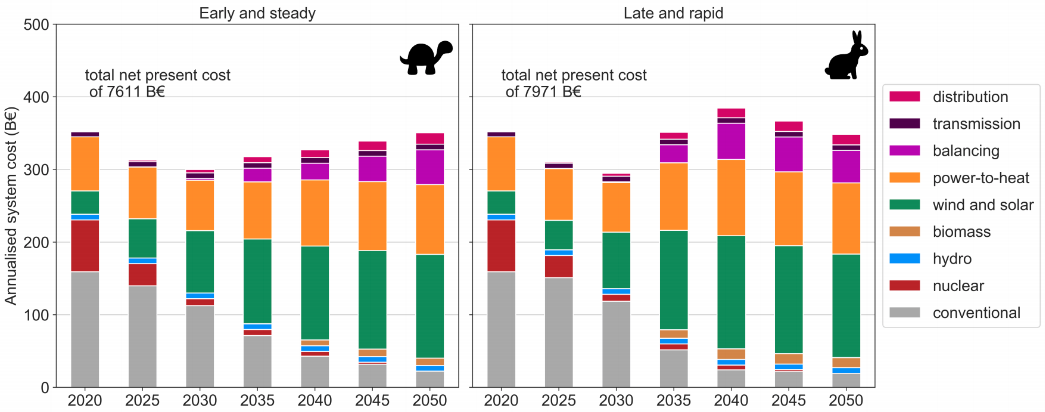
Publications (selection):

1. F. Neumann, E. Zeyen, M. Victoria, T. Brown, *"Benefits of a Hydrogen Network in Europe,"* arXiv preprint (2022), **arXiv**.
2. M. Victoria, K. Zhu, T. Brown, G. B. Andresen, M. Greiner, *"Early decarbonisation of the European energy system pays off,"* Nature Communications (2020), **DOI**, **arXiv**.
3. T. Brown, D. Schlachtberger, A. Kies, S. Schramm, M. Greiner, *"Synergies of sector coupling and transmission reinforcement in a cost-optimised, highly renewable European energy system,"* Energy 160 (2018) 720-739, **DOI**, **arXiv**.
4. J. Hörsch, F. Hofmann, D. Schlachtberger and T. Brown, *"PyPSA-Eur: An open optimization model of the European transmission system,"* Energy Strategy Reviews (2018), **DOI**, **arXiv**
5. T. Brown, J. Hörsch, D. Schlachtberger, *"PyPSA: Python for Power System Analysis,"* Journal of Open Research Software, 6(1), 2018, **DOI**, **arXiv**.
6. D. Schlachtberger, T. Brown, S. Schramm, M. Greiner, *"The Benefits of Cooperation in a Highly Renewable European Electricity System,"* Energy 134 (2017) 469-481, **DOI**, **arXiv**.

Pathway for European energy system from now until 2050

For a fixed CO_2 budget, it's more cost-effective to **cut emissions early** than wait.

NB: These results only include electricity, heating in buildings and land-based transport.



Source: M. Victoria et al, Nature Communications (2020)

Appearance of technologies until 2050 depends on temperature target

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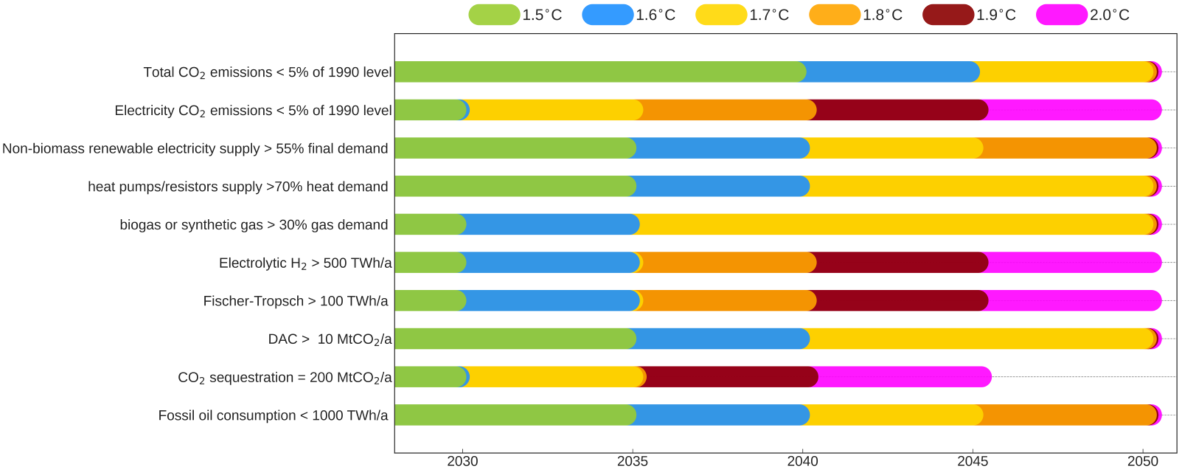
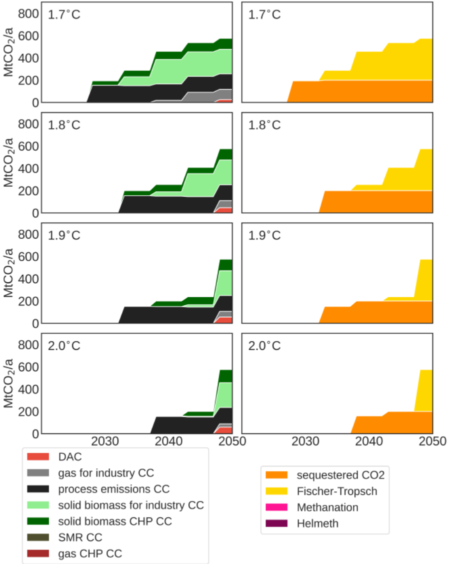


Source: M. Victoria et al, 2021

Future work

- Consider **pathway** of investments 2020-2050 at high resolution
- Compare local production with import of **synfuels from outside Europe**
- Extend offshore wind potentials by including **floating wind** for depths > 50 m
- Examine benefits of offshore **hub-and-spoke grid topology**
- Proper consideration of **wake effects** (currently 11% linear reduction of CF)
- Cost-benefit of **sufficiency**
- Improving **open access** to models

Carbon Management

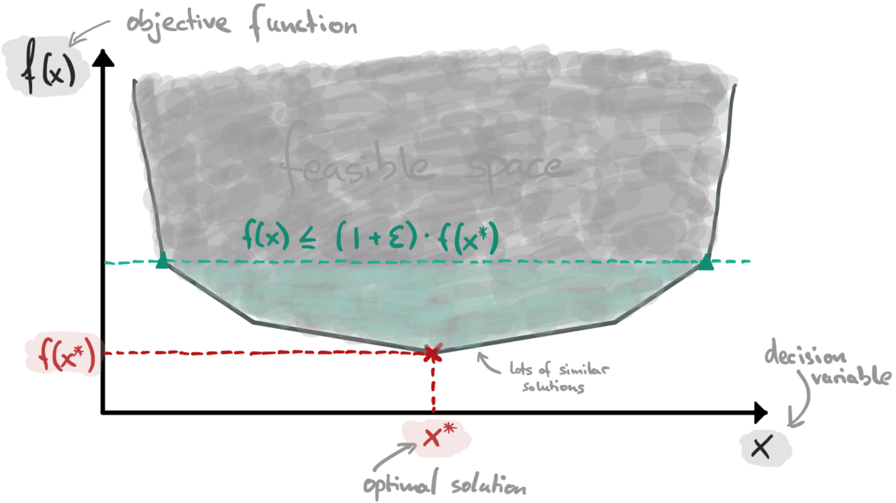


- Carbon capture (left): from process emissions, but also from heat production in industry and for combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants
- Sequestration limited to 200 $MtCO_2/a$ (enough to cover today's process emissions)
- Further carbon capture is used for Fischer-Tropsch fuels (kerosene and naphtha)
- The tighter the CO_2 budget, the more is captured, and at some point direct air capture (DAC) also plays a role
- If sequestration is relaxed to 1000 $MtCO_2/a$, then CDR compensates unabated emissions elsewhere

Source: M. Victoria et al, 2021

Large Space of Near-Optimal Energy Systems

There is a **large degeneracy** of different possible energy systems close to the optimum.



Source: Neumann & Brown, 2020

Example: 100% renewable electricity system for Europe

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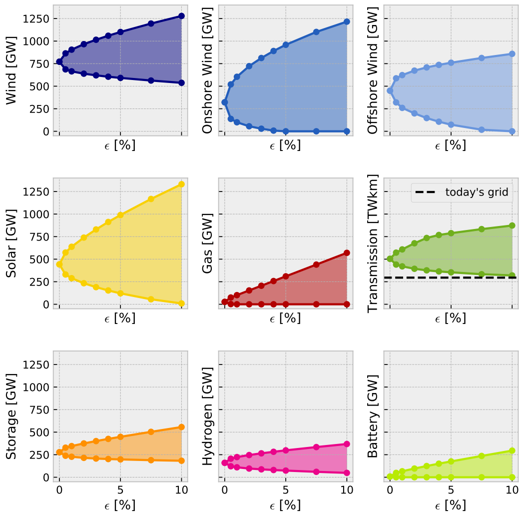


Within 10% of the optimum we can:

- Eliminate most grid expansion
- Exclude onshore or offshore wind or PV
- Exclude battery or most hydrogen storage

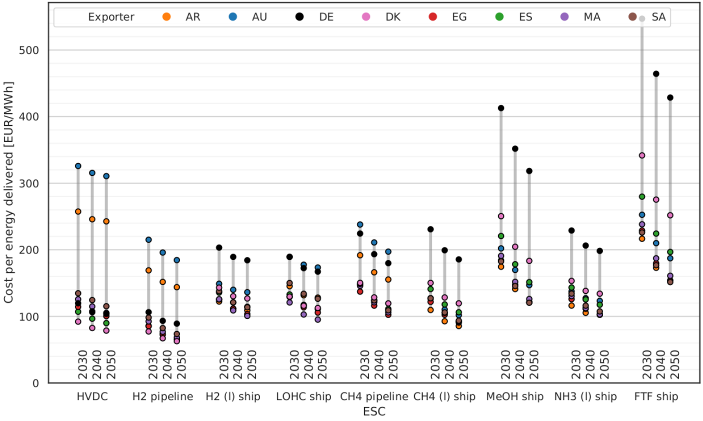
Robust conclusions: wind, some transmission, some storage, preferably hydrogen storage, required for a cost-effective solution.

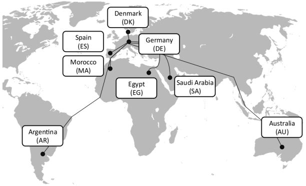
This gives space to choose solutions with **higher public acceptance**.

Source: Neumann & Brown, 2020

Synthetic fuels from outside Europe?

Green hydrogen with pipeline transport costs around ~ 80 €/MWh in model. Shipping green hydrogen from **outside Europe** in liquid, LOHC or NH_3 form may not compete on cost (depends e.g. on WACC), but scarce land in Europe may still drive adoption.





Source: Hampp et al, 2021

Open source, open data, online customisable model

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`https://model.energy/scenarios/`

Submit a new scenario

Here you can customise settings for the model PyPSA-Eur-Sec, a sector-coupled model of the European energy system. The model minimises the costs of the energy system assuming all capacity investments in generation, storage, energy conversion and energy transport can be re-optimised. Energy services (electricity, heating, transport, industrial demand) are provided at today's levels by default, but they can also be altered. Default cost assumptions are taken from forecasts for 2050, mainly from the Danish Energy Agency Technology Data. A weighted average cost of capital of 7% is applied. 45 regions are assumed. A full year of representative weather and load data is used, but sampled n-hourly.

193-hourly temporal resolution takes only around 1 minute to solve, but gives reasonable results. This model can only be run at up to 25-hourly resolution (25-hourly takes around 10 minutes to run). Higher resolutions are not offered here because of the computational burden. If you want to run at up to hourly resolution, download the full model and run it yourself, or contact us to discuss terms.

Basic scenario settings

[no name] Scenario name so you can identify the scenario later

[0] Fraction of 1990 CO2 emissions allowed [per unit]

[193] Sampling frequency n-hourly for representative year, for computational reasons n>=25 [integer]

Demand

[0.9] Demand for electrical devices in residential and services sector compared to today [per unit]

[0.71] Demand for space heating in buildings compared to today [per unit]

[1] Demand for hot water in buildings demand compared to today [per unit]

[1] Demand for land transport (road and rail) compared to today [per unit]

[1] Demand for shipping compared to today [per unit]

[1.2] Demand for aviation compared to today [per unit]

[0.9] Demand in industry compared to today [per unit]

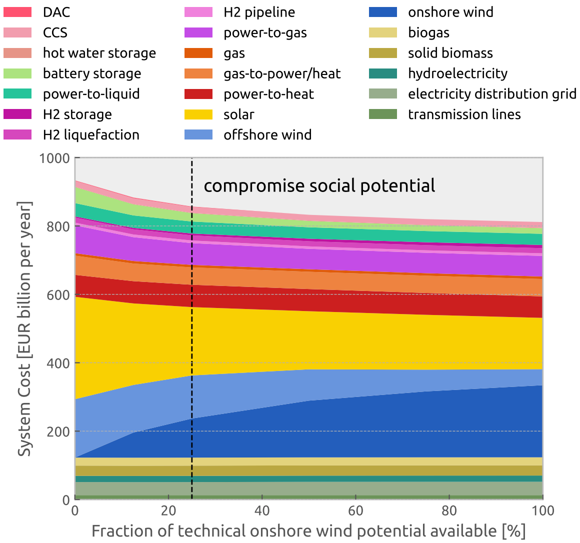
Sector coupling options

[0.85] Share of battery electric vehicles in land transport [per unit]

[0.15] Share of fuel cell electric vehicles in land transport [per unit]

☑ Allow battery electric vehicles to perform demand response

Benefit of full onshore wind potentials



- **Technical potentials** for onshore wind respect land usage
- However, they do not represent the **socially-acceptable potentials**
- Technical potential of ~ 480 GW in Germany is **unlikely to be built**
- Costs rise by ~ € 122 billion per year as we **eliminate onshore wind** (with no grid expansion)
- Rise is only ~ € 45 billion per year if we **allow a quarter of technical potential** (~ 120 GW for Germany)

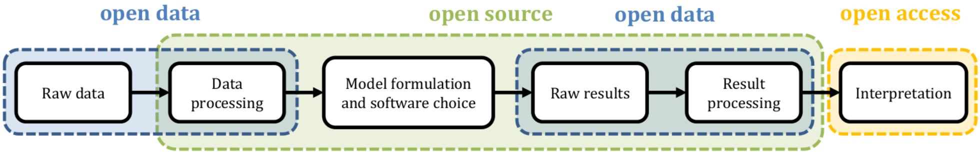
What is open modelling?

Open energy modelling means modelling with open software, open data and open publishing.

Open means that anybody is free to download the software/data/publications, inspect it, machine process it, share it with others, modify it, and redistribute the changes.

This is typically done by uploading the model to an online platform with an **open licence** telling users what their reuse rights are.

The **whole pipeline** should be open:



Optimisation of annual system costs

Find the long-term cost-optimal energy system, including investments and short-term costs:

$$\text{Minimise}\left(\textbf{Yearly system costs}\right) = \sum_n \left(\textbf{Annualised capital costs}\right) + \sum_{n,t}\left(\textbf{Marginal costs}\right)$$

subject to

- meeting **energy demand** at each node n (e.g. region) and time t (e.g. hour of year)
- wind, solar, hydro (variable renewables) **availability time series** $\forall\, n, t$
- **transmission constraints** between nodes, **linearised power flow**
- (installed capacity) $\leq$ (**geographical potentials** for renewables)
- **CO_2 constraint** (e.g. 95% reduction compared to 1990)

In short: mostly-greenfield investment optimisation, multi-period with linear power flow.

Optimise transmission, generation and storage **jointly**, since they're strongly interacting.

Technology Choices: Exogenous Versus Endogenous

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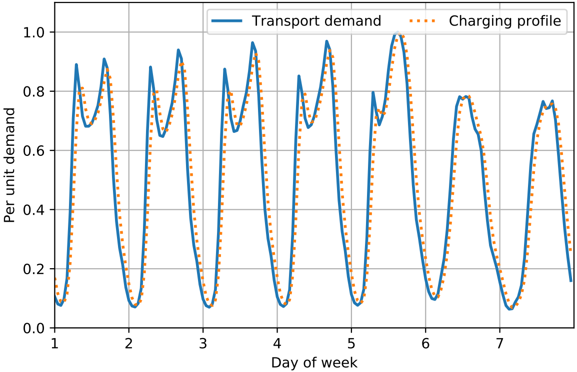
Exogenous assumptions (modeller chooses):

- energy services demand
- energy carrier for road transport (2050: BEV for light-duty, BEV or FCEV for heavy-duty)
- kerosene for aviation
- energy carrier for shipping (2050: LH_2, NH_3, MeOH)
- steel production 2050: DRI with hydrogen, then electric arc (could compete with BF+CCS)
- electrification & recycling in industry

Endogenous (model optimizes):

- electricity generation fleet
- transmission reinforcement
- space and water heating technologies (including building renovations)
- all P2G/L/H/C
- supply of process heat for industry
- carbon capture

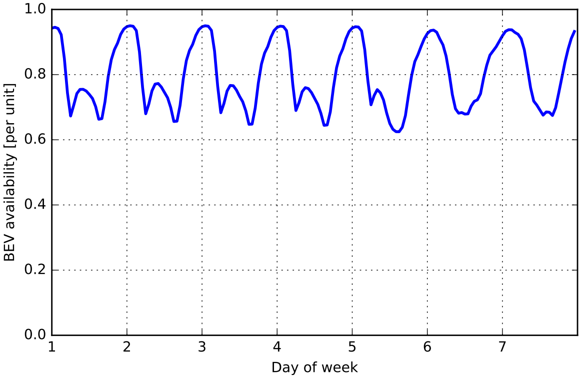
Transport sector: Electrification of Transport



Weekly profile for the transport demand based on statistics gathered by the German Federal Highway Research Institute (BASt).

- Road and rail transport is fully electrified (vehicle costs are not considered)
- Because of higher efficiency of electric motors, final energy consumption 3.5 times lower than today at 1100 TWh_{el}/a for Europe
- In model can replace Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) with Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEVs) consuming hydrogen. Advantage: hydrogen cheap to store. Disadvantage: efficiency of fuel cell only 60%, compared to 90% for battery discharging.

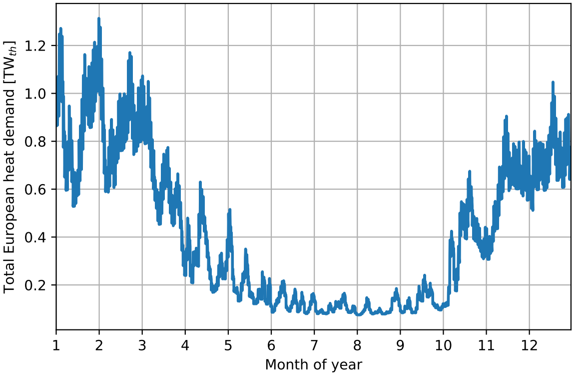
Transport sector: Battery Electric Vehicles



Availability (i.e. fraction of vehicles plugged in) of Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV).

- Passenger cars to Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs), 50 kWh battery available and 11 kW charging power
- Can participate in DSM and V2G, depending on scenario (state of charge returns to at least 75% every morning)
- All BEVs have time-dependent availability, averaging 80%, max 95% (at night)
- No changes in consumer behaviour assumed (e.g. car-sharing/pooling)
- BEVs are treated as exogenous (capital costs NOT included in calculation)

Heating sector: Many Options with Thermal Energy Storage (TES)



Heat demand profile from 2011 in each region using population-weighted average daily T in each region, degree-day approx. and scaled to Eurostat total heating demand.

- All space and water heating in the residential and services sectors is considered, with no additional efficiency measures (conservative) - total heating demand is 3585 TWh_{th}/a.
- Heating demand can be met by heat pumps, resistive heaters, gas boilers, solar thermal, Combined-Heat-and-Power (CHP) units. No industrial waste heat.
- Thermal Energy Storage (TES) is available to the system as hot water tanks.

Centralised District Heating versus Decentralised Heating for Buildings

We model both fully decentralised heating and cases where up to 45% of heat demand is met with district heating in northern countries. Heating technology options for buildings:

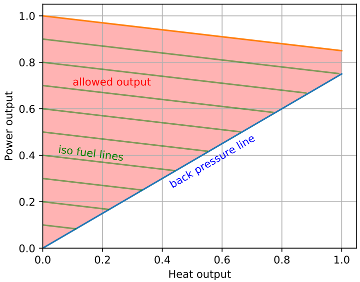
Decentral individual heating can be supplied by:

- Air- or Ground-sourced heat pumps
- Resistive heaters
- Gas boilers
- Small solar thermal
- Water tanks with short time constant $\tau = 3$ days

Central heating can be supplied via district heating networks by:

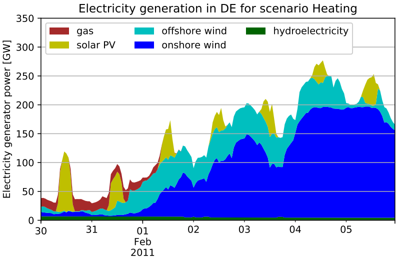
- Air-sourced heat pumps
- Resistive heaters
- Gas boilers
- Large solar thermal
- Water tanks with long time constant $\tau = 180$ days
- CHPs

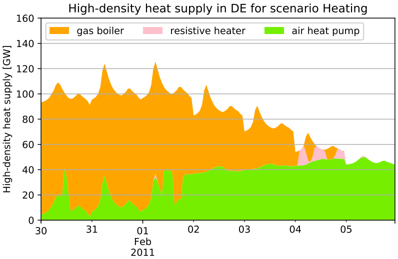
CHP feasible dispatch:



Building renovations can be co-optimised to reduce space heating demand.

Example problem with balancing: Cold week in winter





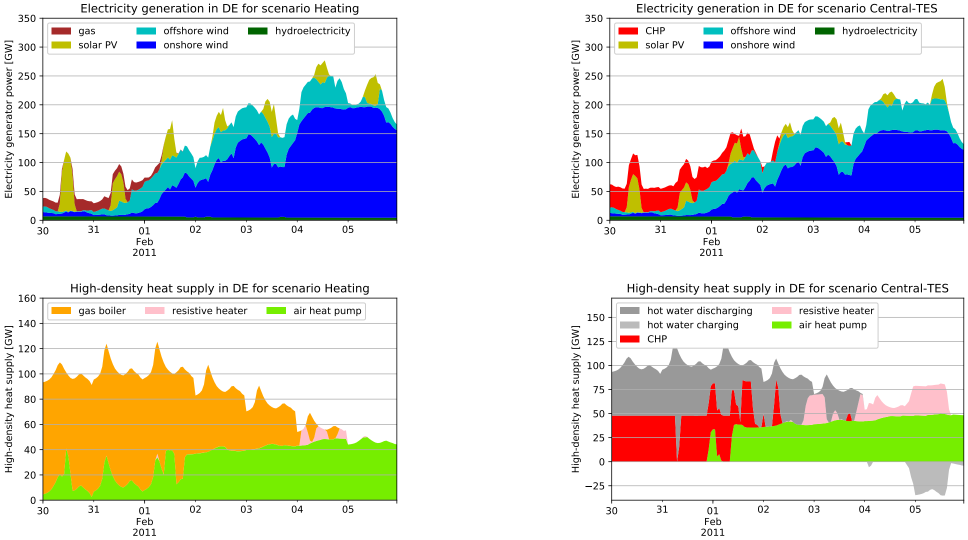
There are difficult periods in winter with:

- **Low** wind and solar (⇒ high prices)
- **High** space heating demand
- **Low** air temperatures, which are bad for air-sourced heat pump performance

Less-smart solution: **backup gas boilers** burning either natural gas, or synthetic methane.

Smart solution: **building retrofitting**, **long-term thermal energy storage** in **district heating networks** and efficient **combined-heat-and-power plants**.

Cold week in winter: inflexible (left); smart (right)



Source: **Brown et al, "Synergies of sector coupling," 2018**

Large Space of Near-Optimal Energy Systems

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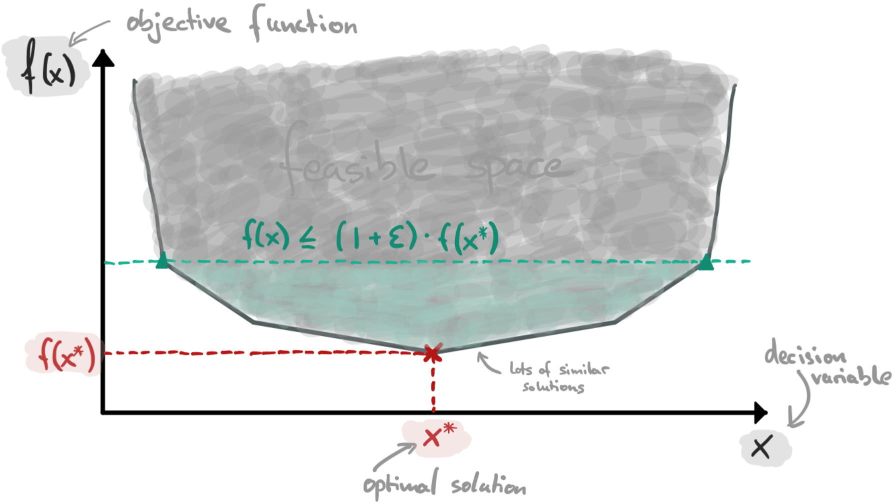
There is a **large degeneracy** of different possible energy systems close to the optimum.



Source: Neumann & Brown, 2020

Example: 100% renewable electricity system for Europe

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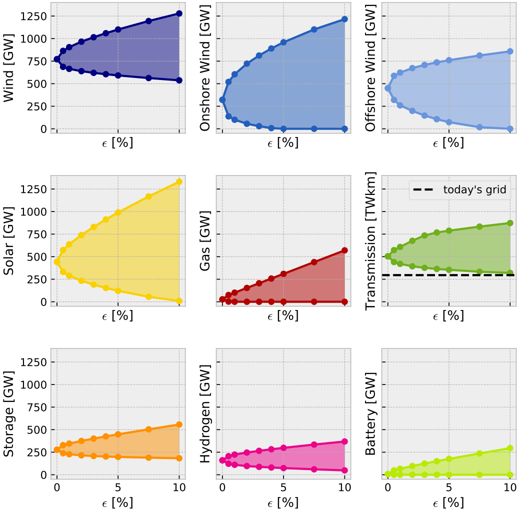


Within 10% of the optimum we can:

- Eliminate most grid expansion
- Exclude onshore or offshore wind or PV
- Exclude battery or most hydrogen storage

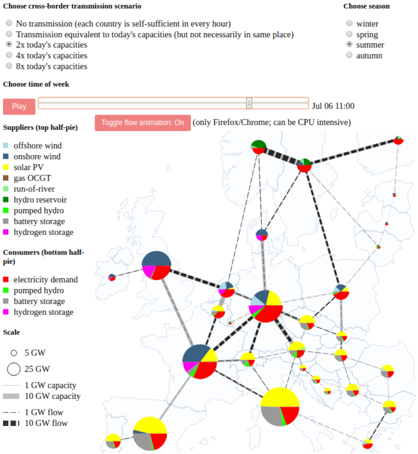
Robust conclusions: wind, some transmission, some storage, preferably hydrogen storage, required for a cost-effective solution.

This gives space to choose solutions with **higher public acceptance**.

Source: Neumann & Brown, 2020

Online animated simulation results:

pypsa.org/animations/



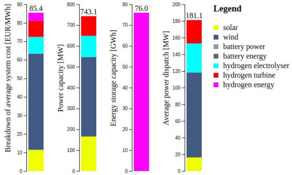
Live user-driven energy optimisation:

model.energy

Results for country GB in year 2013

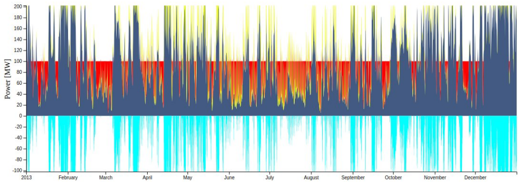
Baseload demand: 100.0 MW

Asset	Capacity	Cap Ftr used [%]	Cap Ftr avail [%]	Curtlmt [%]	Rel Mkt Value [%]
Solar	165.4 MW	9.8	9.8	0.0	82.3
Wind	381.4 MW	26.7	29.6	9.9	59.7
Battery power	0.1 MW	9.2			41.3/227.7
Battery energy	0.3 MWh	56.3			
Hydrogen electrolyser	102 MW	34.2			29.0
Hydrogen turbine	94.1 MW	17.8			213.9
Hydrogen energy	75955.4 MWh	56.6			



Average system cost [EUR/MWh]: 85.4

Time period to display: full year



Without onshore: solar rooftop and offshore potentials maxxed out

If all sectors included and Europe self-sufficient, effect of **installable potentials** is critical.