
Process system engineering applied to the integration of renewable energy in buildings

Model predictive control integration in a building

Energy services

Comfort
Hot water
Electricity
E-mobility

Energy efficiency

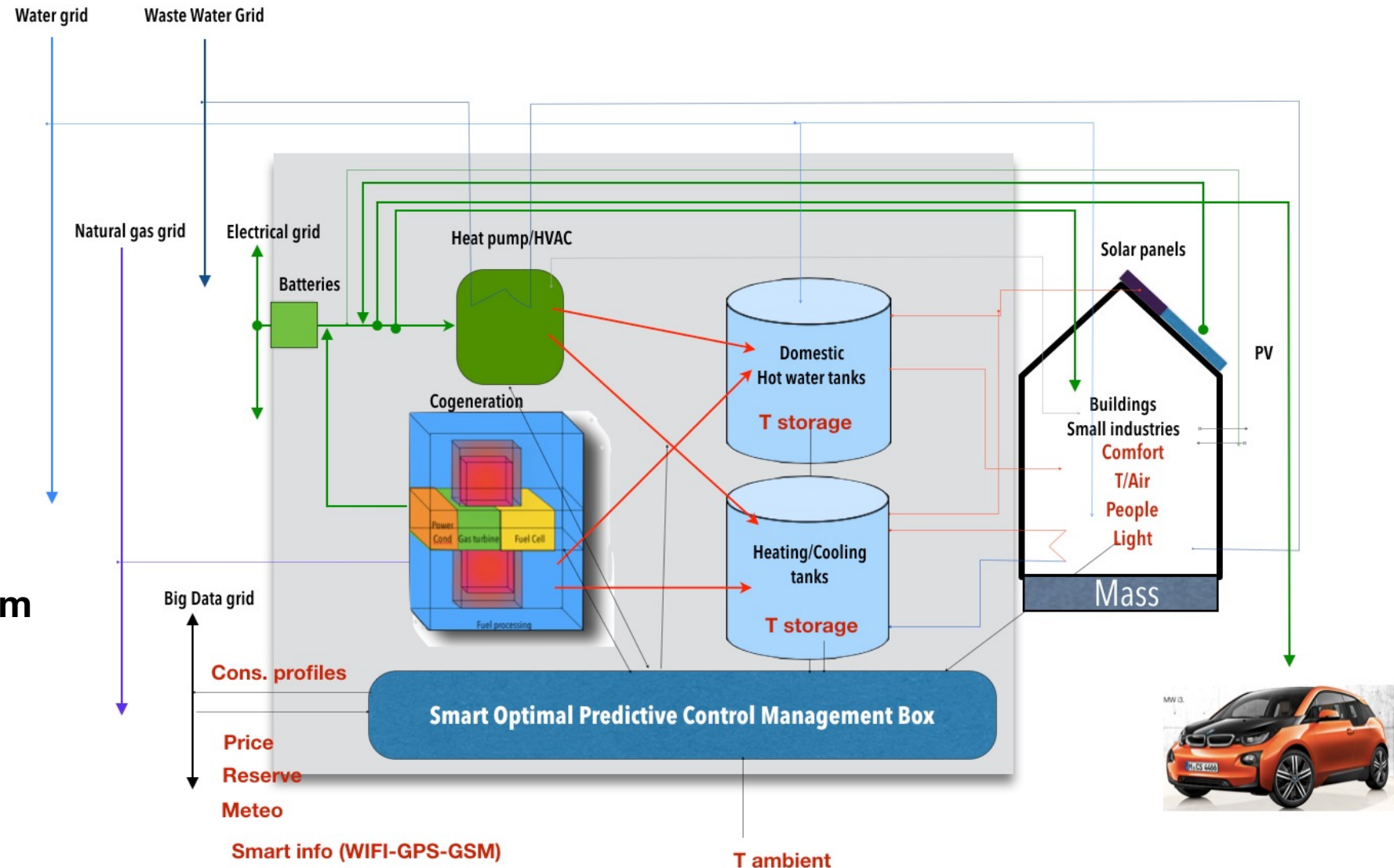
Building efficiency

Solar integration

Photovoltaic
Thermal
Hybrid

Energy conversion system

Heat pumps
Cogeneration
Heat storage
Electricity storage



► Energy system = for each building system (n)

► Investments (expected life time : 20 Years)

► Energy Conversion Units

$$\forall u \in Units; \forall n \in Nodes \Rightarrow Size_{u,n}$$

► Storage

$$\forall s \in Storage; \forall n \in Nodes \Rightarrow V_{s,n}$$

$$\sum_{n=1}^{Nodes} \sum_{u=1}^{Units} \frac{1}{\tau_{y,i}} (I(Size_{u,n}) + I(V_{s,n}))$$

► Operating costs (expected operation time = 25x8760h)

► Management strategy

$$\forall s \in Storage; \forall n \in Nodes; \forall t \in time \Rightarrow \dot{m}_{u,n}(t), V_{s,n}(t), \dot{E}(t)$$

$$\int_{t=1}^{Time} \left(\sum_{u=1}^{units} (c_r^+(t) \dot{m}_{r(u),n}(t)) + c_e^+(t) \dot{E}^+(t) \right) dt$$

► Constraints

► Energy services

$$\forall n \in Nodes; \forall t \in Time; \forall c \in Cons. \Rightarrow \dot{Q}_{n,c}(t), \dot{E}_{n,c}(t)$$

► Grid capacities

$$\forall t \in Time : \sum_{n=1}^{Nodes} \dot{E}(t) \leq \dot{E}_{max}(t)$$

► Grid constraints

$$\forall q \in quarter(Time) : \sum_{n=1}^{Nodes} \int_{t=q}^{q+15} |\dot{E}_n(t) - \dot{E}_n(t-1)| dt \leq \Delta \dot{E}_{max}(t)$$

Constraints

Electricity production $(el_{SOFC}(t) + el_{grid}(t)) - (el_{RC}(t) + el_{PAC}(t) + cons_el(t)) \geq 0(kW)$ (2)

Heat production $el_{SOFC}(t)/\eta_{el} * \eta_{th} - ((AC2(t)/AC2_{COP}) + HEX_heat(t) + unusable_heat(t)) \geq 0(kW)$ (3)

$$stored_energy(t) = stored_energy(t-1) - storage_losses(t) - storage_out(t) + storage_in(t)(kJ) \quad (4)$$

Storage balance $T_{stock}(t=1) = T_{stock}(t=24)(C)$ (5)

cyclic constraint

$$losses_param = 10\% * stock_size * \rho_{water} * Cp_{water} * (T_{max} - T_{room})(kJ) \quad (6)$$

Storage losses $storage_losses(t) = losses_param * \frac{1hour}{24 * 3600} * (T_{stock}(t) - T_{room}) / (T_{max} - T_{room})(kW)$ (7)

$$cons_heat(t) = HEX_heat(t) - heat_stock_{in}(t) + heat_stock_{out}(t) + el_{PAC}(t) * COP_{PAC}(kW) \quad (8)$$

Heat/cool cons $cons_cool(t) = AC2(t) - cool_stock_{in}(t) + cool_stock_{out}(t) + el_{RC}(t) * RC_{COP}(kW)$ (9)

t=1...24

Multi-objective optimization (ϵ -moo) to study different system configurations

Objectives

Operation expenses

$$\min_{\Sigma} \sum_{p=1}^P \sum_{t=1}^T (\text{op}_{p,t}^{el,+} \cdot \dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^+ - \text{op}_{p,t}^{el,-} \cdot \dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^- + \text{op}_{p,t}^{ng,+} \cdot \dot{H}_{\text{grid},p,t}^+) \cdot d_p \cdot d_t \quad (1)$$

Capital expenses

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \sum_{u=1}^U \text{inv}_{1,u} \cdot y_u + \text{inv}_{2,u} \cdot F_u \leq \epsilon_{\text{inv}} \quad (2)$$

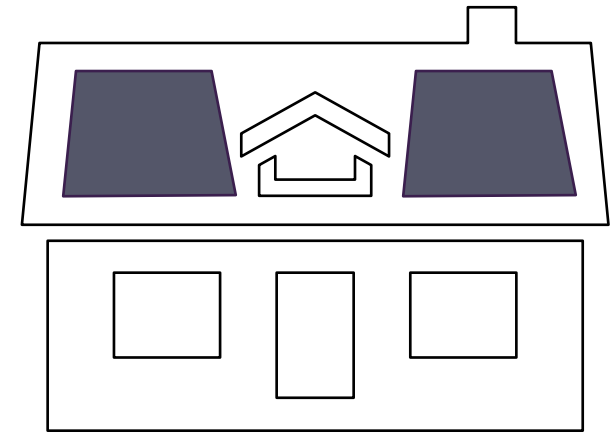
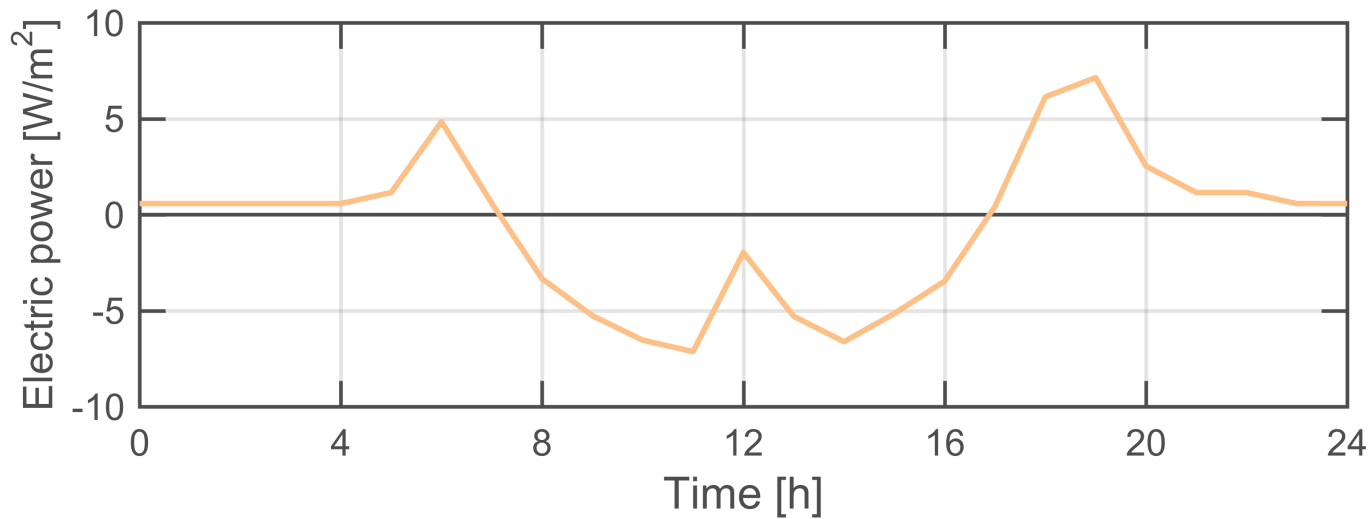
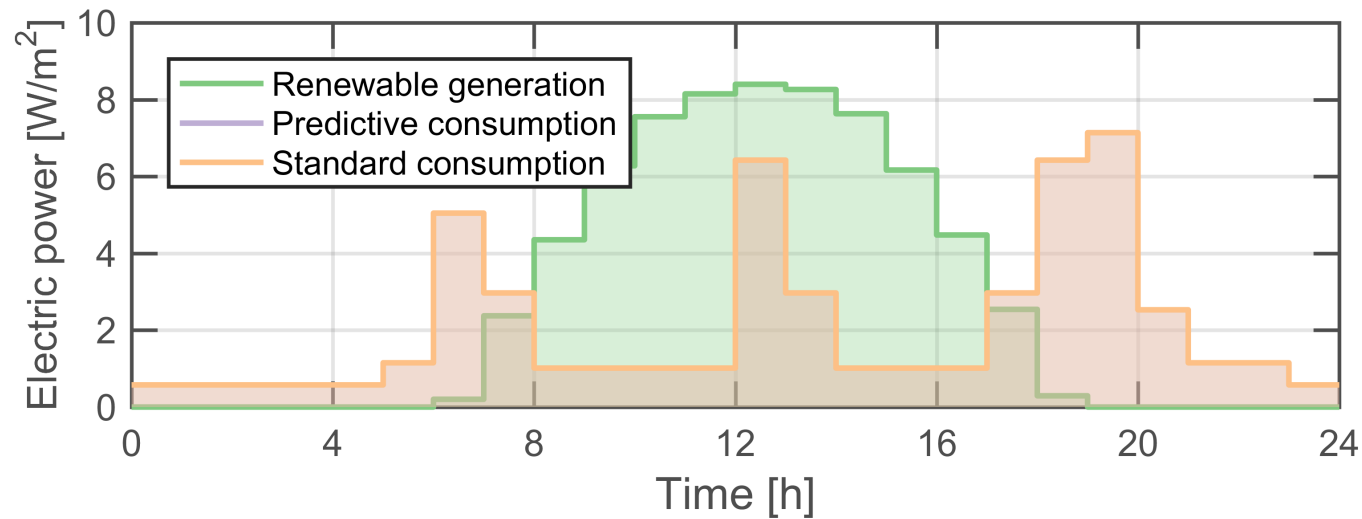
Grid multiple

$$\frac{(\dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^+ - \dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^-)}{\frac{1}{n_t} \sum_{t=1}^T (\dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^+ - \dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^-)} \leq \epsilon_{gm} \quad (3)$$

subject to:

- Energy & Mass balances, Heat cascade & Modelling constraints

Self consumption in a building



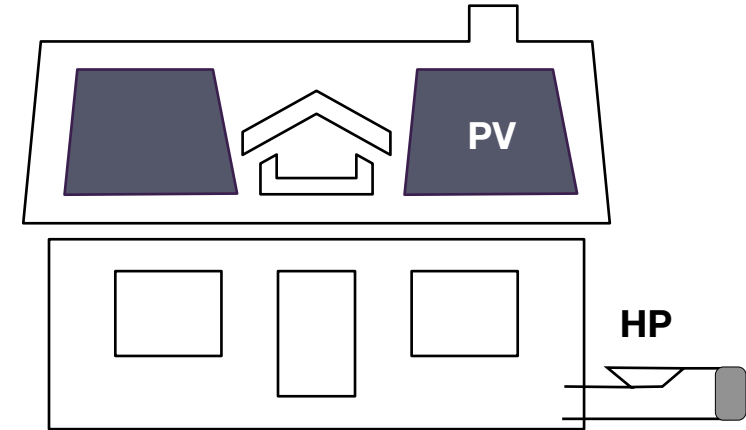
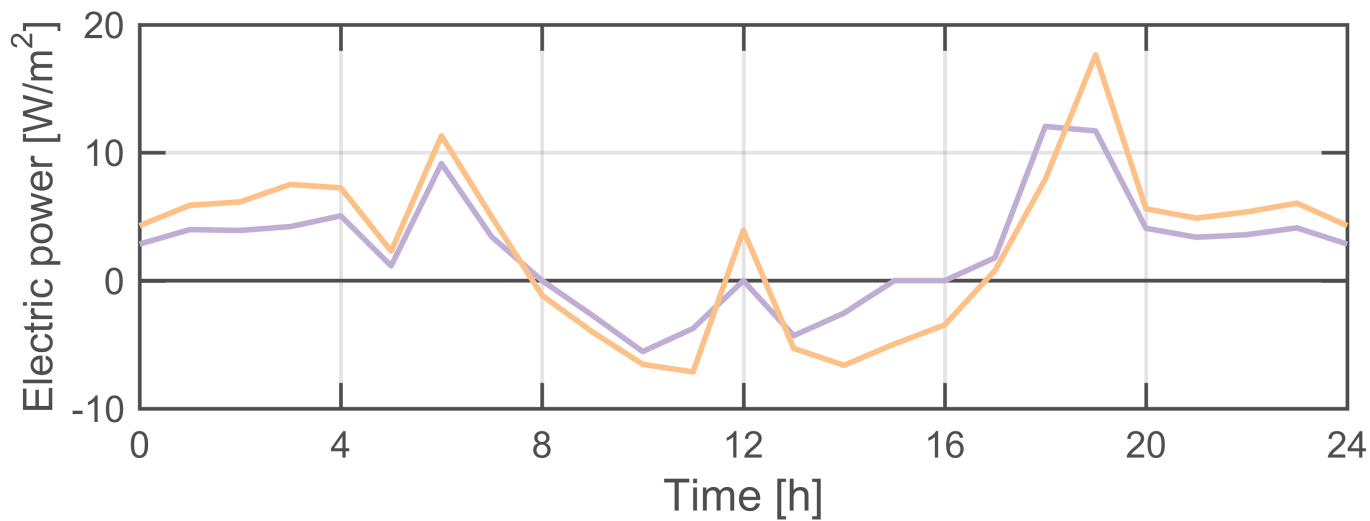
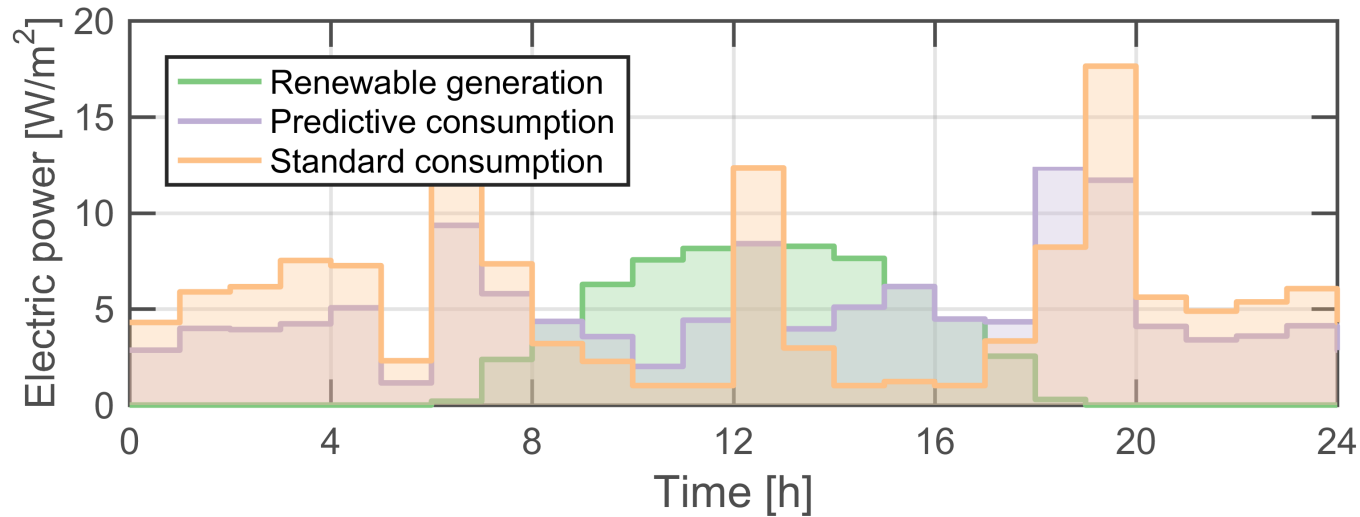
$$\text{SelfSufficiency} = \frac{kWh_{PVused}}{kWh_{cons}}$$

$$\text{SelfConsumption} = \frac{kWh_{PVused}}{kWh_{PV}}$$

Self Sufficiency = 36 %

Self Consumption = 42 %

Heating with heat pump (shiftable load)



Without MPC

Self Sufficiency = 12 %

Self Consumption = 52 %

With MPC

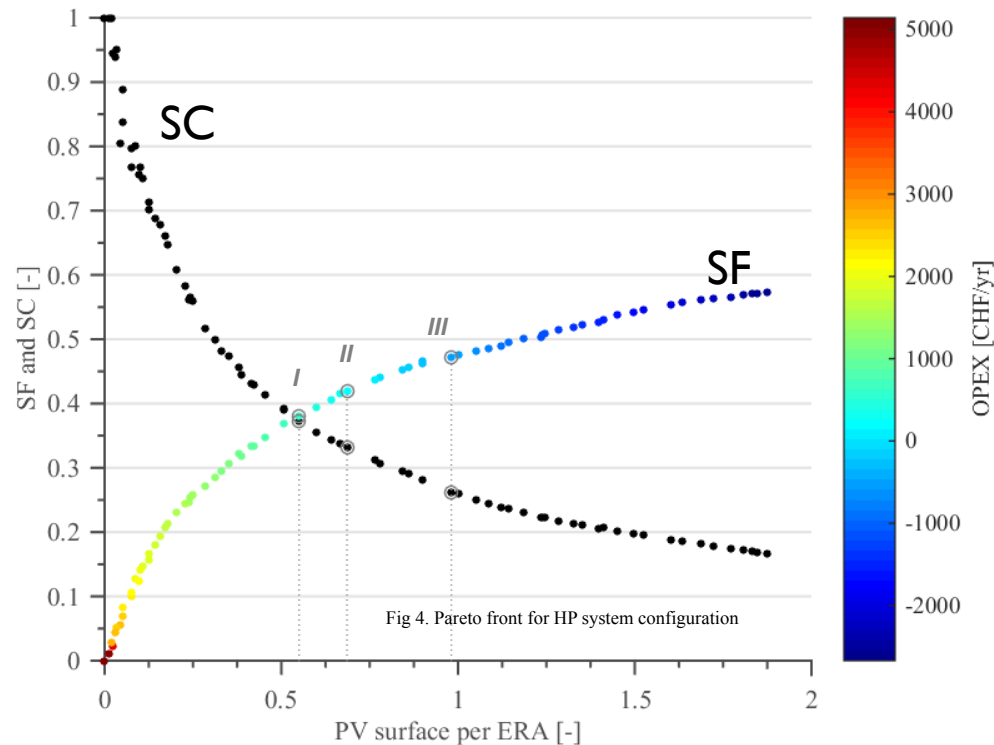
Self Sufficiency = 18 %

Self Consumption = 70 %

Optimal design of solar integrated systems

The grid is a seasonal battery

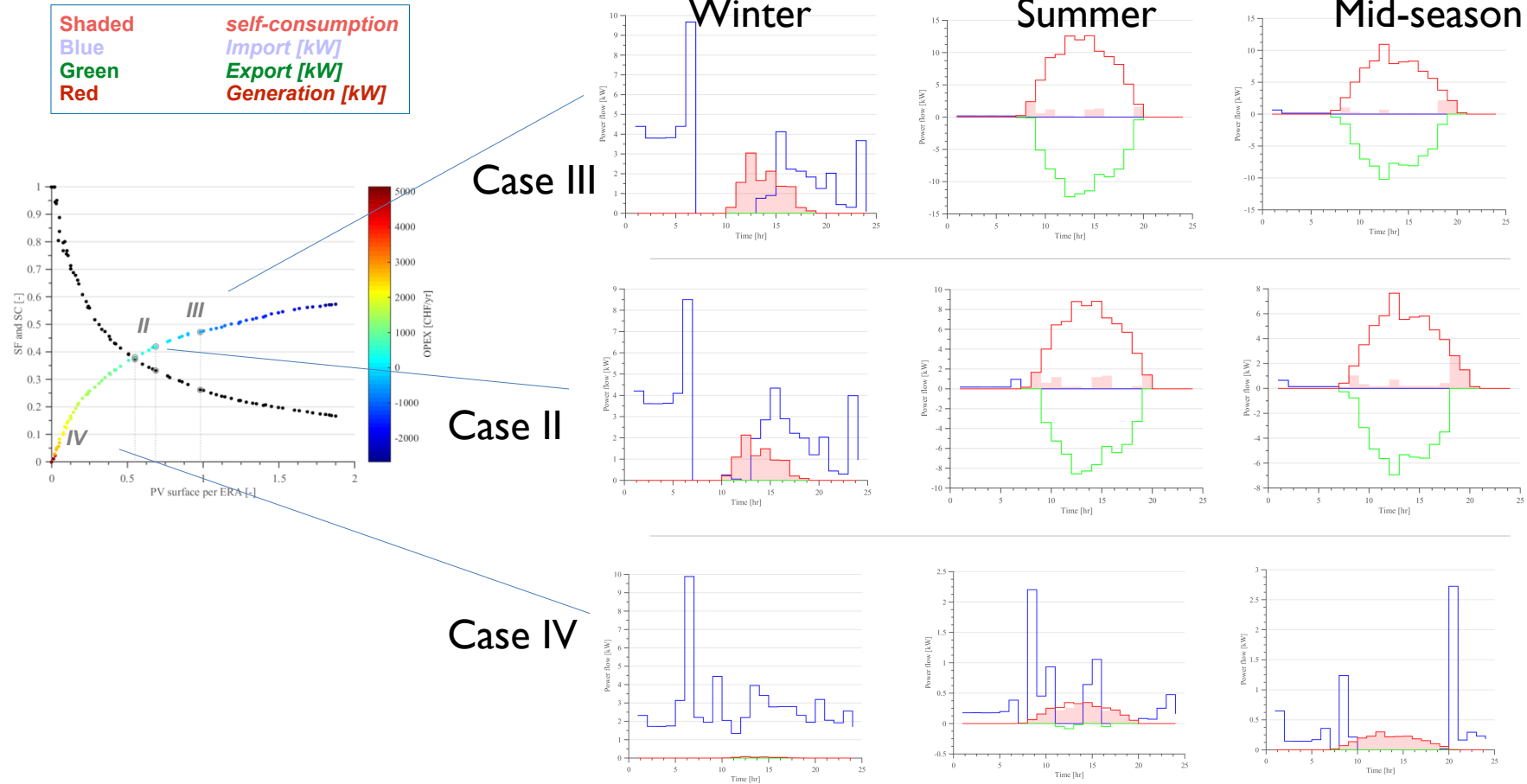
Single family house : 4 pers 160 m² : with heat pump

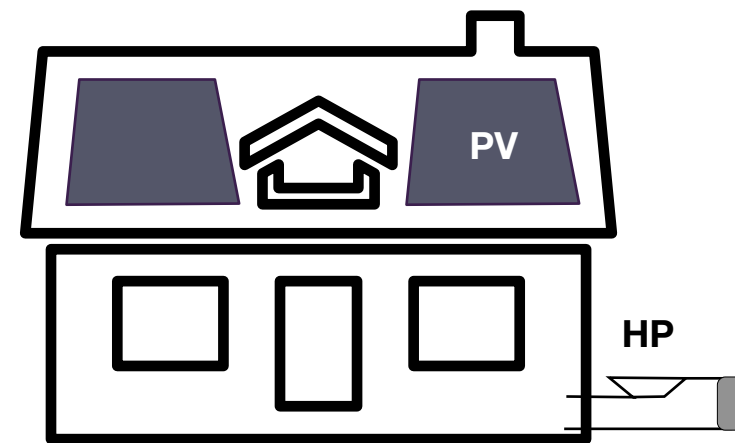
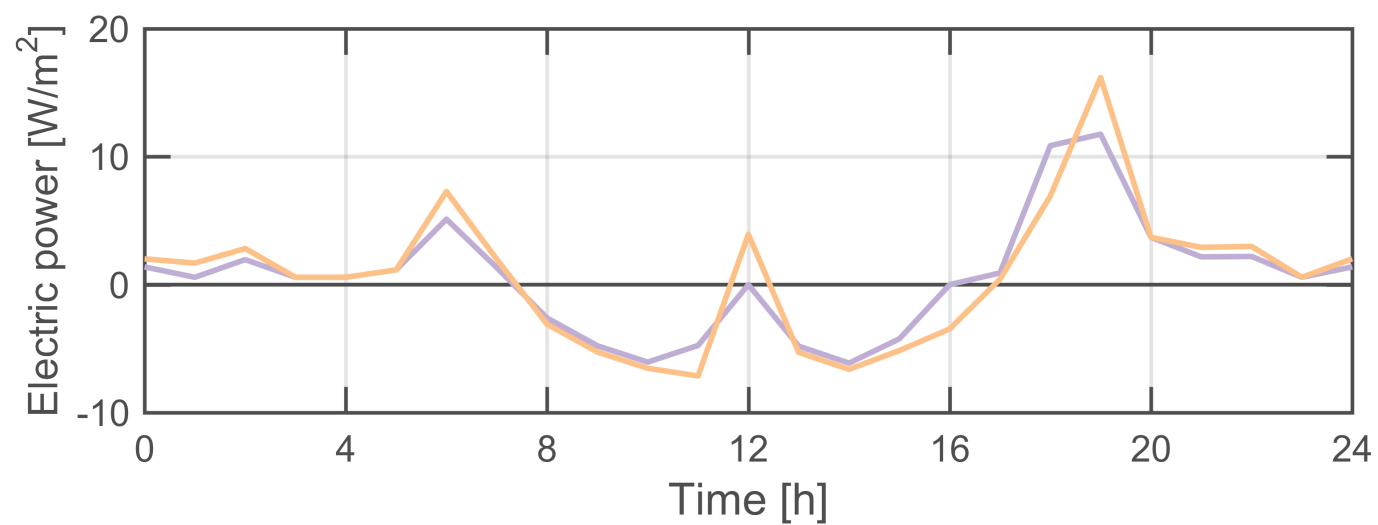
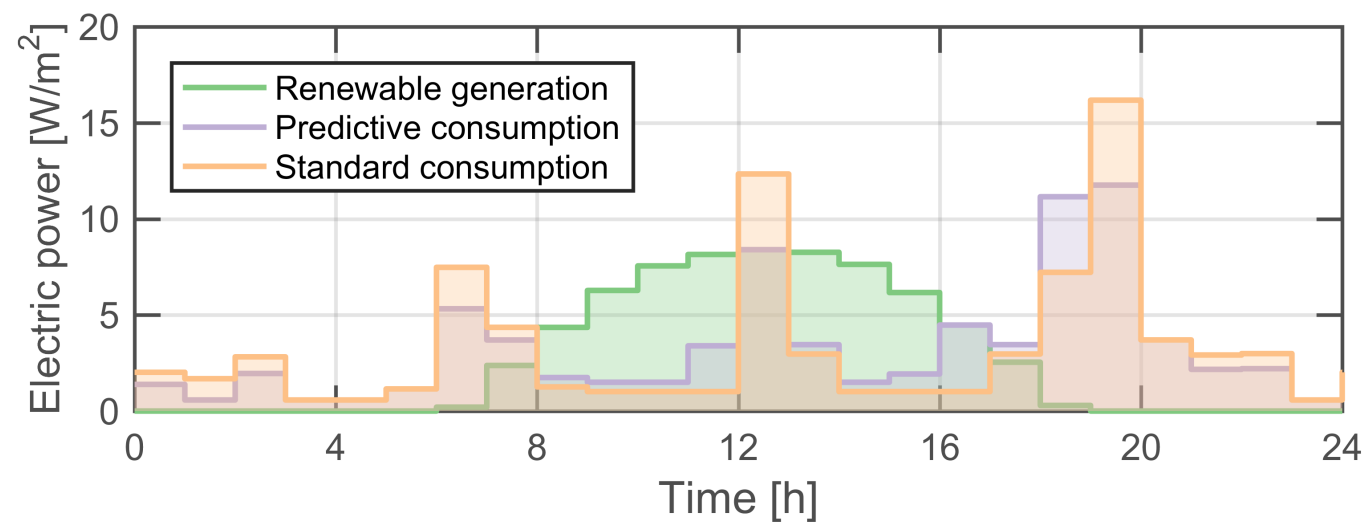


SF and SC as a function of the PV area

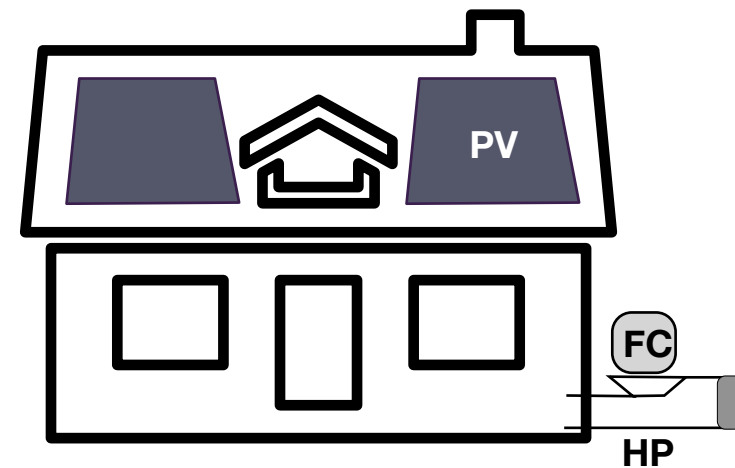
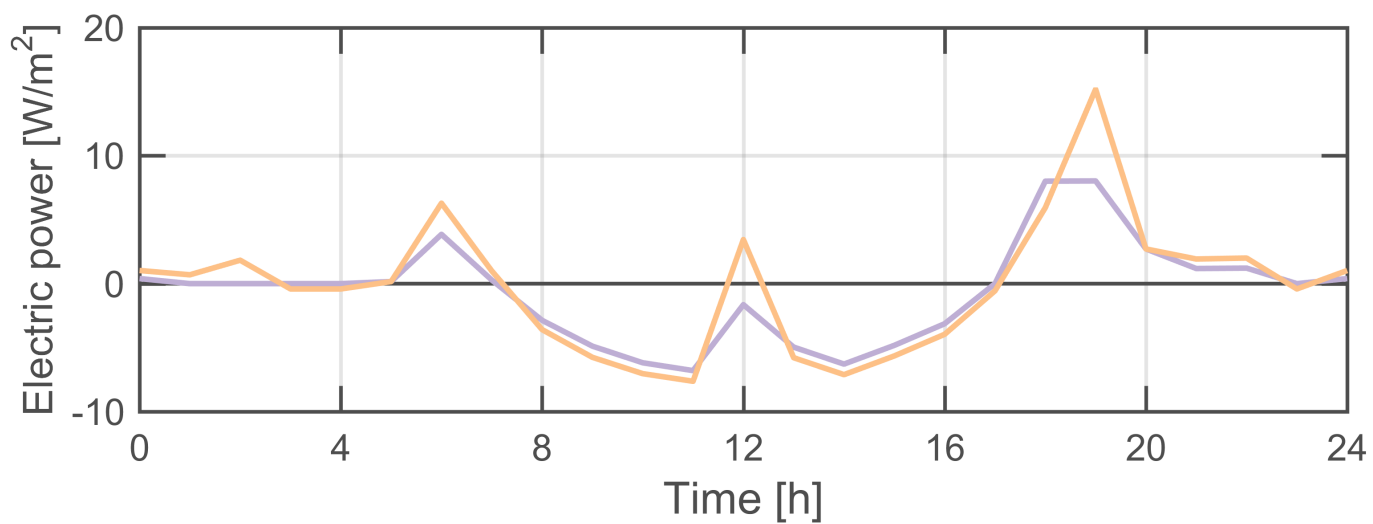
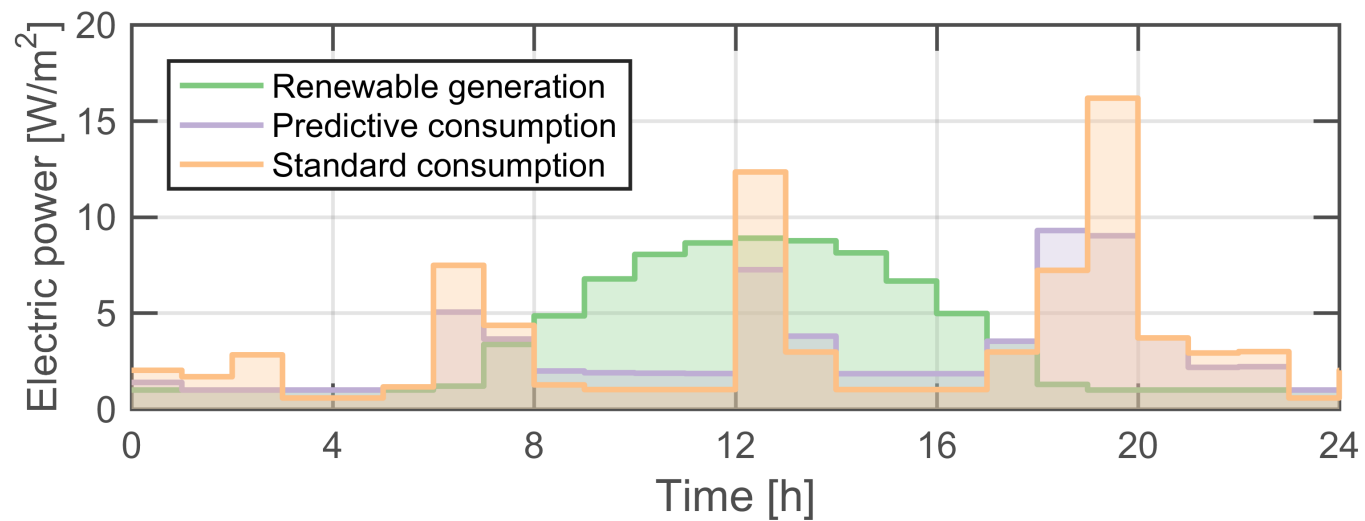
Case I	Energy system		Off-site storage	
	PV array	88 m ²	Redox Battery	
	Battery	4.95 kWh	8.14 MWh	
	HW tank	2.43 m ³	406.9 m ³	(20 Wh/l)
	Heat Pump	3.59 kW	4'070'000 €	(500 €/kWh)
Annual energy balance				
Case II	Energy system		Off-site storage	
	PV array	109.7 m ²	Redox Battery	
	Battery	7 kWh	10.8 MWh	
	HW tank	2.46 m ³	540.2 m ³	
	Heat Pump	3.5 kW	5'400'000 €	
Long term storage : 85%				
Case III	Energy system		Off-site storage	
	PV array	156.9 m ²	Redox Battery	
	Battery	8.63 kWh	17.1 MWh	
	HW tank	2.39 m ³	854.6 m ³	
	Heat Pump	3.7 kW	8'550'000 €	
Long term storage : 55%				

E-technology : model predictive control





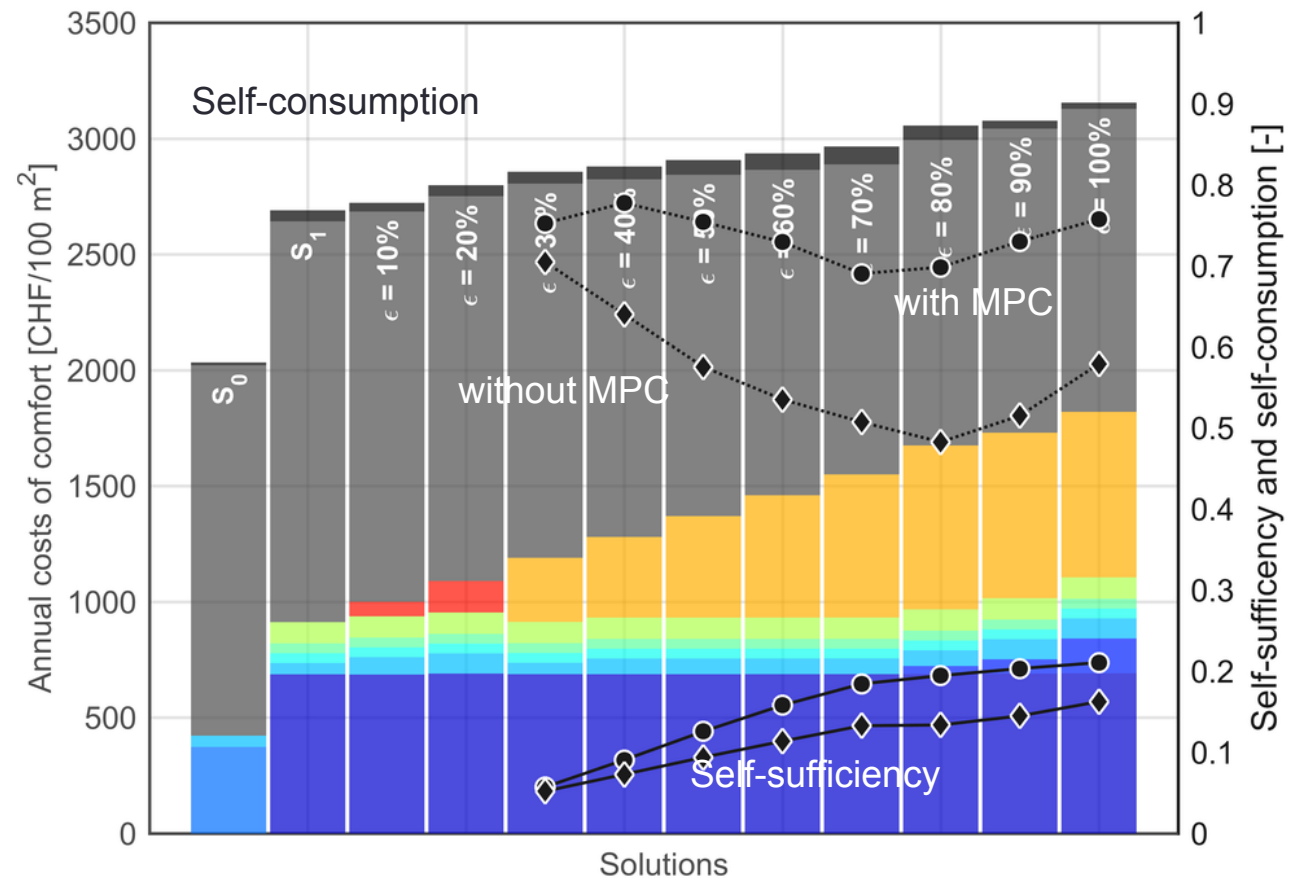
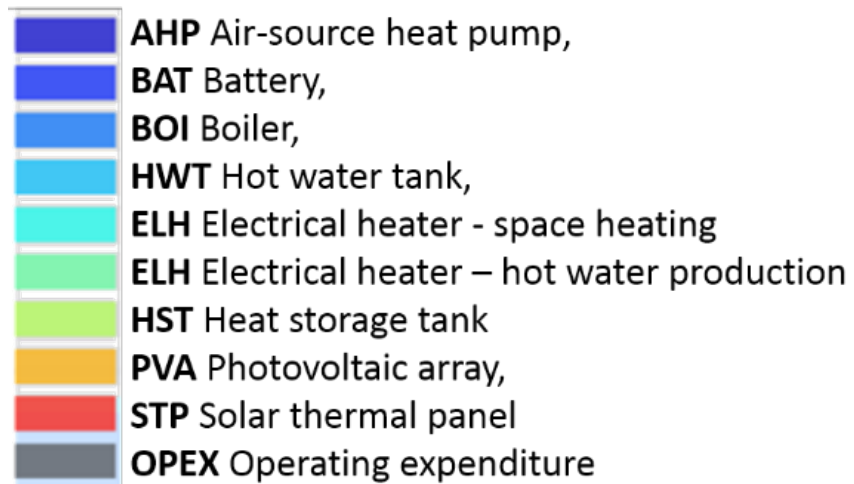
	before	after
Self consumption	18%	29%
Self sufficiency	70%	68%



	HP	FC/HP
Self consumption	29%	48%
Self sufficiency	68%	69%

- Cost of Comfort**

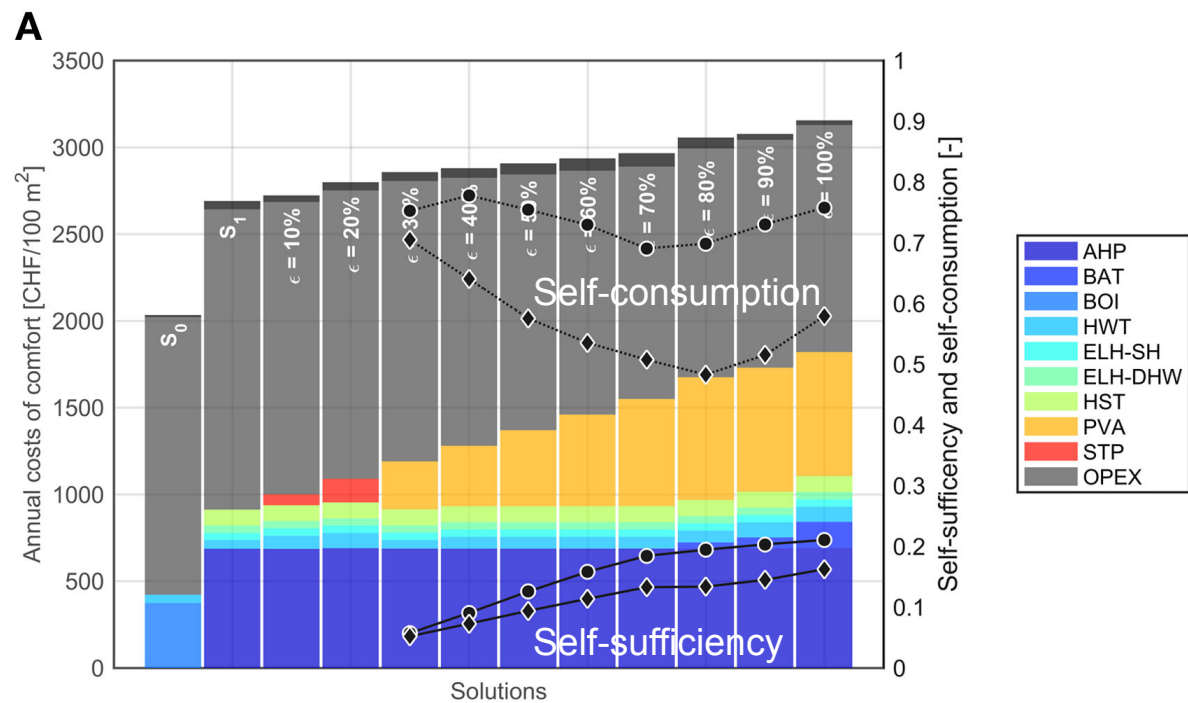
- Ø 2000 - 3000 CHF/year/100 m²
- Ø 66 CHF/month/hab
- Ø 60 % investment
- Ø up to 80% CO₂ emission reduction



Single family house 1970-1980 – without grid peak constraint

MPC increases by 40% the self consumption

No constraint



Max : 50% of the mean power

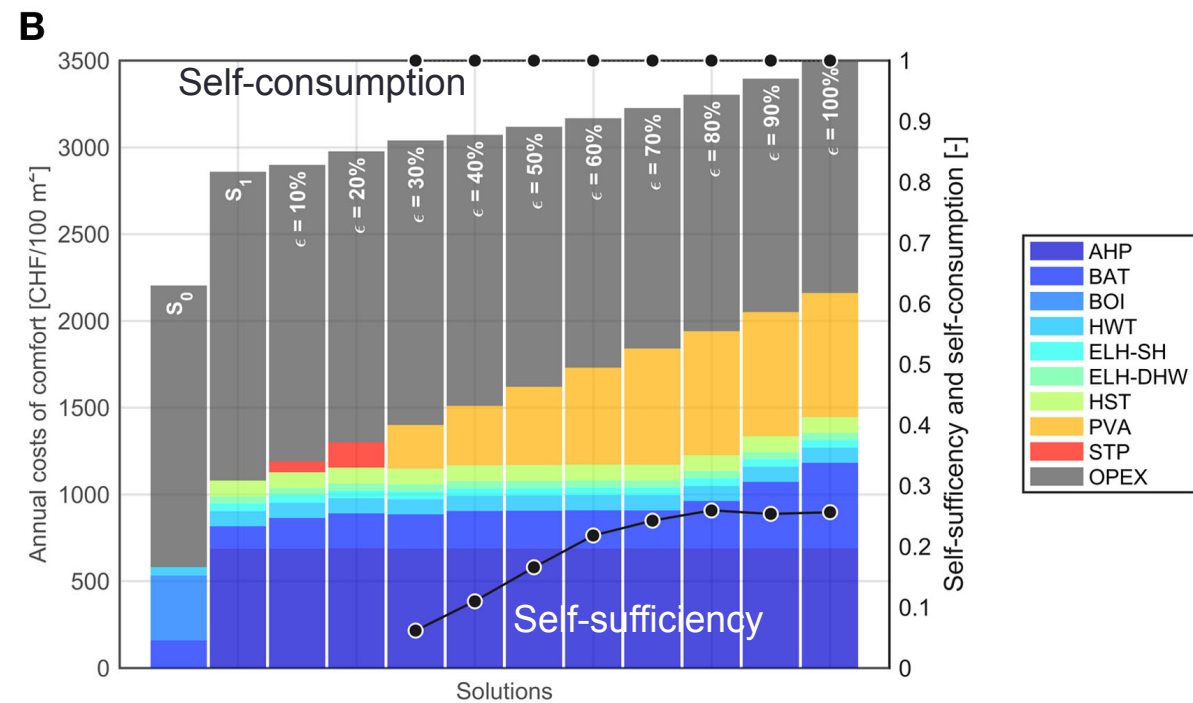


FIGURE 9 | Multi-objective optimization results for a single-family house (Geneva, 1970–1980). Differences in operating costs between both control methods are represented by the dark gray stacked boxes. The self-consumption and self-sufficiency are represented through dotted and solid lines, respectively (MPC circles and RBC diamonds). **(A)** No ϵ_{gm} (i)–(ii). **(B)** $\epsilon_{gm} = 1.5$ (iii).

Considering the complete building stock

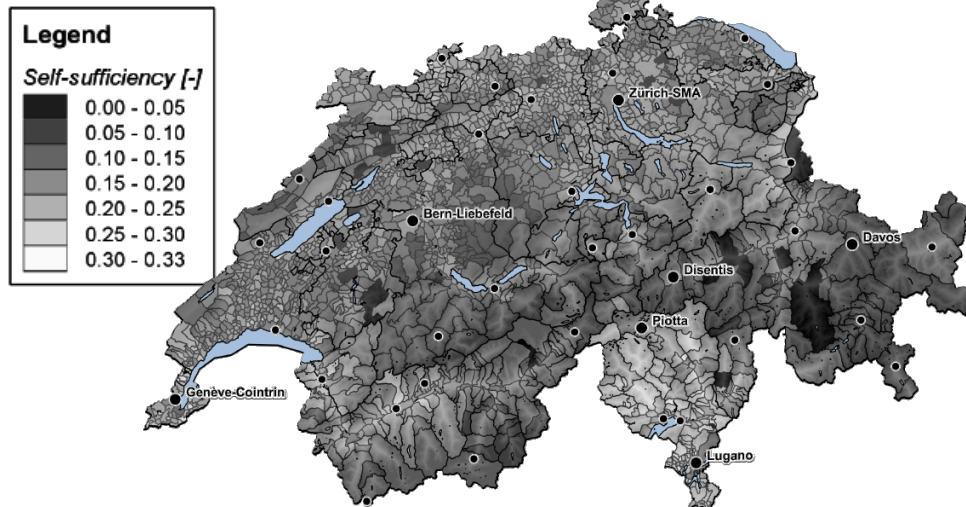
(a) 19 billion CHF/yr for factor 5 CO₂ emissions reduction.

(b) Boiler phase out before renovation

(c) PV and renovation

further reduction needs seasonal storage

Self-sufficiency maps



CH-Map of solution n° 50 (upper investment bound)

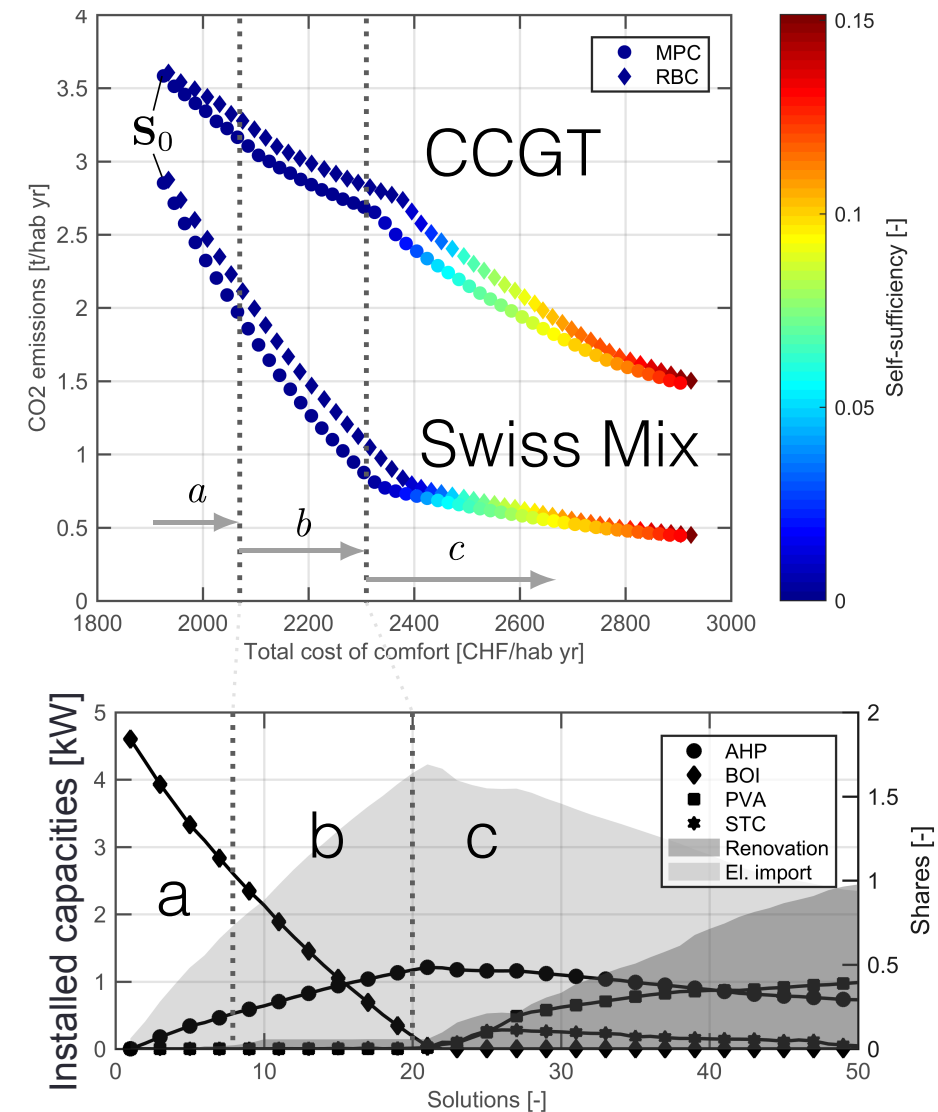


FIGURE 12 | Pareto fronts for Switzerland when applying MPC (circles) and RBC (diamonds). The marker size reflects the renovation share of the current built environment.

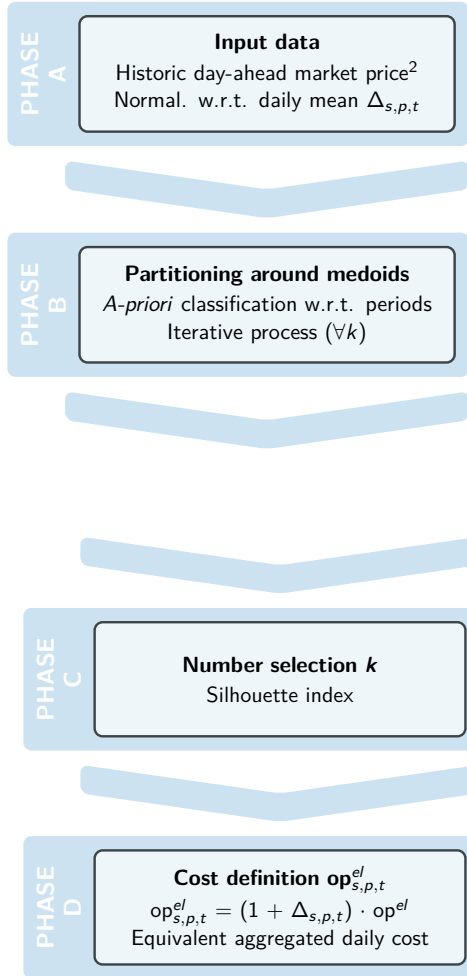


Fig 1: Variation profiles [-] and associated cluster centre (Zone Geneva-Cointrin)

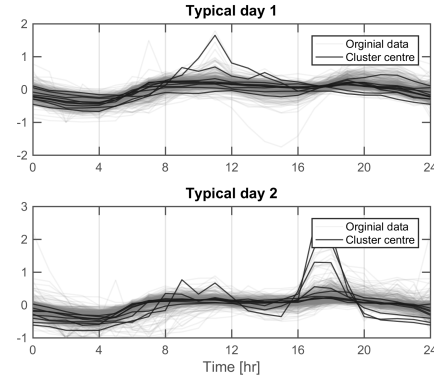
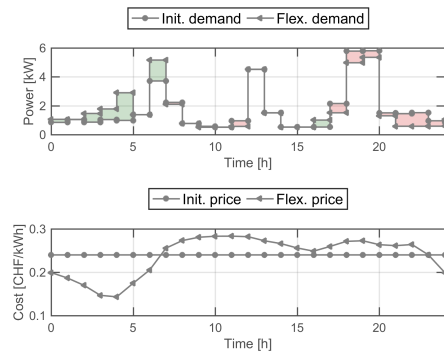


Fig 1: Flexible price profile for scenario s and day p



What are the most likely price variations that the system will see ?

- Define a flexible price of electricity profile
- Apply to the system operation when it has advertised a given profile

3. Performance : capacity (F^{cap} [kWh]), power (F^{pow} [kW]) and round-trip eff. (η^{eff} [-])

$$F_{s,p}^{pow} = \frac{1}{n_t} \sum_{t=1}^{Time} | \dot{E}'_{grid,s,p,t} - \dot{E}_{grid,p,t} | \quad \forall p \in \text{Period}, s \in \text{Scenario} \quad (9)$$

$$F_{s,p}^{cap} = \max_t SOC_{s,p,t} \quad \forall p \in \text{Period}, s \in \text{Scenario} \quad (10)$$

$$\eta_{s,p}^{eff} = \frac{(SOC_{s,p,1} - SOC_{s,p,n_t})}{\sum_{t=1}^{Time} (\Delta \dot{E}_{s,p,t}^+ \cdot d_t)} \quad \forall p \in \text{Period}, s \in \text{Scenario} \quad (11)$$

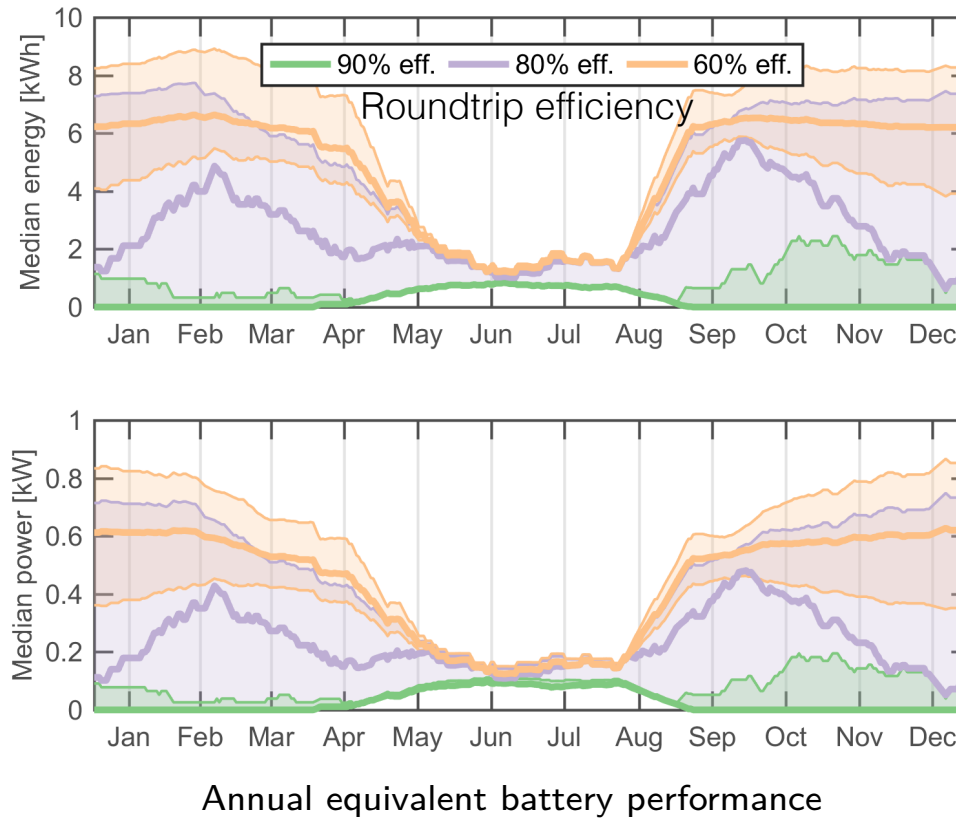
Building performance (solution I)

Ind.	Value (imp/exp/gen)
E [MWh]	34.8 / 00.0 / 00.0
H [MWh]	00.0 / 00.0 / 00.0
COP [-]	3.00

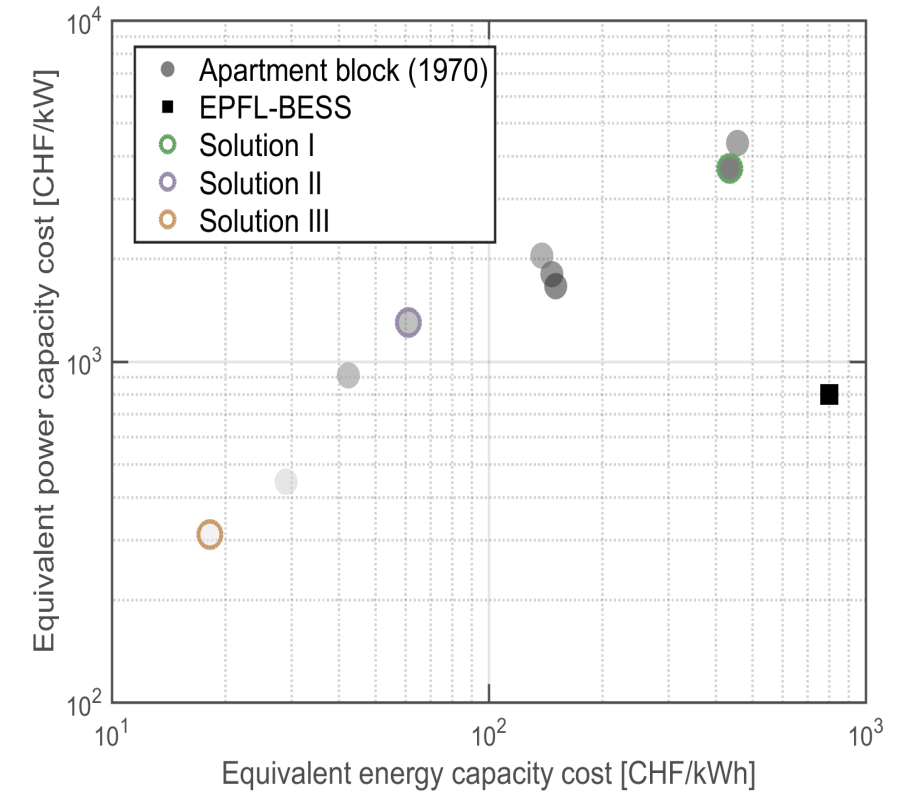
Building energy system design (solution I)

Unit	Size
Heat pump	7.0 kW _e
Battery	0 kWh _e
Boiler	0 kW _{th}
Water tank	0.22 m ³
Electric heater	14 kW _e
Heat tank	1.0 m ³
Photovoltaics	0 kW _p
Solar thermal	0 m ²
SOFC-CHP	0 kW _e

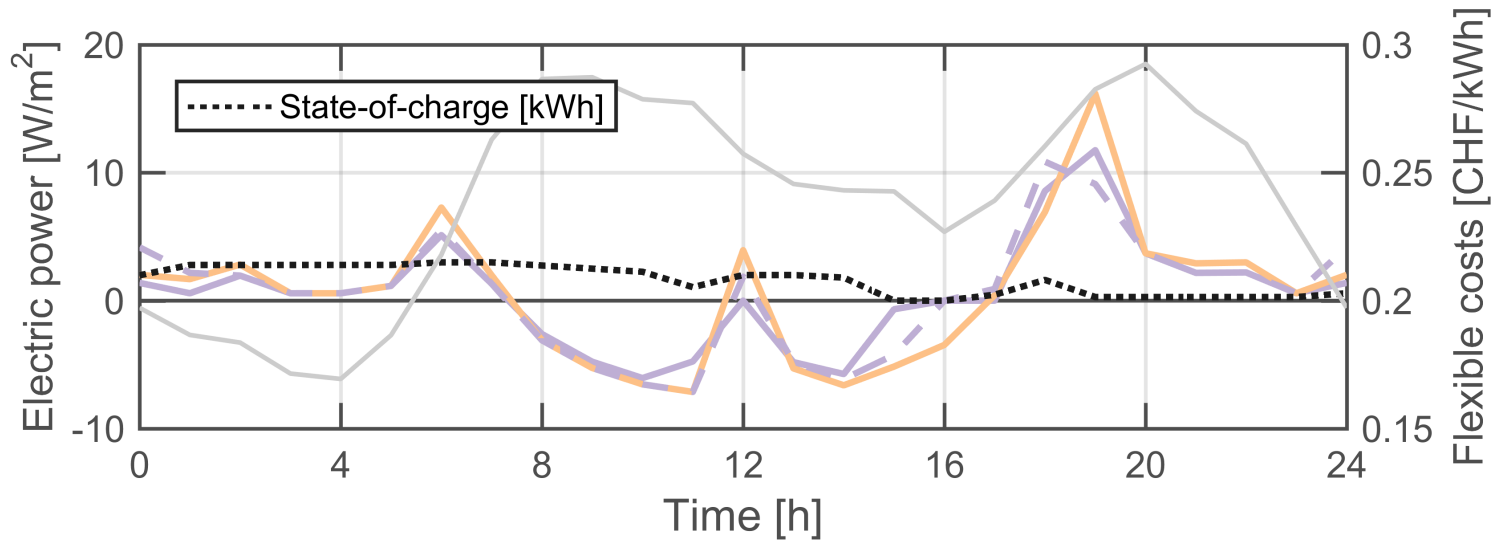
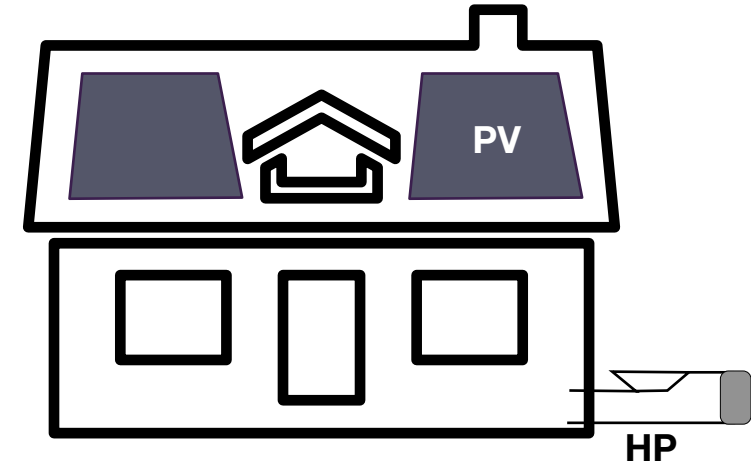
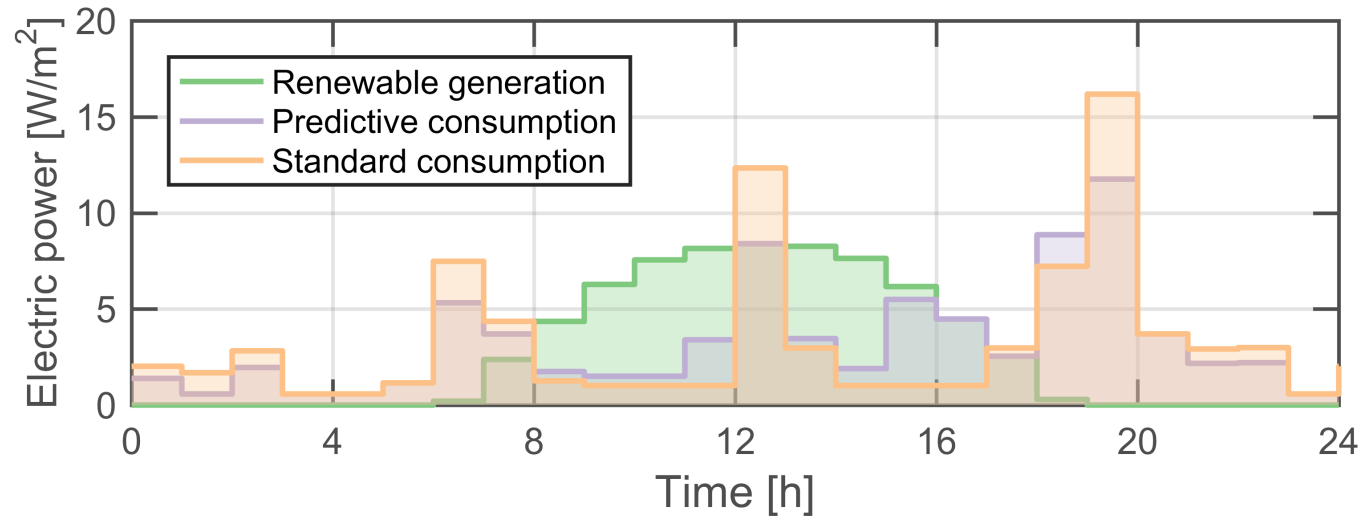
Offered stored energy and power by the system



Equivalent Battery



The building is also a “free” battery



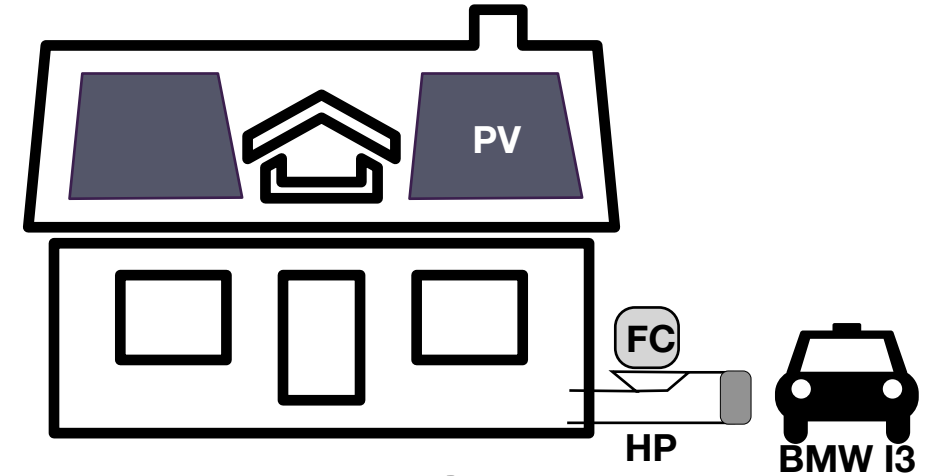
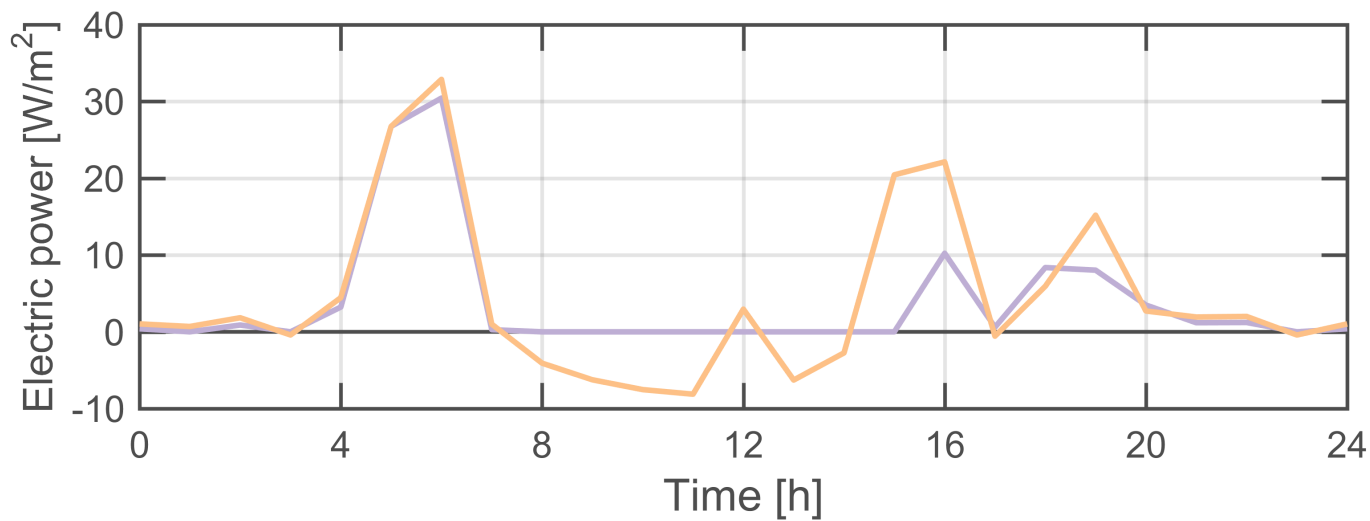
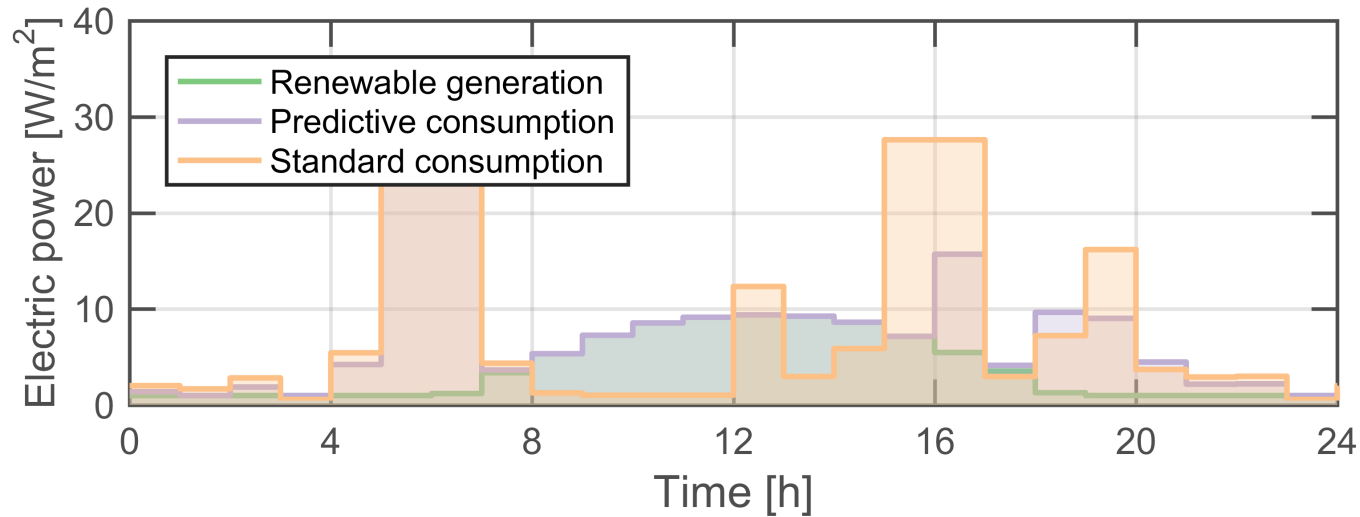
Equiv. Battery : cost 0

Power max = 1 hour

Energy = 30% Mean cons

Roundtrip = 1.0 - 0.95

Including electrical mobility



Without MPC

Self Sufficiency = 21 %

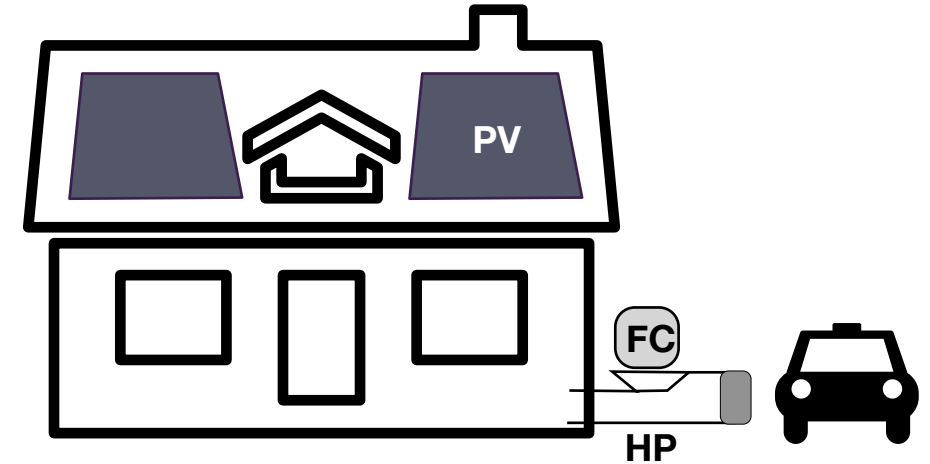
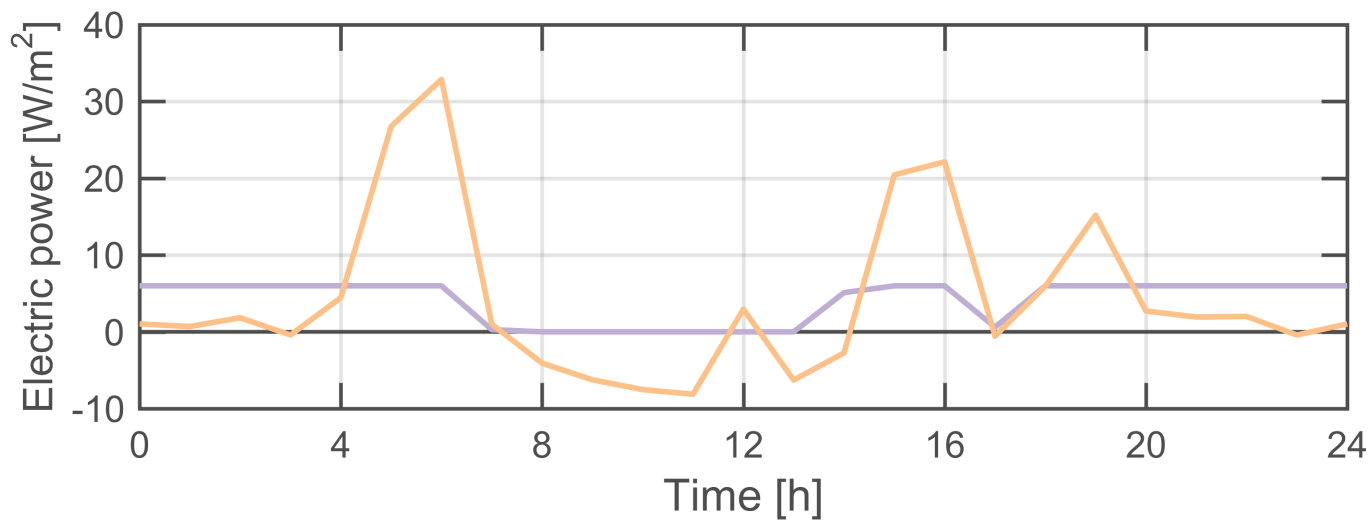
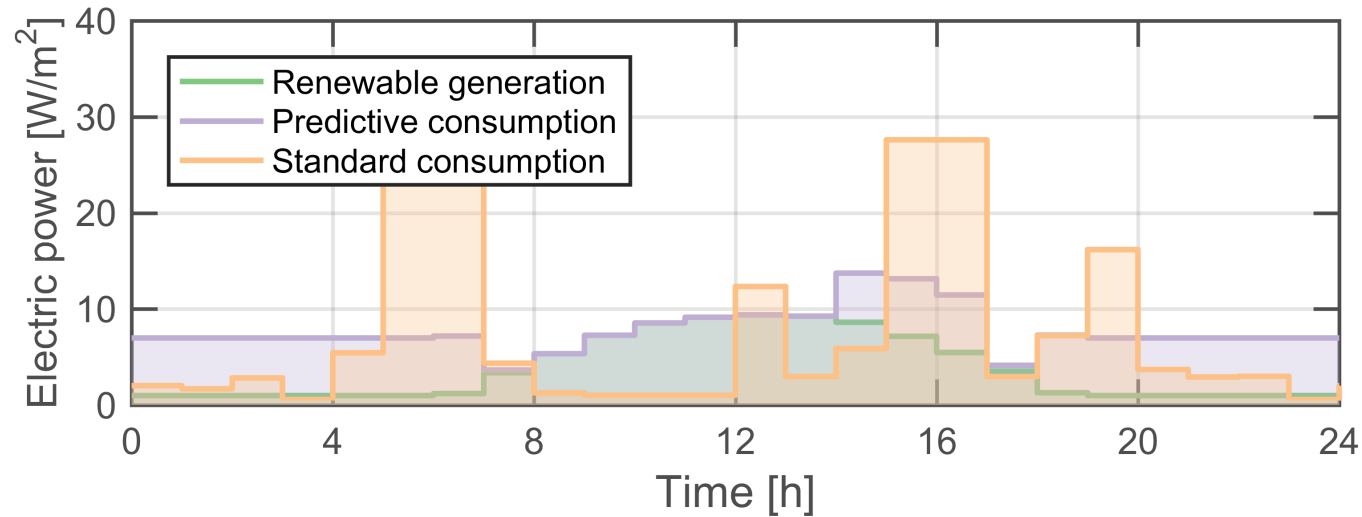
Self Consumption = 69 %

With MPC

Self Sufficiency = 32 %

Self Consumption = 100 %

Max power variation



Without MPC

Self Sufficiency = 21 %

Self Consumption = 69 %

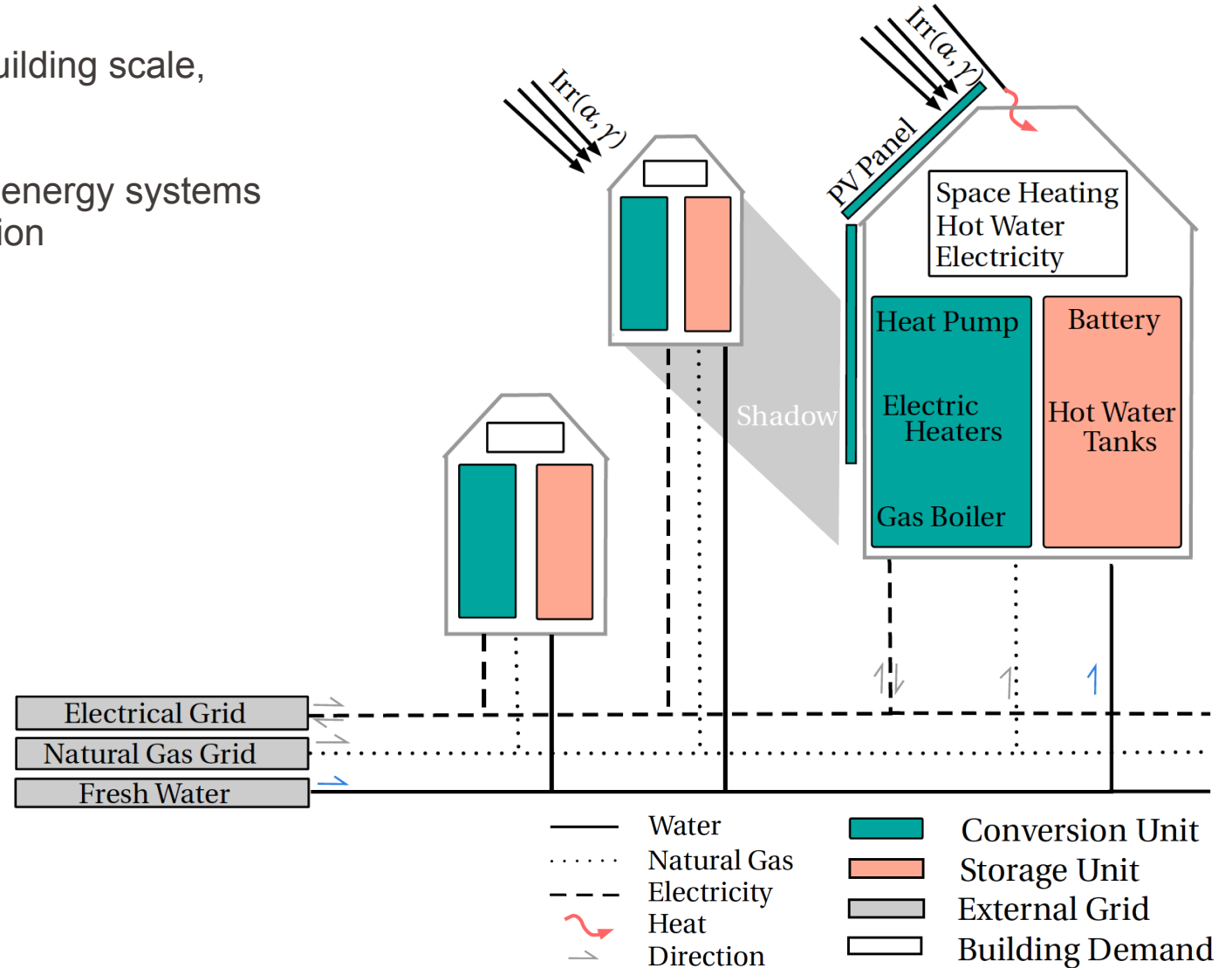
With MPC

Self Sufficiency = 32 %

Self Consumption = 100 %

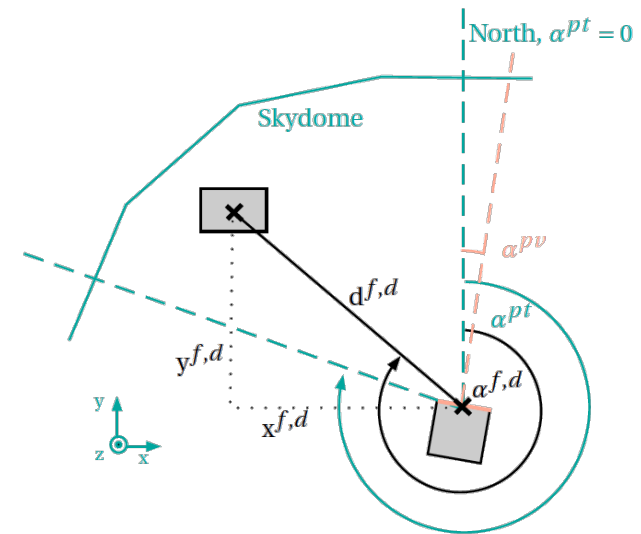
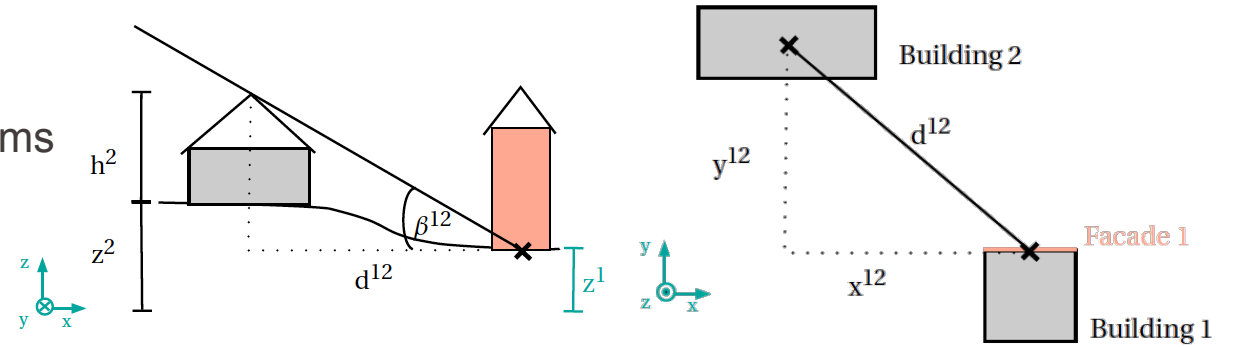
Modelling adaptation for decentralized building energy systems in districts

- Collection of renewable energy hubs at the building scale, balanced at the low-voltage transformer
- Inclusion of facades in optimization of district energy systems
 - Piece-wise discretization of PV cost function
 - Improvement solar heat gain model



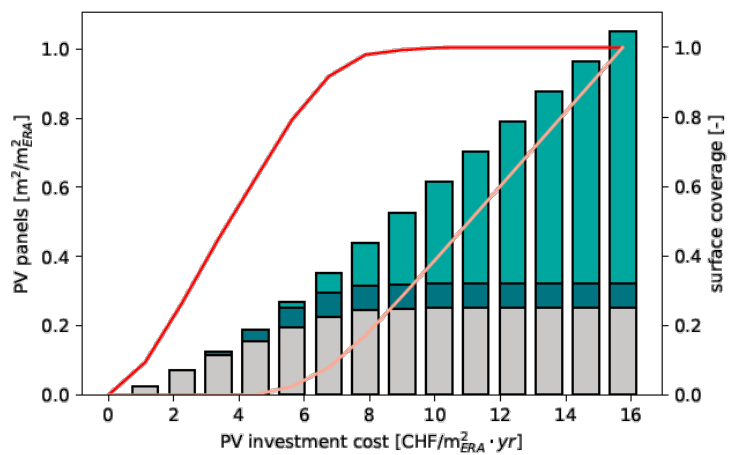
Modelling adaptation for decentralized building energy systems in districts

- Collection of renewable energy hubs at the building scale, balanced at the low-voltage transformer
- Inclusion of facades in optimization of district energy systems
 - Piece-wise discretization of PV cost function
 - Improvement solar heat gain model
- Shadowing cannot be neglected
 - 3D modelling of buildings in district
 - Shadows from vegetation neglected

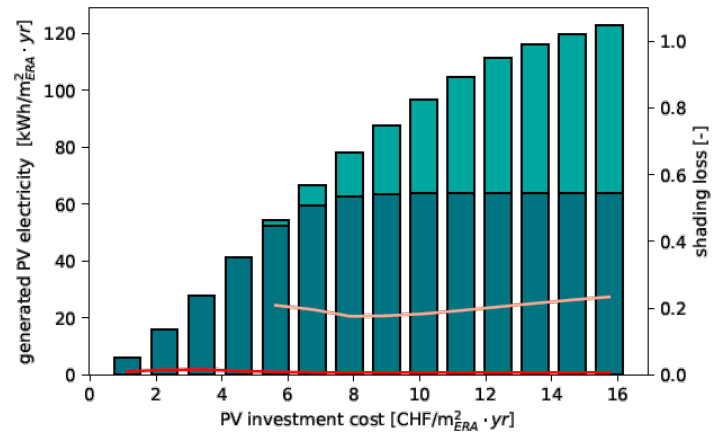


EPFL Role of facades

What is the potential of energy generation from PV in the district?



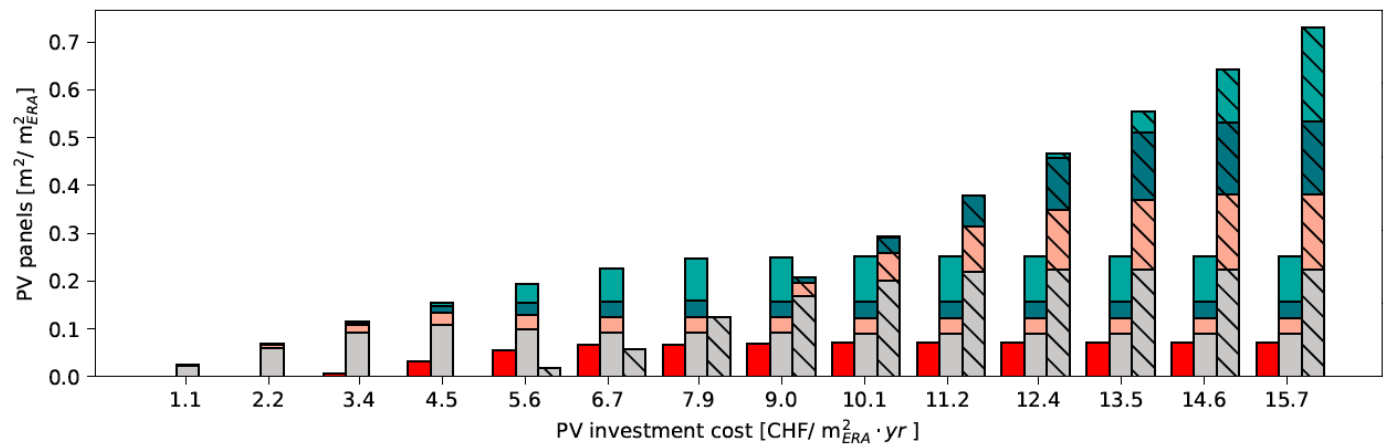
Facades account for:
 ■ 70% of potential surface



■ 40% of potential electricity generation
 ■ shading losses 5% - 25%

■ roof, oriented modules
 ■ roof, horizontal modules
 — roof coverage
 — facade coverage

■ roofs electricity
 ■ facades electricity
 — roofs loss
 — facades loss



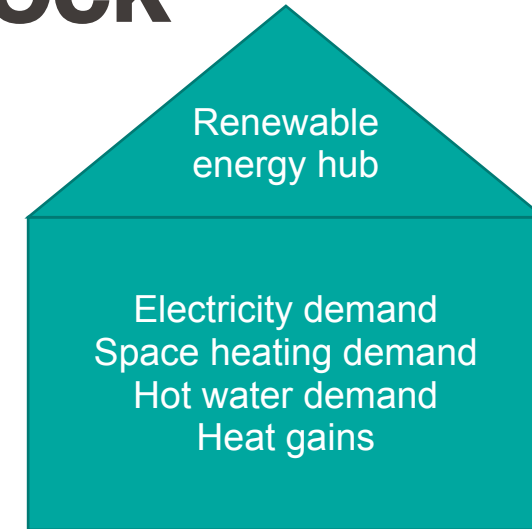
■ horizontal ■ west ■ north
 ■ south ■ east
 □ roof ▨ facades

Optimal placement order:

■ south → west → east → north
 ■ south facades before north roofs

Modelling Swiss building stock

- Geometry
 - x,y,z, coordinates, height
 - roof and facades area & orientation
- Classification
 - type, renovation status
- Thermodynamic properties
 - supply/return temperature
 - heat transfer/capacity factor
- Grid
 - allocated transformer, load measurements



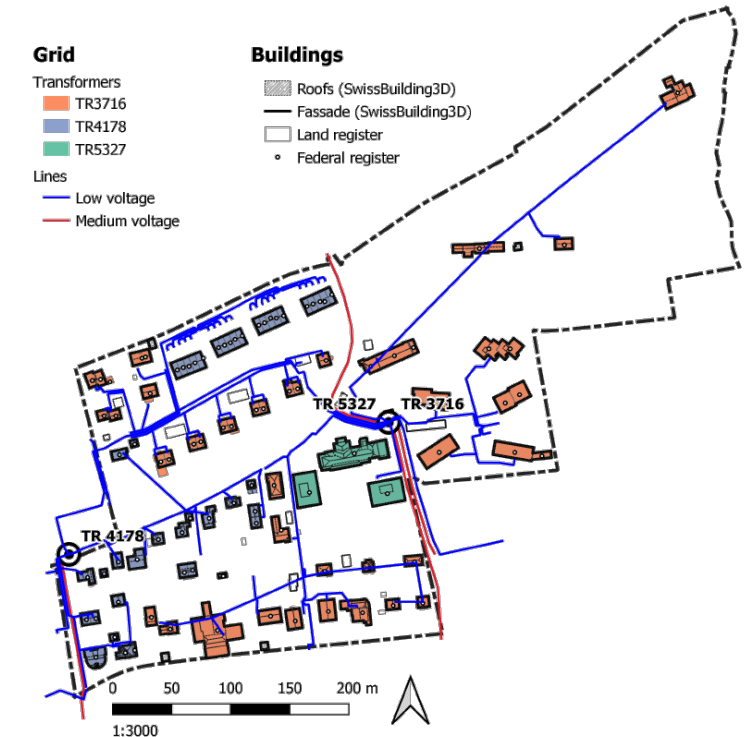
Type	Data	Description
Environment	Weather data	Temperature and solar irradiation [48, 132]
Land registry	Cadastre	Footprint area [44, 133]
Buildings	Official Buildings Registry	Usage, construction/renovation date, heating system, height, number of floors, reference energy area [44, 45]
	3D model	3D surface area and orientation [130, 134]
	Solar roof and facade	Overall heat transfer coefficient, heat capacity, people presence, electrical loads, internal and external gain [31, 131]
Grid	Grid topology	Location and parameters of transformer, lines and injection points [135]
	Load measurements	Hourly load aggregated at the transformer [87, 135]

Open government databases



Case Study

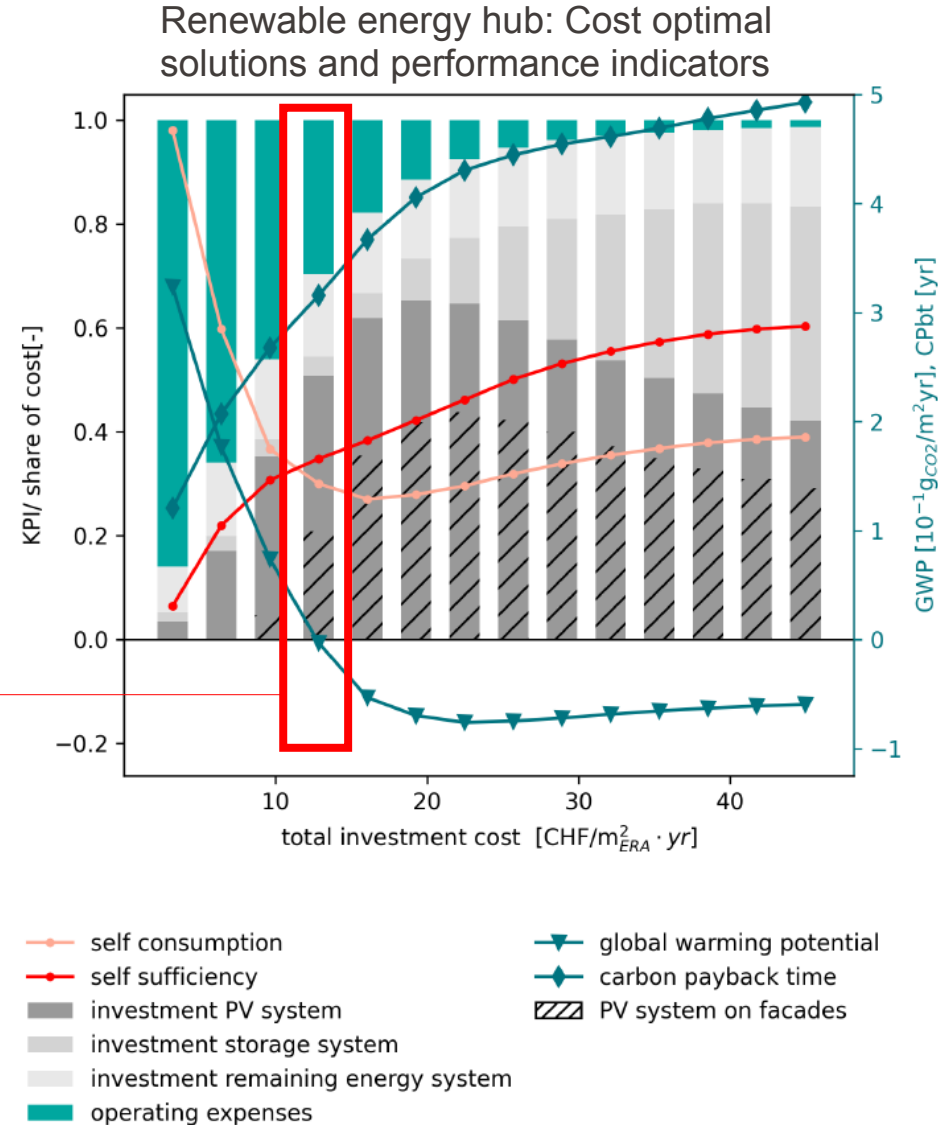
- 1 transformer
- 31 residential buildings
- outskirts of Geneva, CH



Role of facades

Are PV installations on facades needed to become carbon neutral?

Yes. 41% of available facades



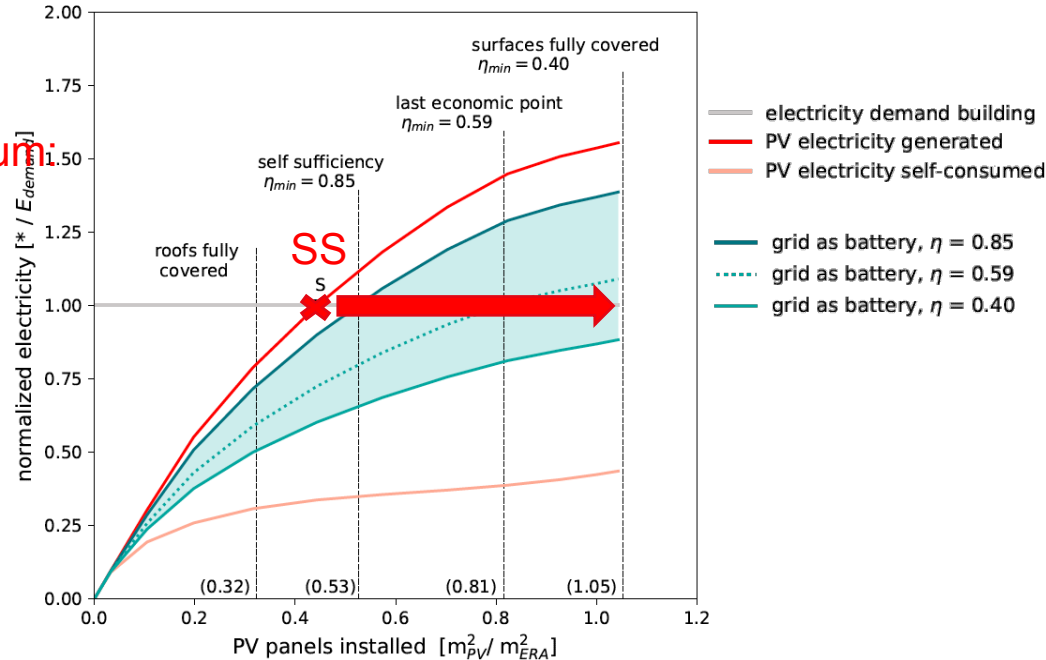
Assumptions:

- based on PV electricity only
- no renovation
- hourly CH electricity grid mix 2019
- exports are accounted

Facades and self-sufficiency

Are PV installations on facades needed to become self-sufficient?

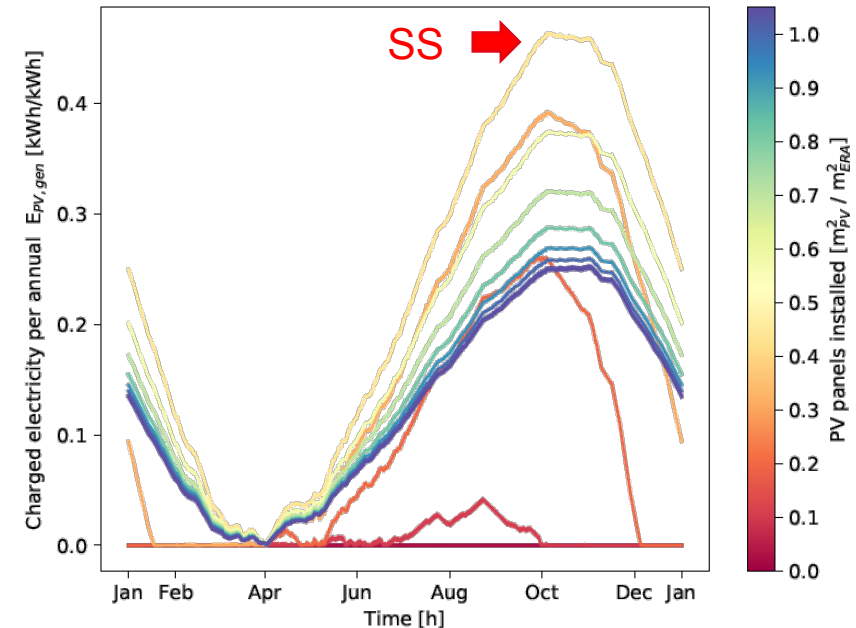
Renewable energy hub: Electricity balance



Yes. Minimum:
16% of
available
facades

- Self-sufficiency with more than 42% PV coverage
- Renovation can reduce PV and storage by 50%

Required grid storage size



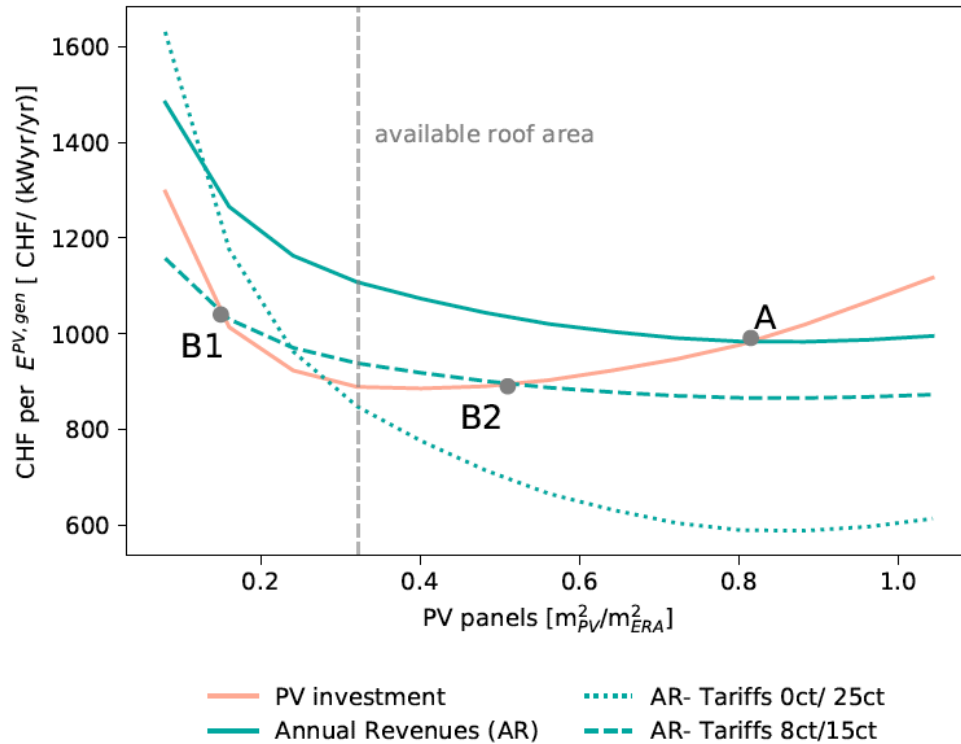
- Threshold for seasonal storage: 20% PV coverage
- SS: 50% of generated PV electricity needs to be stored

full SS solutions with $\eta = 100\%$

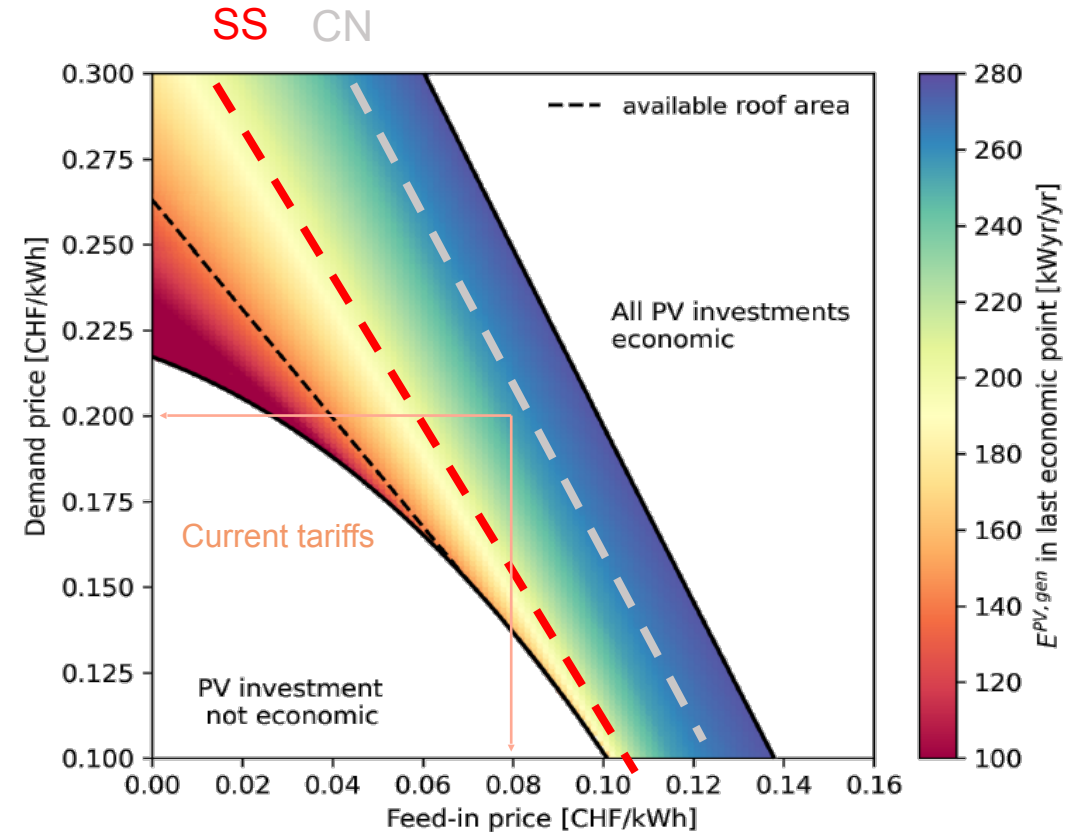
	storage capacity		PV coverage	
Air HP	35.0 kWh/m ² _{ERA}		41.9%	
CO ₂ HP	29.0 kWh/m ² _{ERA}	(-17.1%)	36.2%	(-13.6%)
Building envelope renovation	18.8 kWh/m ² _{ERA}	(-46.3%)	23.8%	(-43.2%)

EPFL Solar integration

How much electricity can be generated locally and cost-efficiently?



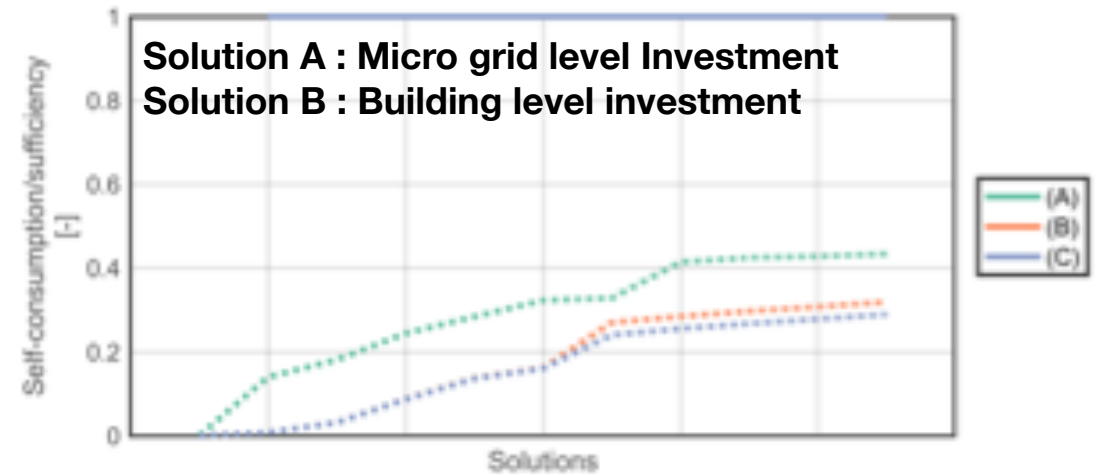
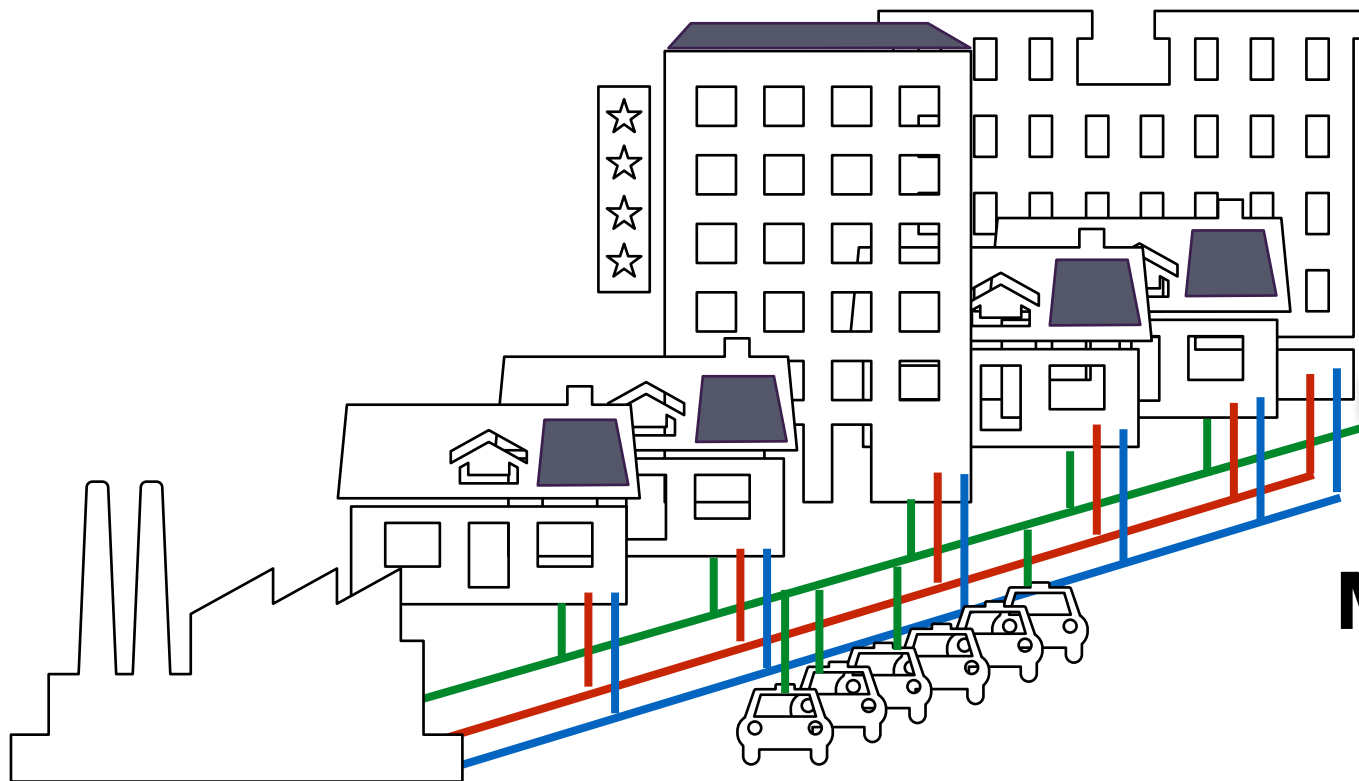
Economic analysis PV integration



Result economic analysis ("Point A")

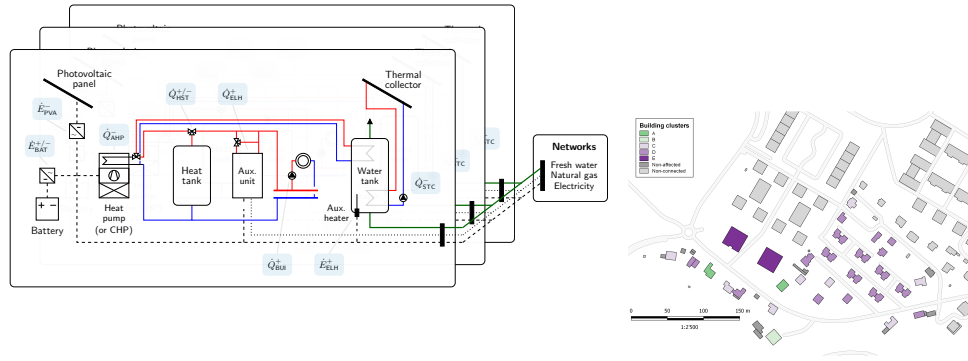
- PV installation economically feasible for wide range of tariffs
- SS economically feasible at current tariffs
- PV investment not coordinated in the district

AR – annual revenues
SS – self-sufficiency
CN – carbon neutrality



Multi-energy system
District heating and cooling
Heat recovery from industry
Centralised cogeneration
Mixed uses

The benefit of operating at the district level



Operating cost MILP Coordinated

$$\min_{\Sigma} \sum_{p=1}^P \sum_{t=1}^T (\text{op}_{p,t}^{el,+} \cdot \dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^+ - \text{op}_{p,t}^{el,-} \cdot \dot{E}_{\text{grid},p,t}^- + \text{op}_{p,t}^{ng,+} \cdot \dot{H}_{\text{grid},p,t}^+) \cdot d_p \cdot d_t$$

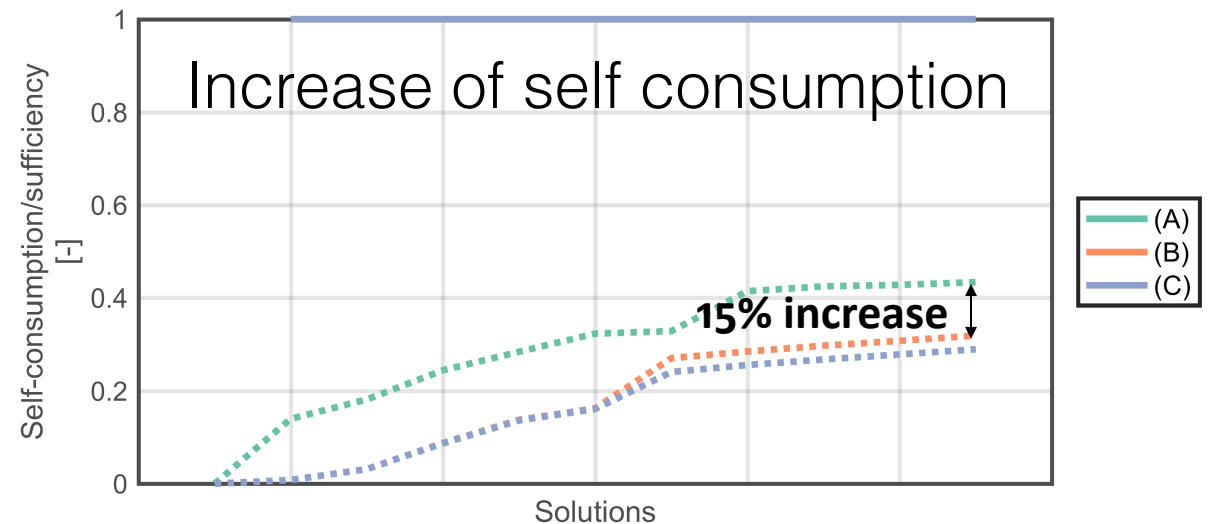
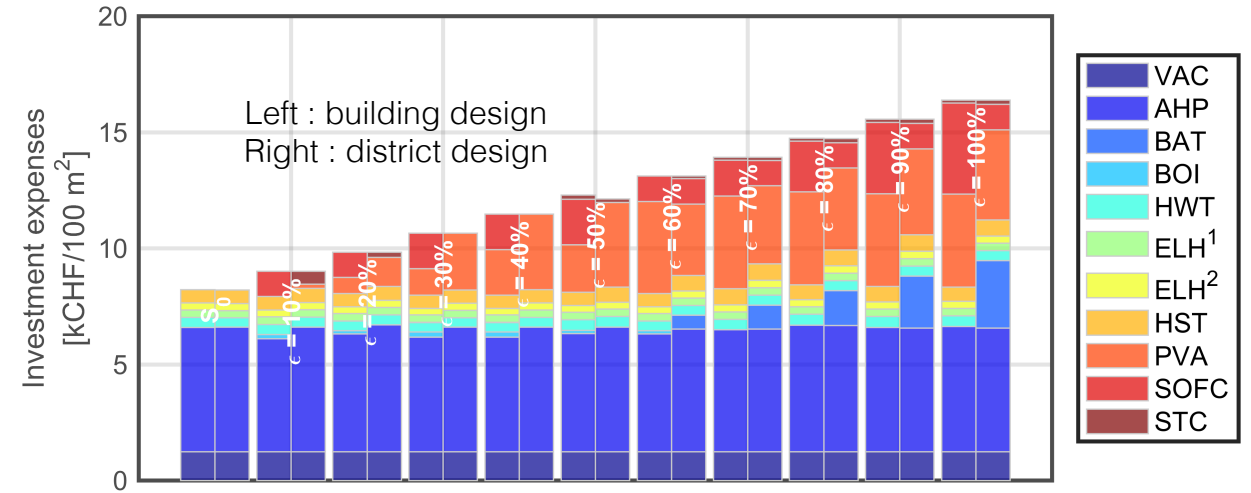
Investissement

$$\underbrace{\sum_{u=1}^U (F_{BM,u} \cdot (\text{inv}_{1,u} \cdot y_u + \text{inv}_{2,u} \cdot F_u))}_{C_{\text{inv}}} + \underbrace{\sum_{u=1}^U \sum_{n=1}^{rep_u} \frac{1}{(1+r)^{n \cdot L_u}} \cdot (\text{inv}_{1,u} \cdot y_u + \text{inv}_{2,u} \cdot F_u)}_{C_{\text{rep}}} \leq \epsilon_{\text{inv}}$$

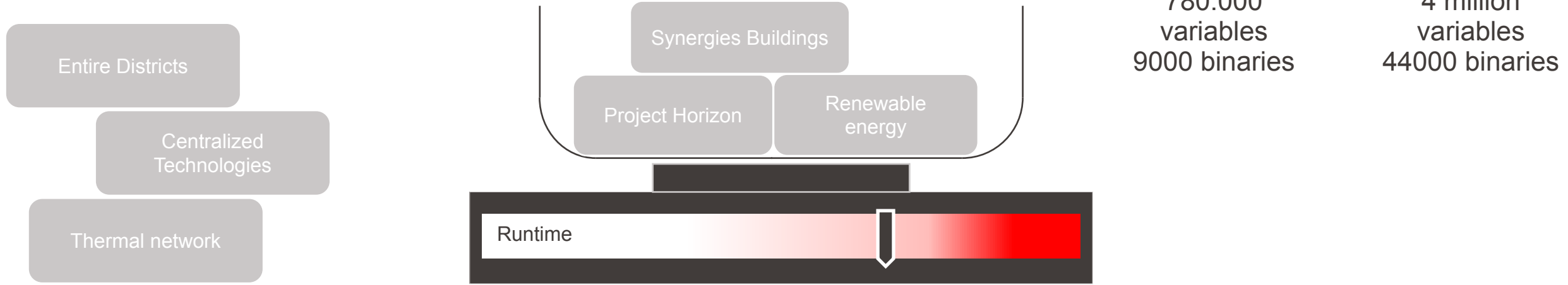
Solution A : Micro grid level Investment

Solution B : Building level investment + District operation

Solution C : Building level investment + Building operation



The Challenge : the size



Chapter 4

What is the best method to overcome runtime issues when generating centralized energy hub designs?

4¹

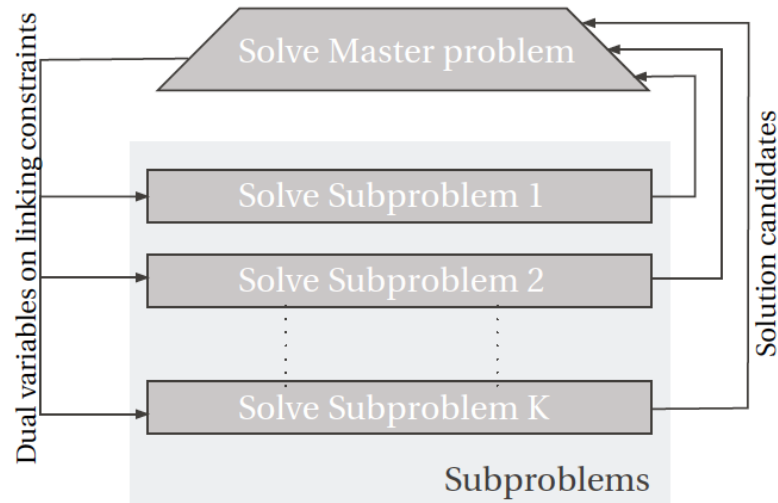
Reduction of input data
→ time-series aggregation

4²

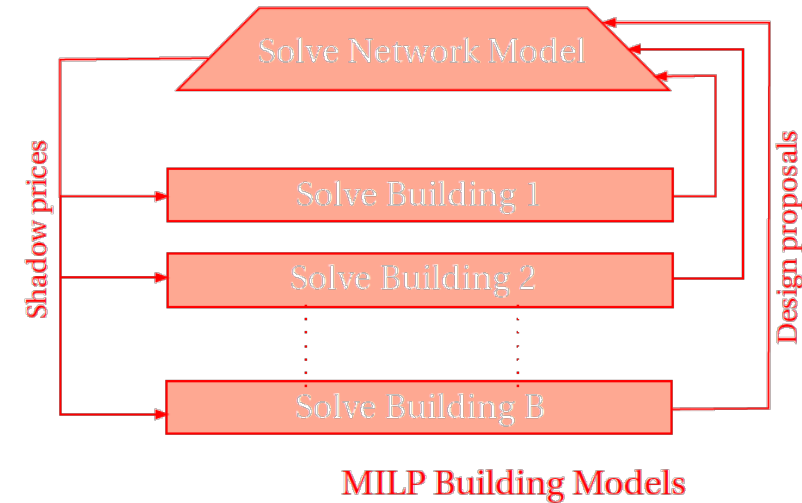
Reduction of complexity
→ decomposition

Solving the size problem

Dantzig-Wolfe Decomposition



(a) Dantzig-Wolfe decomposition algorithm [169].



(b) Application to centralized energy systems.

Dantzig-Wolfe Decomposition

$$0 \leq \lambda_{i,b} \leq 1 \quad \forall i \in I, \quad \forall b \in B$$

$$\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_{i,b} = 1 \quad \forall b \in B \quad \sim [\mu_b]$$

Convexity constraints

$$\sum_{i \in I} \sum_{b \in B} \lambda_{i,b} \cdot (\dot{E}_{i,b,p,t}^{gr,+} - \dot{E}_{i,b,p,t}^{gr,-}) \cdot d_p \cdot d_t = E_{p,t}^{TR,+} - E_{p,t}^{TR,-} \quad \forall p \in P, \quad \forall t \in T \quad \sim [\pi_{p,t}]$$

Electricity balance

$$C^{op} = C^{el} + \sum_{i \in I} \sum_{b \in B} \lambda_{i,b} \cdot C_{i,b}^{gas}$$

Overall objectives

Master problem

$$[\mu_b] = \frac{\Delta \text{obj}}{\Delta (\sum_{i \in I} \lambda_{i,b})} \quad \forall b \in B$$

$$[\pi_{p,t}] = \frac{\Delta \text{obj}}{\Delta (E_{p,t}^{TR,+} - E_{p,t}^{TR,-})} \quad \forall p \in P, \quad \forall t \in T$$

Electricity prices

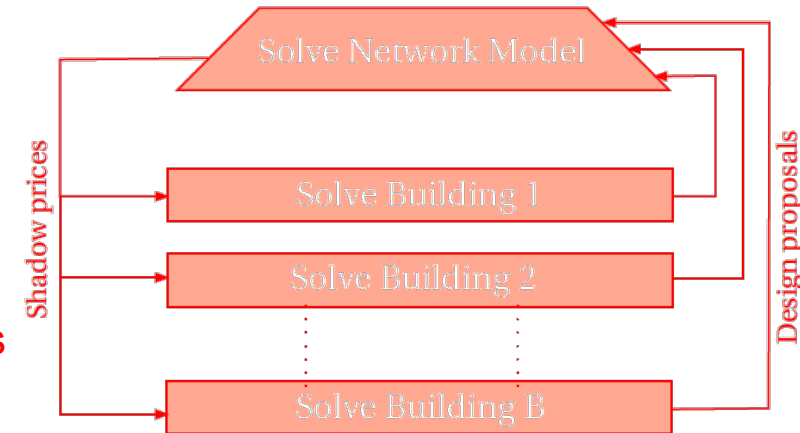
$$\text{obj}_b = \min(C_b^{op} - \mu_b) \quad \forall b \in B$$

Modified objectives

$$C_b^{op} = \sum_{p \in P} \sum_{t \in T} (\pi_{p,t} \cdot \dot{E}_{b,p,t}^{gr,+} - \pi_{p,t} \cdot \dot{E}_{b,p,t}^{gr,-} + c_{p,t}^{ng,+} \cdot \dot{H}_{b,p,t}^{gr,+}) \cdot d_t \cdot d_p \quad \forall b \in B$$

Sub problems

Main decision variable:
 λ : design proposal



MILP Building Models

(b) Application to centralized energy systems.

Design proposals

42

Method

Main decision variable:
Unit installation & scheduling

CAPEX – capital expenses
MILP – mixed integer linear programming

Districts as renewable energy hubs

Centralized design strategy

At the district scale

Central objective
Coordinated decisions

Method of Chapter 4
(Dantzig Wolfe decomposition)

Central units and constraints ✓

Decentralized design strategy

At the building scale + post computation

Decentralized objective
Independent decisions

Method of Chapter 3

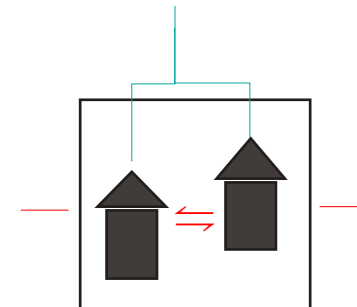
✗ Central units and constraints

2 Perspectives for both strategies:

building □ community

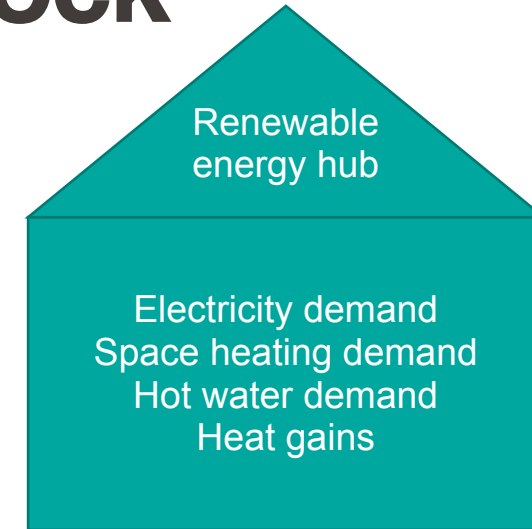
Difference: exchanges within community

$$\psi = \frac{\sum_{p \in P} \sum_{t \in T} \left(\left(\sum_{b \in B} \dot{E}_{b,p,t}^{gr,-} \right) - \dot{E}_{p,t}^{TR,-} \right) \cdot d_p \cdot d_t}{\sum_{b \in B} \sum_{p \in P} \sum_{t \in T} \dot{E}_{b,p,t}^{gr,-} \cdot d_p \cdot d_t}$$



Modelling Swiss building stock

- Geometry
 - x,y,z, coordinates, height
 - roof and facades area & orientation
- Classification
 - type, renovation status
- Thermodynamic properties
 - supply/return temperature
 - heat transfer/capacity factor
- Grid
 - allocated transformer, load measurements

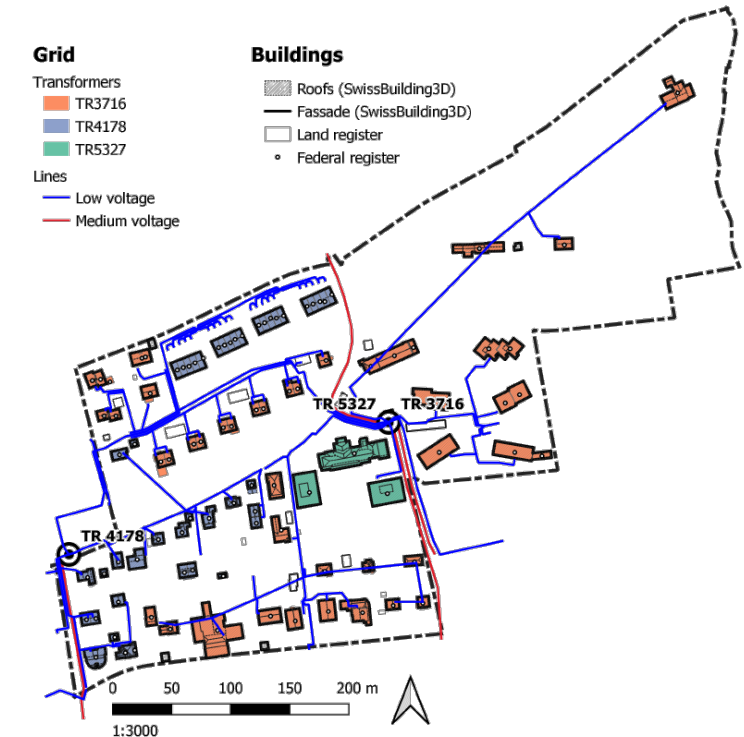


Type	Data	Description
Environment	Weather data	Temperature and solar irradiation [48, 132]
Land registry	Cadastre	Footprint area [44, 133]
Buildings	Official Buildings Registry	Usage, construction/renovation date, heating system, height, number of floors, reference energy area [44, 45]
	3D model	3D surface area and orientation [130, 134]
	Solar roof and facade	Overall heat transfer coefficient, heat capacity, people presence, electrical loads, internal and external gain [31, 131]
Grid	Grid topology	Location and parameters of transformer, lines and injection points [135]
	Load measurements	Hourly load aggregated at the transformer [87, 135]

Open government databases



- Case Study
- 1 transformer
 - 31 residential buildings
 - outskirts of Geneva, CH



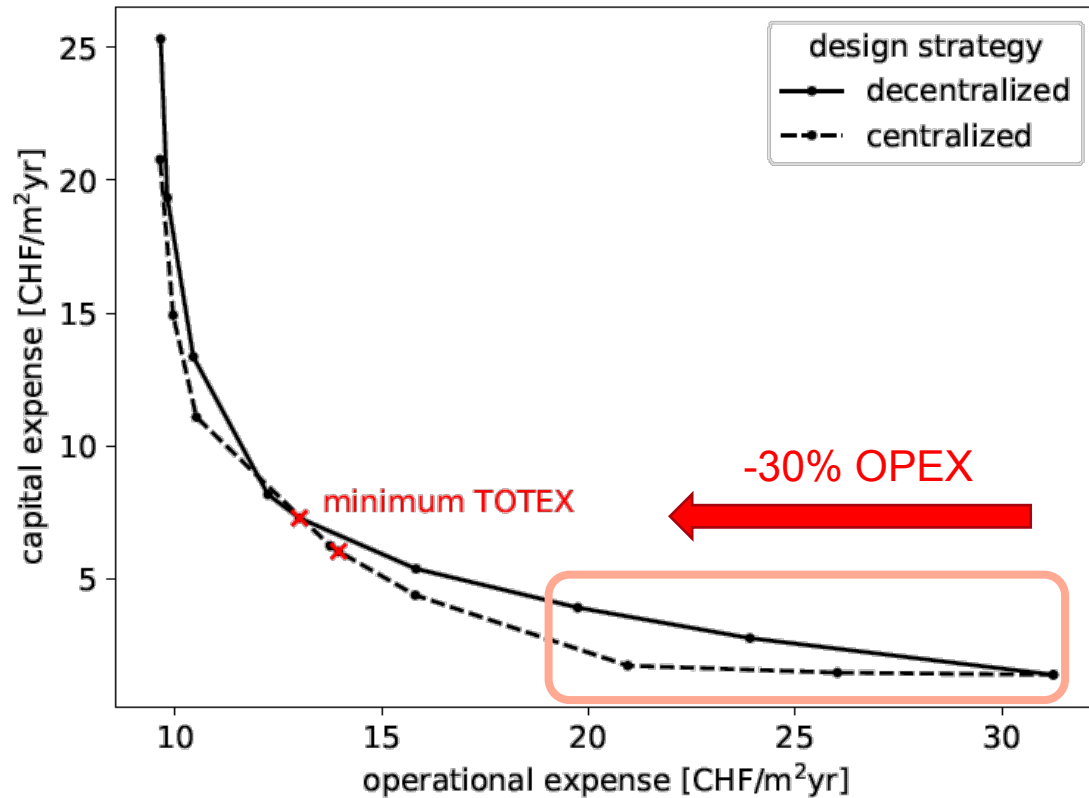
3

Method

5

Method

Benefits centralized approach

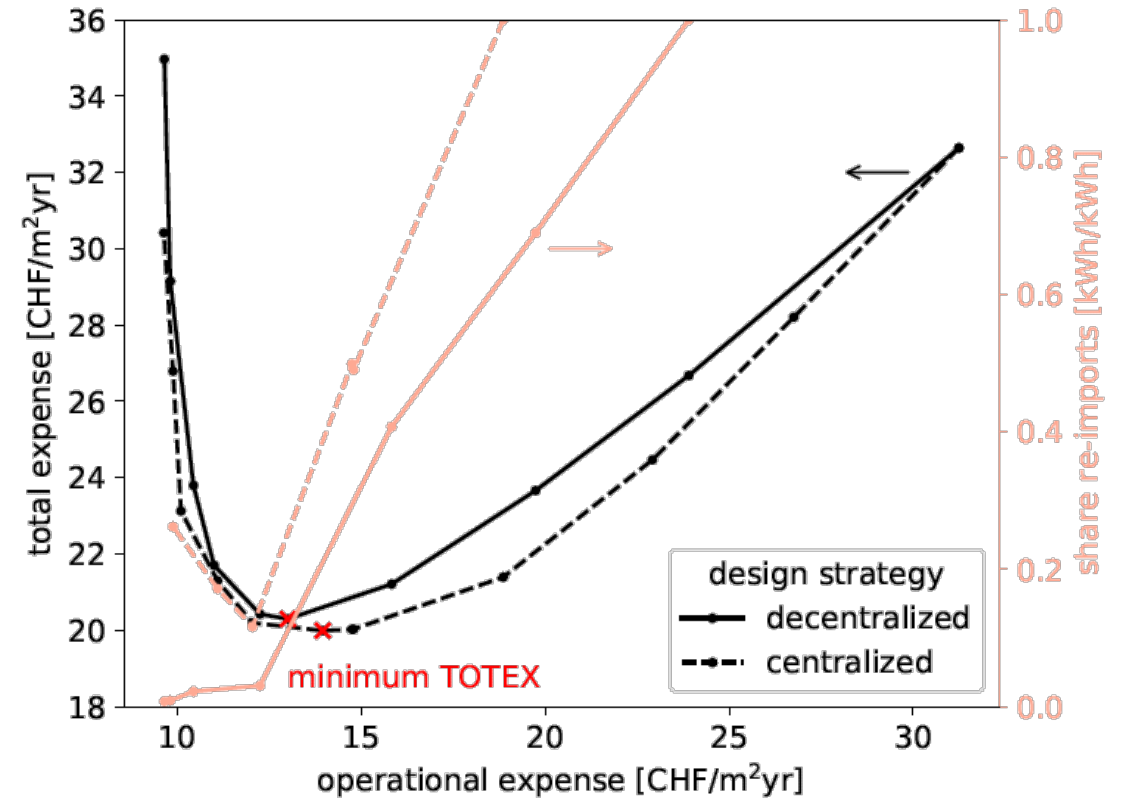


-30% OPEX:

Centralized: +5% CAPEX

Decentralized: +180% CAPEX

→ Investment better used



Increased re-imports, better usage of storage

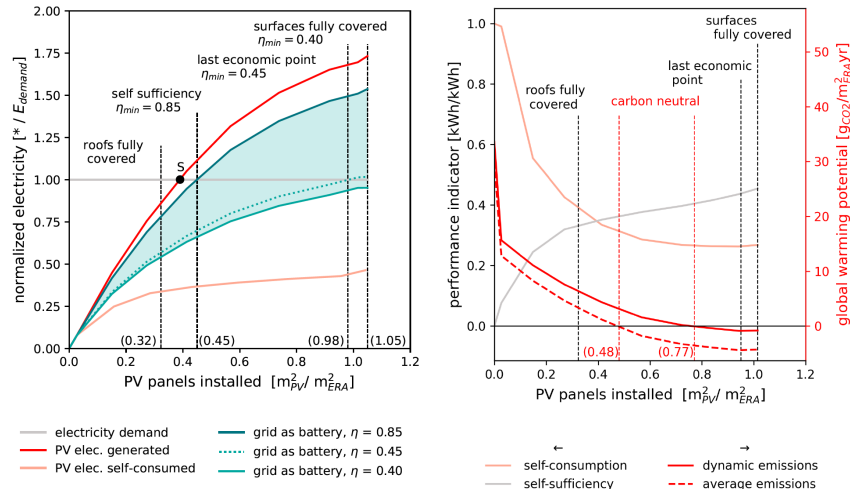
→ Improved operation strategy

OPEX – operational expenses
CAPEX – capital expenses

Centralized investment strategy

How much PV is needed to achieve self-sufficiency or carbon neutrality?

KPIs for increasing PV penetration

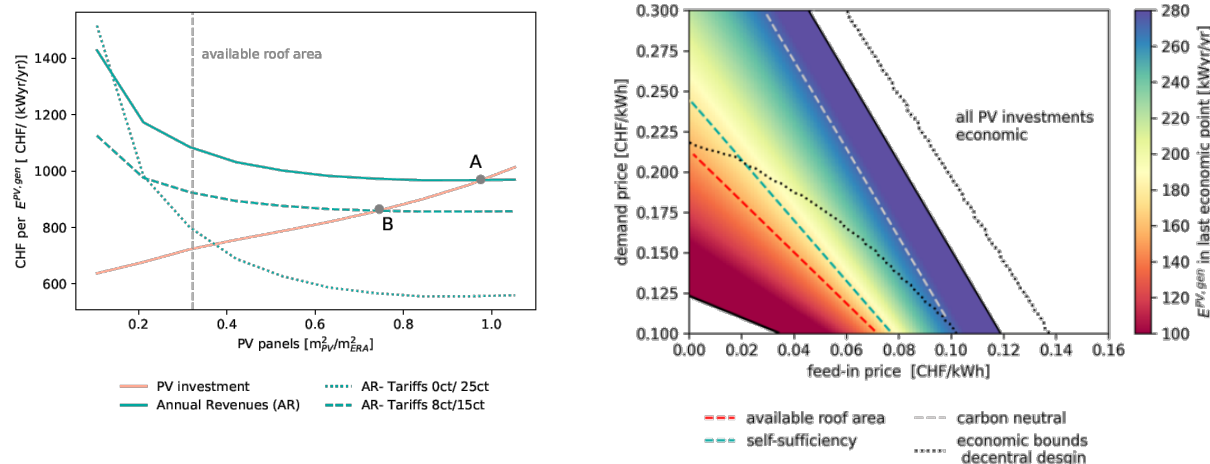


With grid as storage
→ Self-sufficient at
0.40 m²_{PV}/m²_{ERA}

Without storage
→ SS increases to 45%
→ Carbon neutral at **0.77 m²_{PV}/m²_{ERA}**

How much PV solar energy can be generated locally and cost-efficiently?

Economic analysis for increasing PV penetration



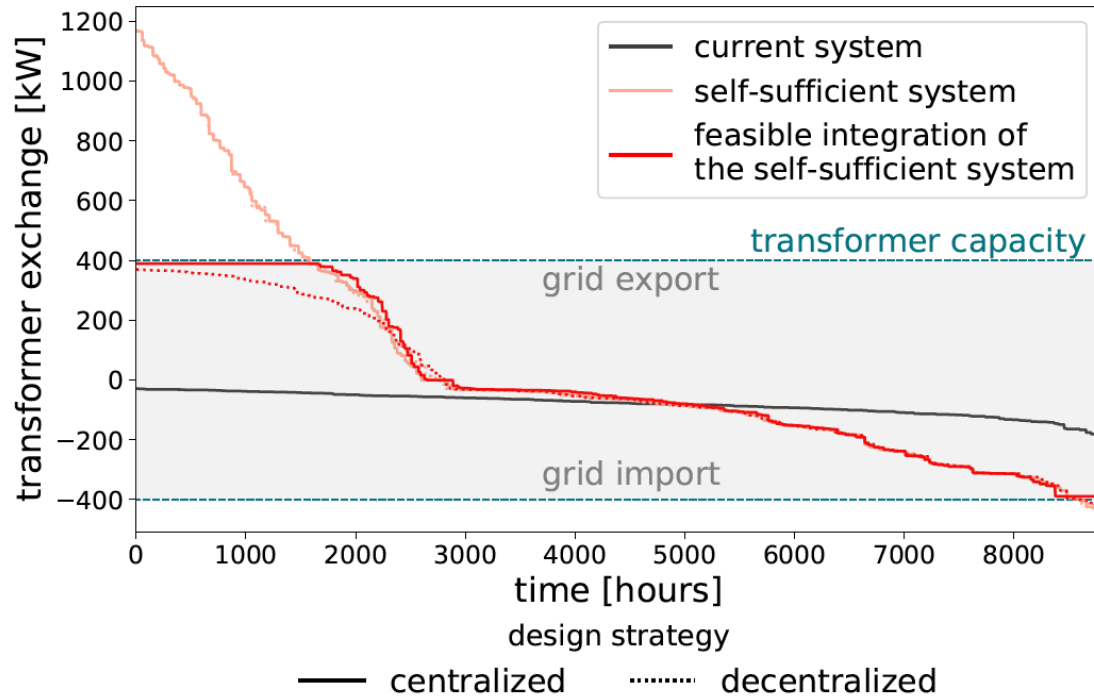
- Central investment strategy linear trend
- Economic feasibility to a wide range of tariffs
- SS and carbon neutrality economic feasible

→ Large PV capacities required
→ They are economical feasible
→ Role of the grid?

GWP – global warming potential
SS – self-sufficiency
SC – self-consumption

EPFL Grid-aware integration of renewable energy hubs

What is the influence of capacity constraints imposed from the electrical grid?



Scenario SS ($\eta = 0.7$) $\rightarrow 0.58 \text{ m}^2_{\text{PV}}/\text{m}^2_{\text{ERA}}$

$\rightarrow$ Infeasible at LV transformer

$\rightarrow$ Feasible for 66% peak reduction.

Cheapest solution

- Centralized method:
 - 20% PVC + 50kWh BAT
 - + 60% OPEX, + <1% CAPEX
- Decentralized method:
 - 30% PVC
 - +75% OPEX

Load duration curves on transformer for 0% and 66% peak reduction.

OPEX – operational expenses
CAPEX – capital expenses

PVC – PV curtailment
SS – self-sufficiency

Buildings

- MPC to promote self-consumption
- MPC defines buildings as free batteries that can advertise their offered capacities
- Grids constraints impose different investment in buildings

Districts

- District (micro-grid) levels change self consumption levels

Regions

- Region integration allow biogas and power to gas options