

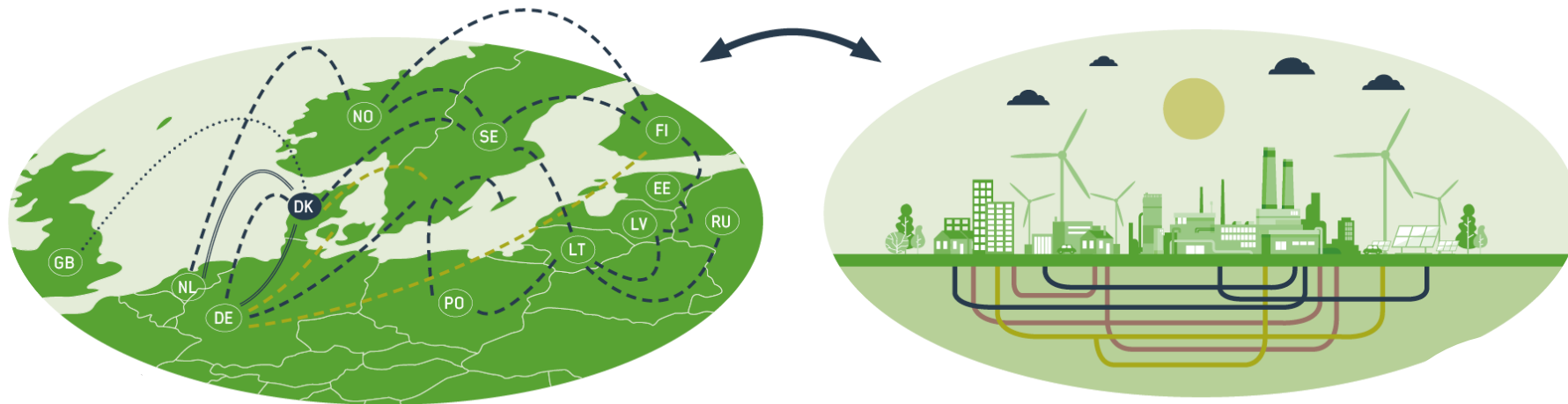
# Decarbonization of the European energy system with strong sector couplings

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# Motivation

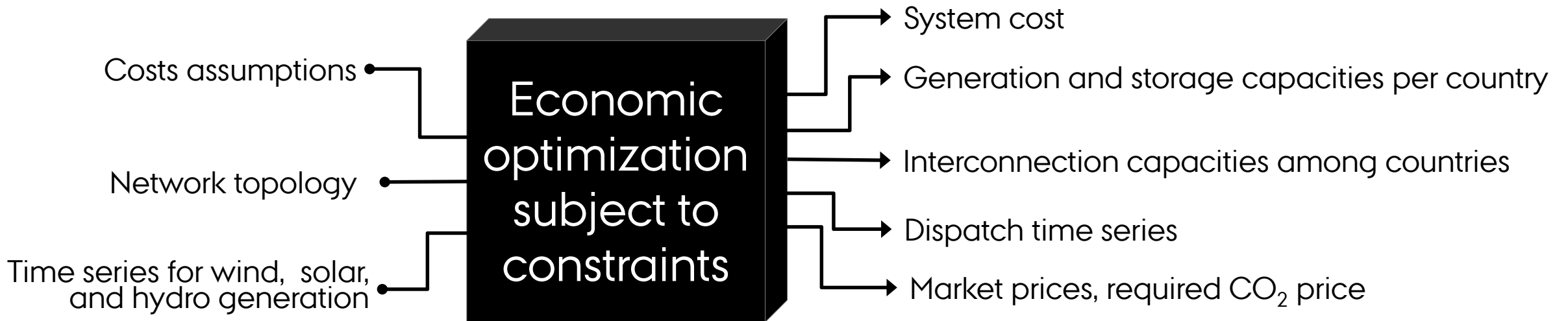
Strategies to balance wind and solar generation:

- Storage
- Extend transmission capacities
- Sector coupling



# Model overview

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26 tech. x 30 countries x 8760 hours =  $7 \cdot 10^6$  variables, solved in ~2 hours in simulation cluster

# Research questions

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What is the optimal wind to solar mix?

How are the results affected by costs assumptions?

How are the results affected by interconnection capacities expansion?

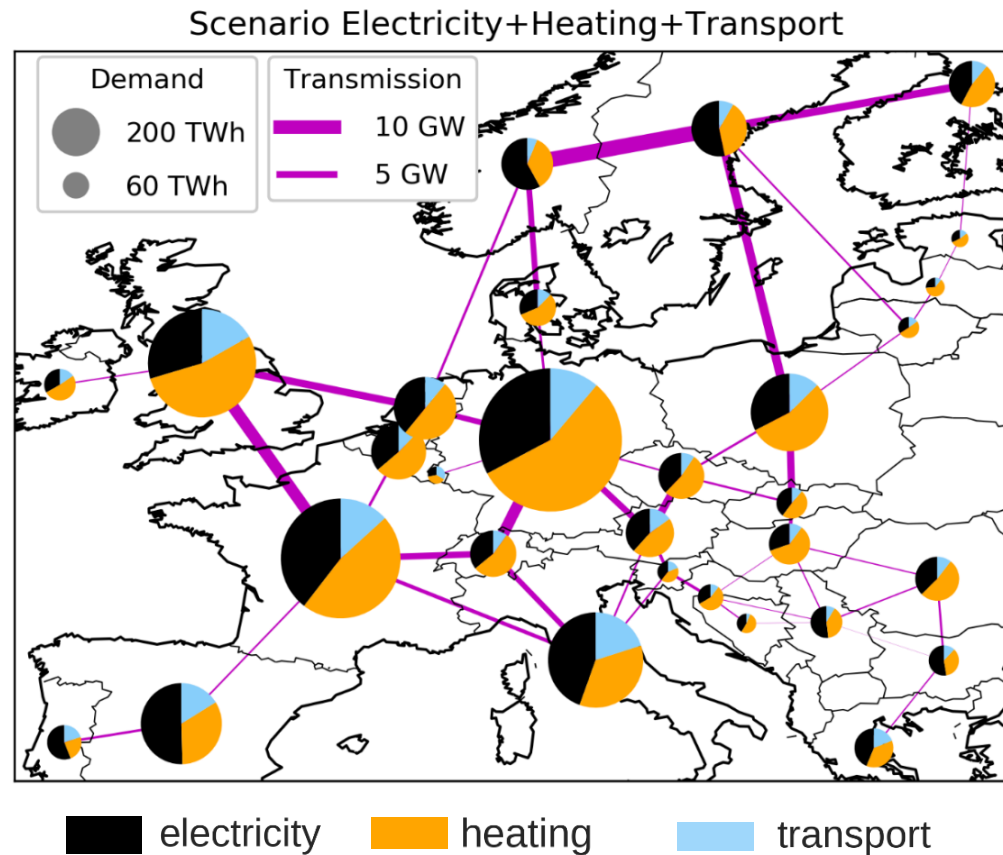
How are the results affected by the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target?

# Methods: Sector-coupled network model

Cost projections for 2030 for every technology

Technology	Overnight Cost <sup>a</sup> [€]	Unit	FOM <sup>b</sup> [%/a]	Lifetime [years]	Efficiency	Source
Onshore wind	910	kW <sub>el</sub>	3.3	30		[44]
Offshore wind	2506	kW <sub>el</sub>	3	25		[44]
Solar PV utility-scale <sup>c</sup>	425	kW <sub>el</sub>	3	25		[45]
Solar PV rooftop <sup>c</sup>	725	kW <sub>el</sub>	2	25		[45]
OCGT <sup>d</sup>	560	kW <sub>el</sub>	3.3	25	0.39	[44, 46]
Hydro reservoir <sup>e</sup>	2000	kW <sub>el</sub>	1	80	0.9	[46]
Run-of-river <sup>e</sup>	3000	kW <sub>el</sub>	2	80	0.9	[46]
Pumped hydro storage <sup>e</sup> (PHS)	2000	KW <sub>el</sub>	1	80	0.87-0.87=0.76	[46]
Batteries	144.6	KWh <sub>el</sub>	0	15	0.9-0.9=0.81 <sup>f</sup>	[47]
Battery inverter	310	KW <sub>el</sub>	3	20	0.9 <sup>f</sup>	[47]
Hydrogen storage <sup>g</sup>	8.4	KWh <sub>el</sub>	0	20	0.8-0.58=0.46	[47]
Hydrogen electrolysis	350	KW <sub>el</sub>	4	18	0.8	
Hydrogen fuel cell	339	KW <sub>el</sub>	3	20	0.58	[47]
HVDC lines	400	MWkm	2	40	1	[48]
HVDC converter pair	150	kW	2	40	1	[48]

# Methods: Sector-coupled network model



One-node-per-country network

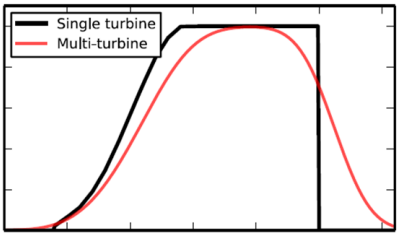
Linear power flow

Hourly resolution

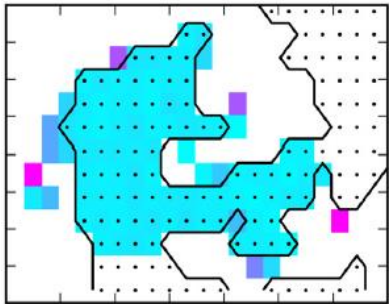
# Methods: Modelling country-wise wind generation



Global weather data (1 hour, 40x40km<sup>2</sup>)

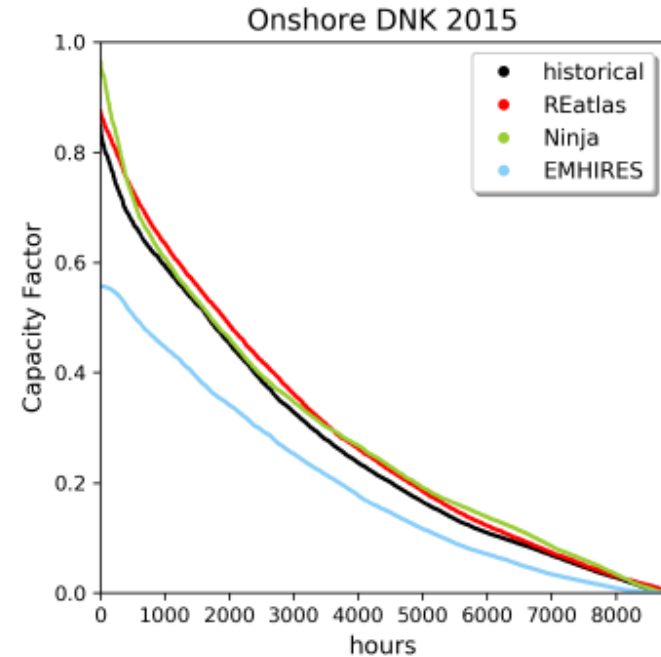


Converted to wind energy generation



Country-wise aggregation

Time series validated using historical data.



Openly available time series for onshore and offshore in 30 European countries (1979-2017)

[doi: 0.5281/zenodo.3245437](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3245437)

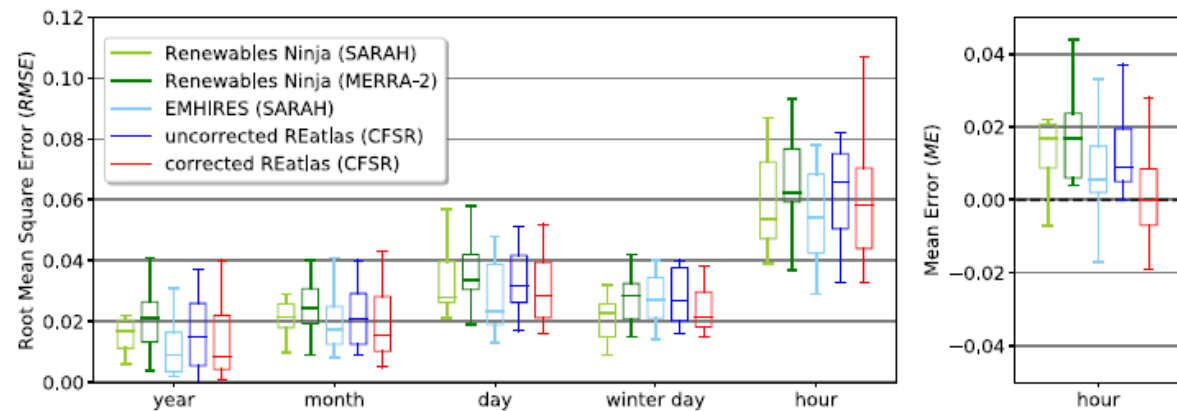
# Methods: Modelling country-wise PV generation



Using validated reanalysis data to investigate the impact of the PV system configurations at high penetration levels in European countries

Marta Victoria<sup>1,2</sup>  | Gorm B. Andresen<sup>1,2</sup> 

Time series validated using historical data.



Openly available time series for 30 European countries (1979-2017) and different PV configurations: [doi:10.5281/zenodo.1321809](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1321809)



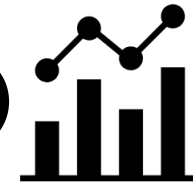
# Methods: Sector-coupled network model

Economic optimization  
subject to constraints

$$\min \left( \sum_n \text{generation costs} + \text{storage costs} + \text{transmission costs} + \sum_{n,t} \text{variable costs} \right)$$

Subject to constraints :

$$\text{generation} + \text{balance} = \text{demand} \leftrightarrow \lambda_{n,t} \quad \forall n,t$$



$$\sum \text{emissions} \leq CAP_{CO_2} \leftrightarrow \mu_{CO_2}$$



Greenfield optimization, perfect competition and foresight, long-term market equilibrium  
Implemented in PyPSA (Python for Power System Analysis)

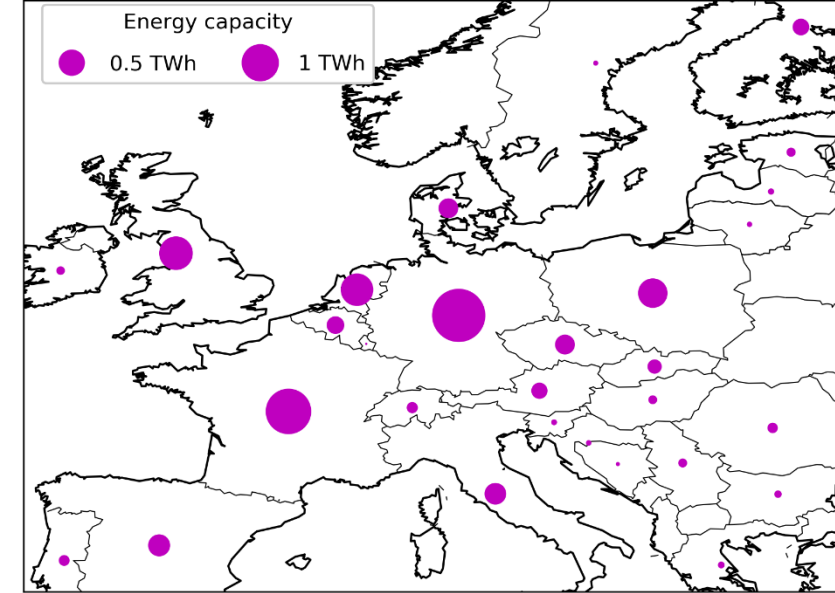
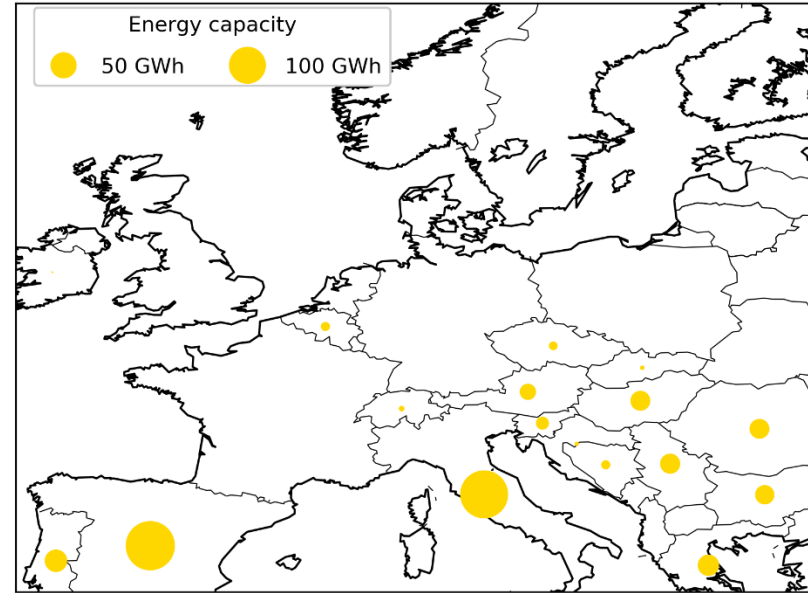
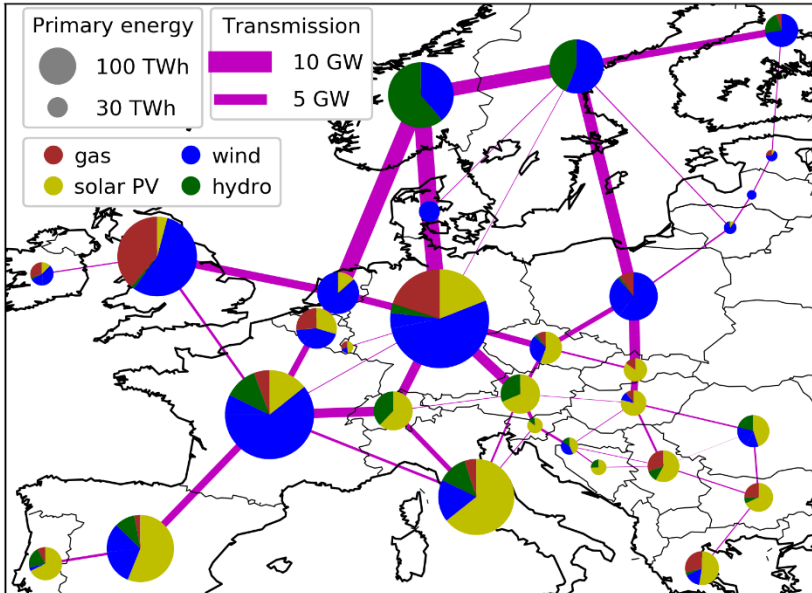
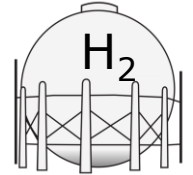
# Results: Optimal power system for 95% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction

## Primary energy

## Electric Batteries



## Hydrogen storage



Wind generation represents in average 55% of the electricity demand (570 GW onshore wind capacity, 60 GW offshore wind capacity )

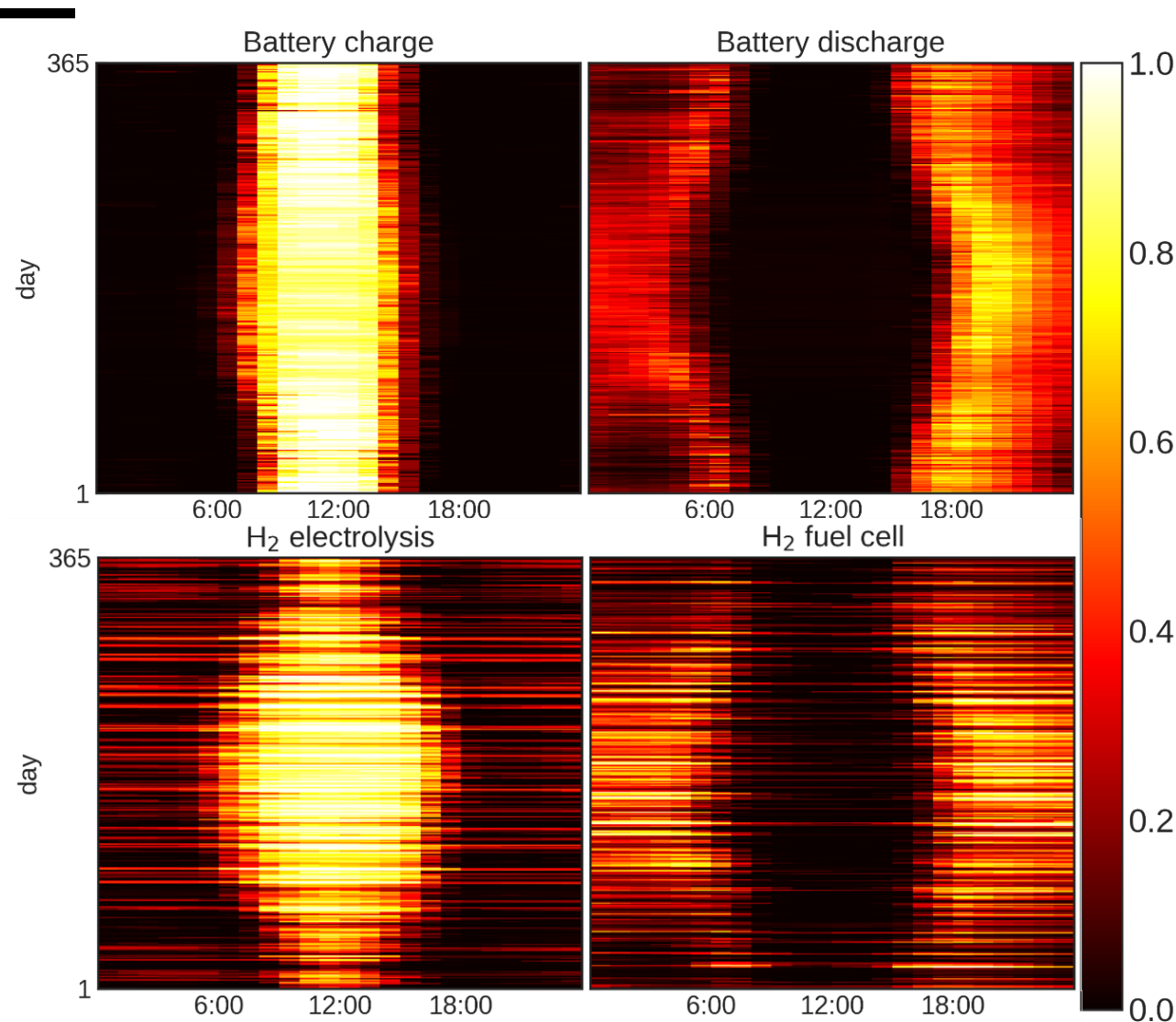
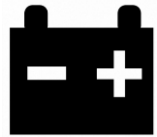
Southern countries: PV + batteries

Northern countries: wind + hydrogen storage + interconnections

$$\frac{\text{energy capacity}}{\text{power capacity}} \sim 6 \text{ hours}$$

$$\frac{\text{energy capacity}}{\text{power capacity}} \sim 2 \text{ days}$$

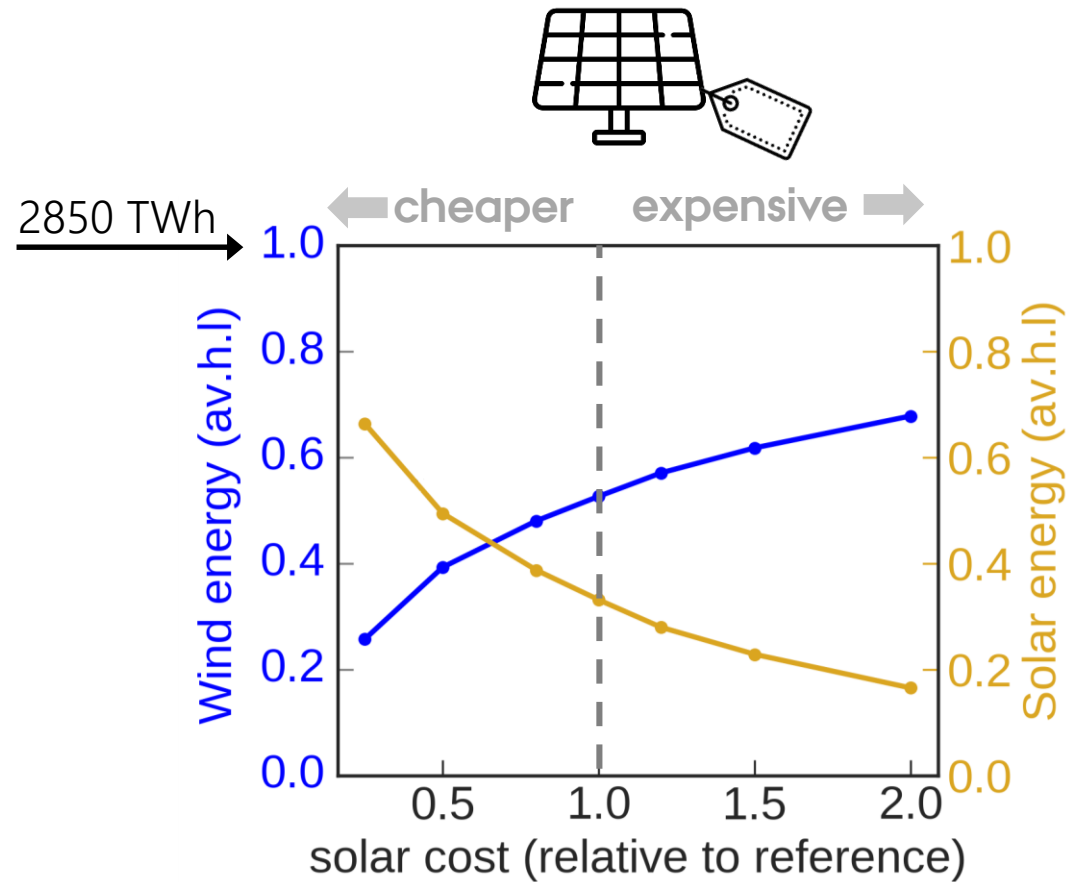
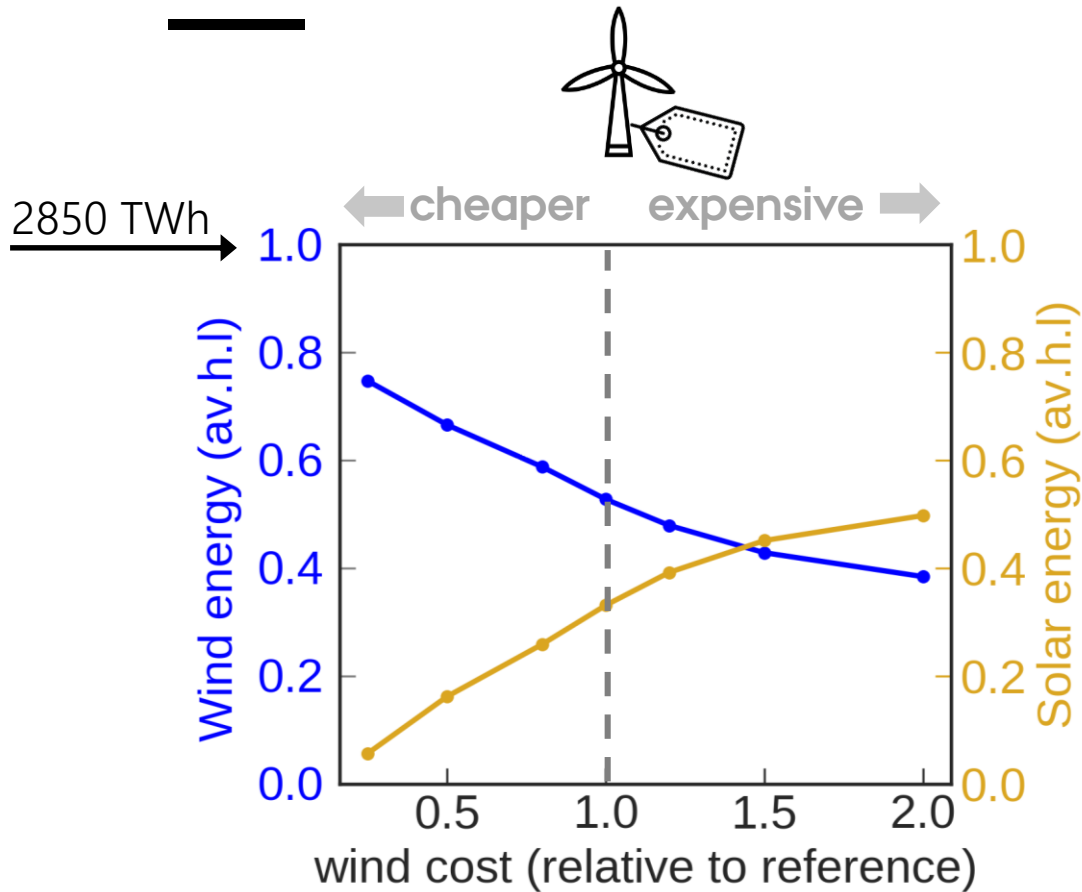
# Results: 95% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction



As expected, batteries charge during the day and discharge during the night.

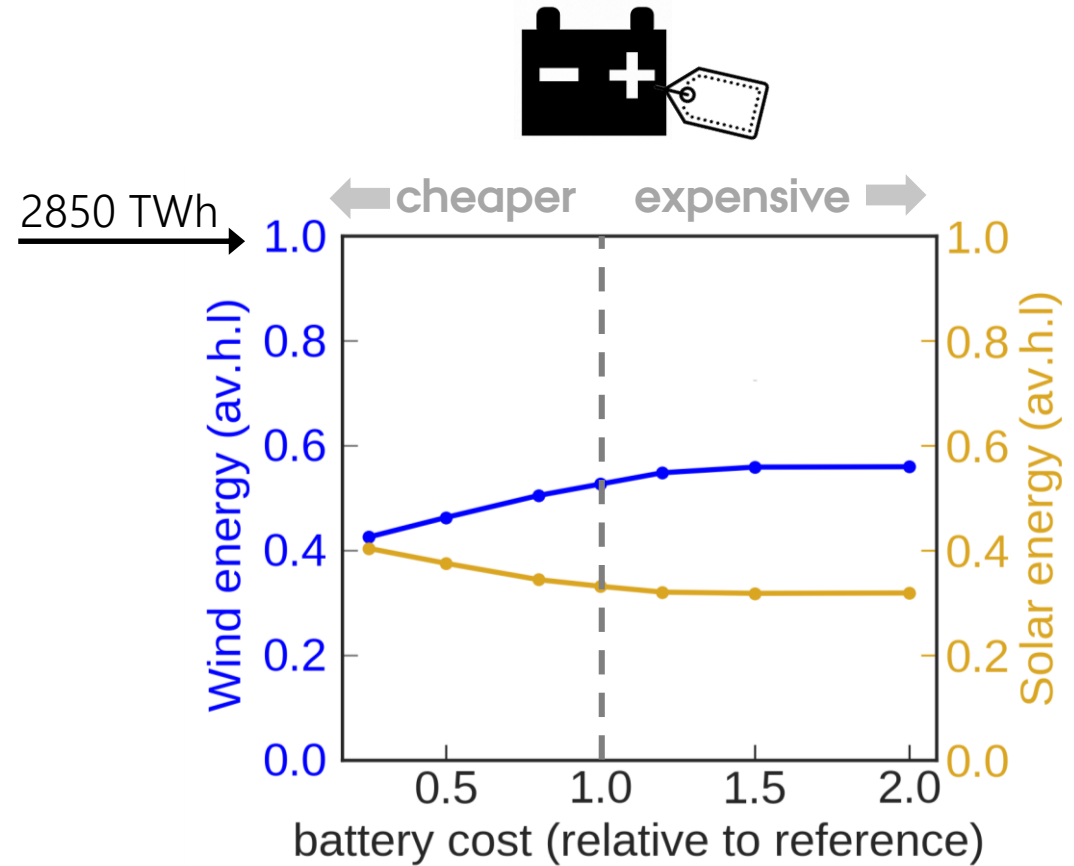
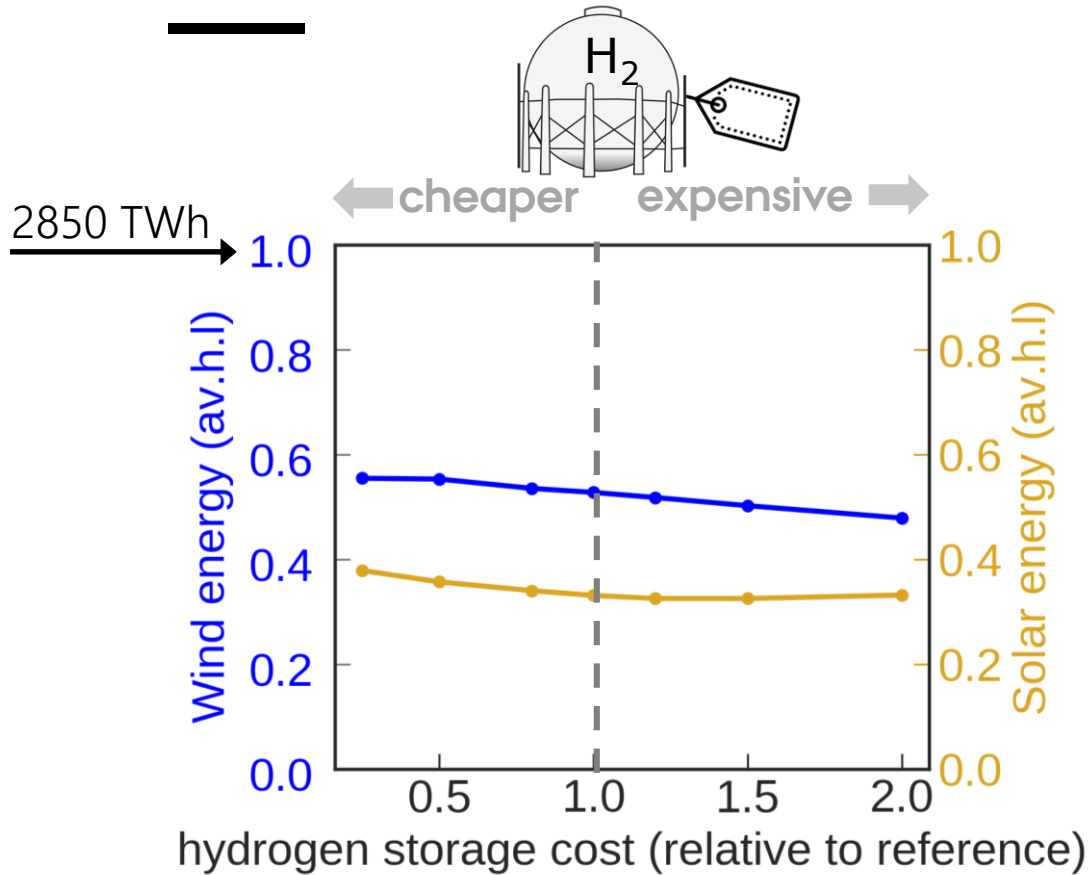
Hydrogen storage operation is impacted by wind generation fluctuations with weekly frequency.

# Results: sensitivity to wind and PV cost



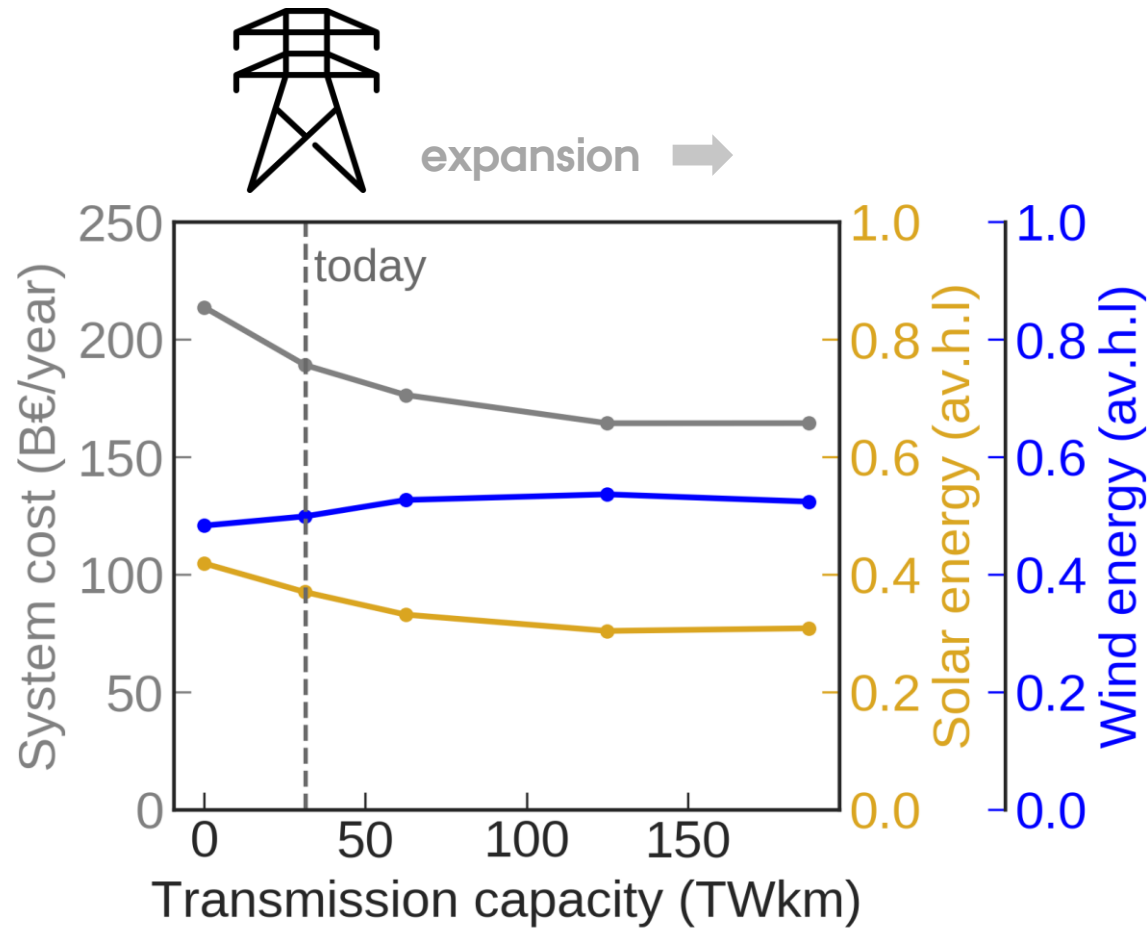
Even for very cheap PV, no 100% solar system is optimum as it would require large (expensive) battery capacity.

# Results: sensitivity to hydrogen storage and battery cost



Cheap batteries increase optimal PV penetration.

# Results: transmission capacity

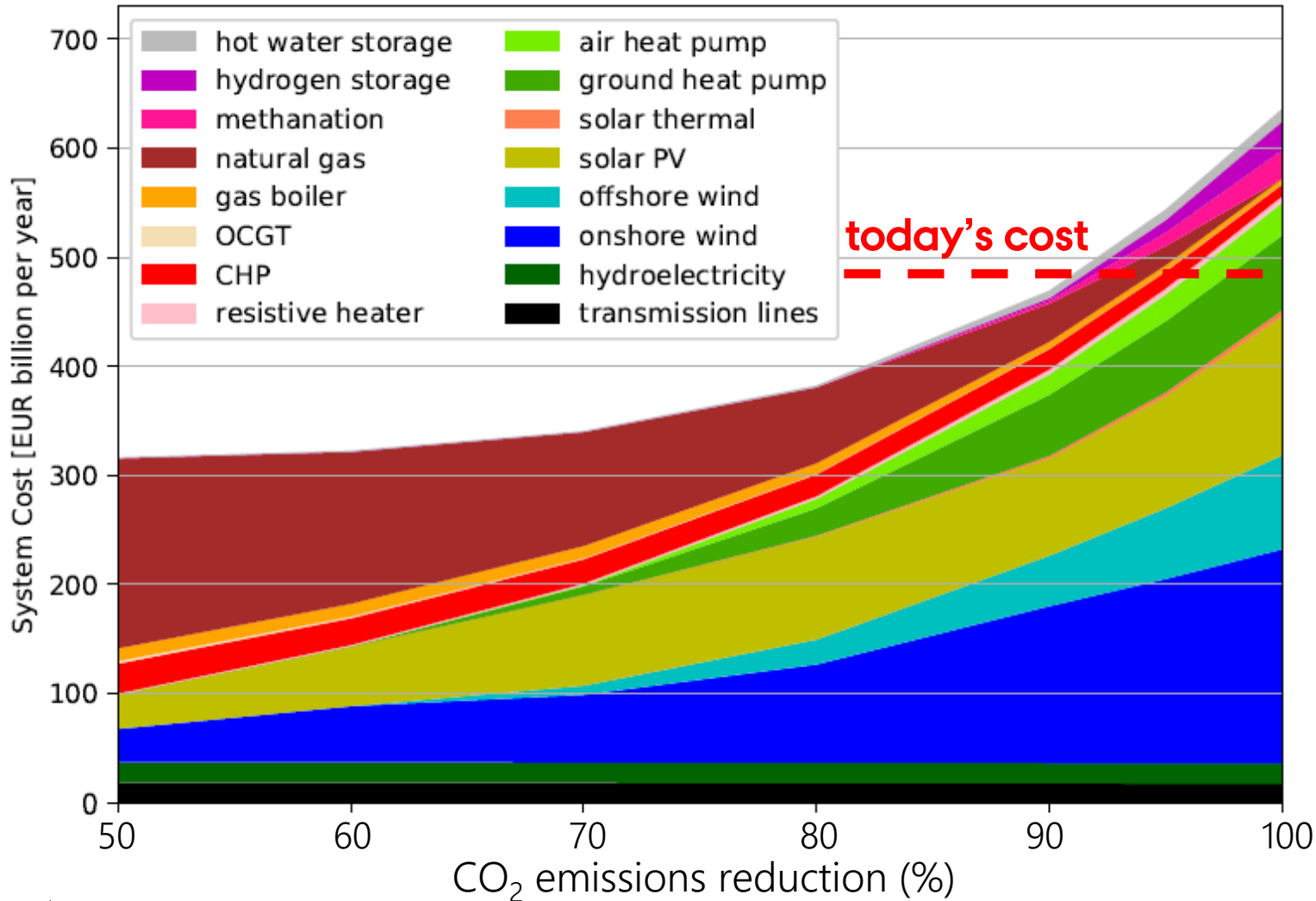


Increasing transmission capacity reduces PV optimal penetration.

Increasing transmission capacity reduces system costs but most of the benefits are captured by the initial 25% grid expansion.

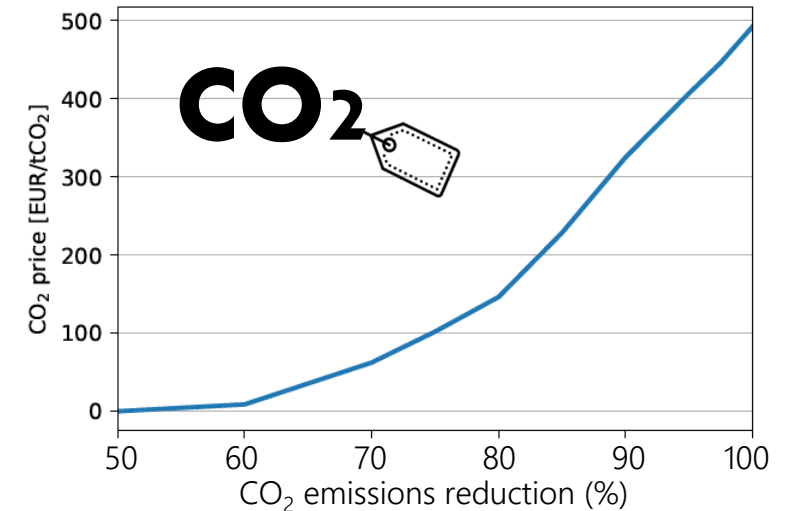
# Results: variable CO<sub>2</sub> reduction

## Electricity + Heating + Transport



As CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are restricted the system becomes more expensive ...

... but not linearly, the last 20% is the hardest!

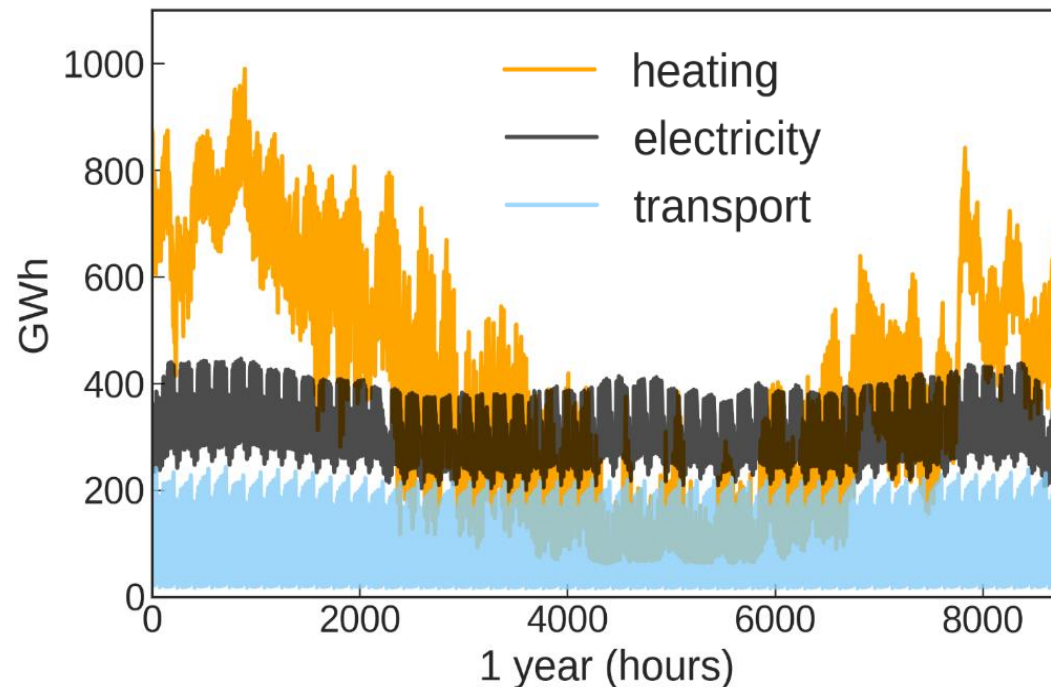


# Results: sector-coupling

Sector coupling brings opportunities and challenges.

Electric Vehicles whose batteries can charge and discharge into the grid, will bring significant short-term storage benefiting solar PV optimal penetration.

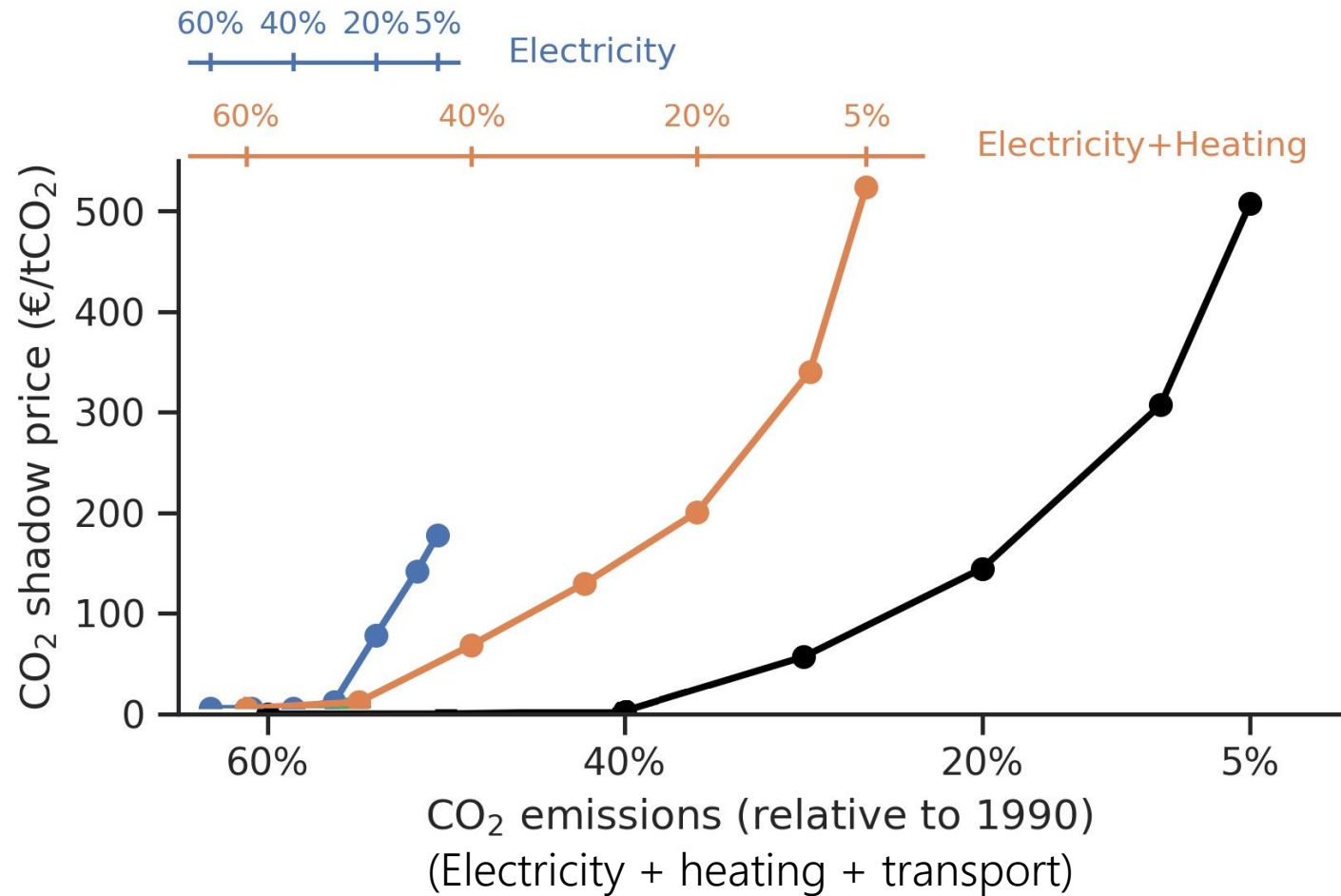
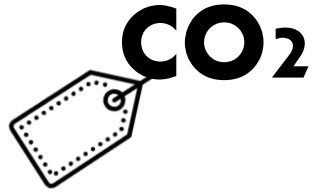
By increasing demand and bringing extra flexibility to the system, sector-coupling delays the need for large storage capacities.





# Results: sector-coupling

Higher CO<sub>2</sub> prices needed to decarbonize the heating sector



# Summary

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What is the optimal wind to solar mix?

For 95% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction wind generation represents in average 55% of the electricity demand.

Strong links: Solar PV + batteries, Wind + H<sub>2</sub> storage + interconnection

How are the results affected by costs assumptions?

100% solar system won't be optimal. Cheap batteries benefit solar penetration.

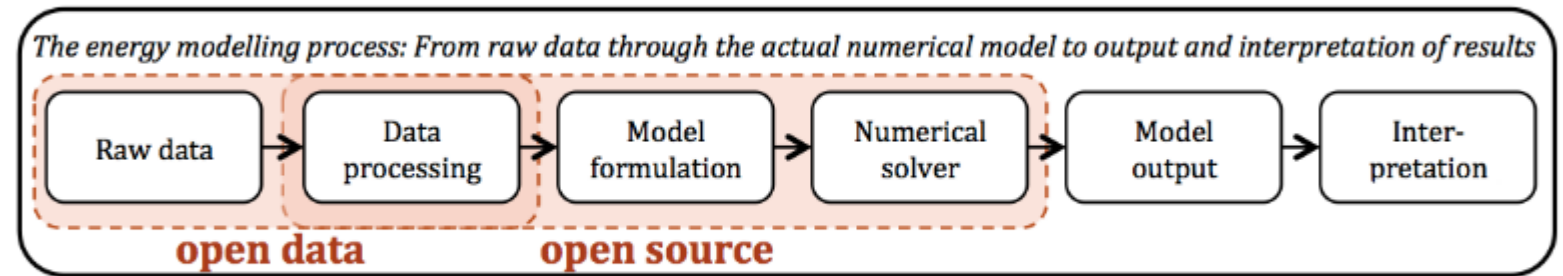
How are the results affected by interconnection capacities expansion?

Expanding interconnection benefits wind and decreases system cost but most of the reduction is obtained for the initial grid expansion.

How are the results affected by the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions limit?

As CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are restricted the system becomes more expensive but not linearly, the last 20% is the hardest.

The whole chain from raw data to modelling results should be open:



**Open data + free software ⇒ Transparency + Reproducibility**



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