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CAPTURING UNCERTAINTIES OF HOUSEHOLD DECISION MAKING WITH MACHINE LEARNING IN AN AGENT-BASED MODEL

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The background of the slide is a photograph of a solar tower power plant. Numerous large, rectangular mirrors (heliostats) are mounted on tall, dark metal poles. The mirrors are arranged in rows and are tilted at various angles, reflecting the bright blue sky and scattered white clouds. The ground in the foreground is a lush green field with many small yellow wildflowers. A solid green horizontal bar is overlaid at the bottom of the image, containing the text "RESEARCH PROBLEM" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

Motivation: Massive uncertainties

- Recent geopolitical disruptions increase uncertainties & change prosumer reactions
 - Energy systems pathways highly uncertain
 - Assumptions (e.g. fuel prices) might be off
 - Prosumer reactions largely unknown

- Buy an electric vehicle (EV)?



- Buy PV + storage (PVS)?



- Buy a heat pump (HP)?



Research questions

- How to represent prosumer investment decisions under uncertainty?
- How to abstract individual decisions of prosumers so they can be integrated in energy systems models?





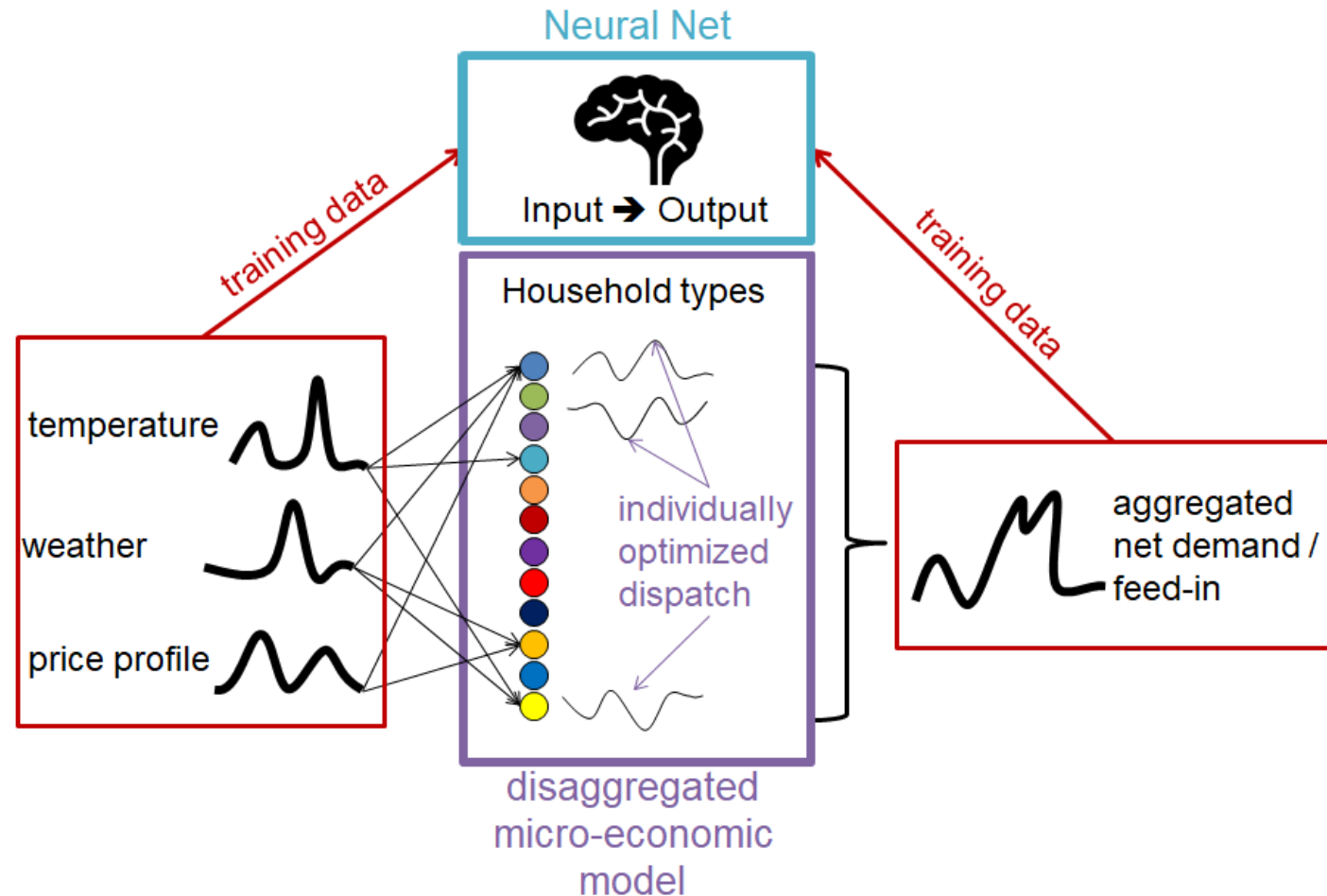
How to model individual household decisions?

Problem

- Many different households
 - High computational effort per optimization
- Dispatch optimization of all household types not possible within AMIRIS simulation

Idea

- Individual household **dispatch** optimization done for multiple input variations (weather,...)
- Aggregate household results
- Train Neural Net to predict household aggregated behavior based on given input variations



General idea to answer the research questions

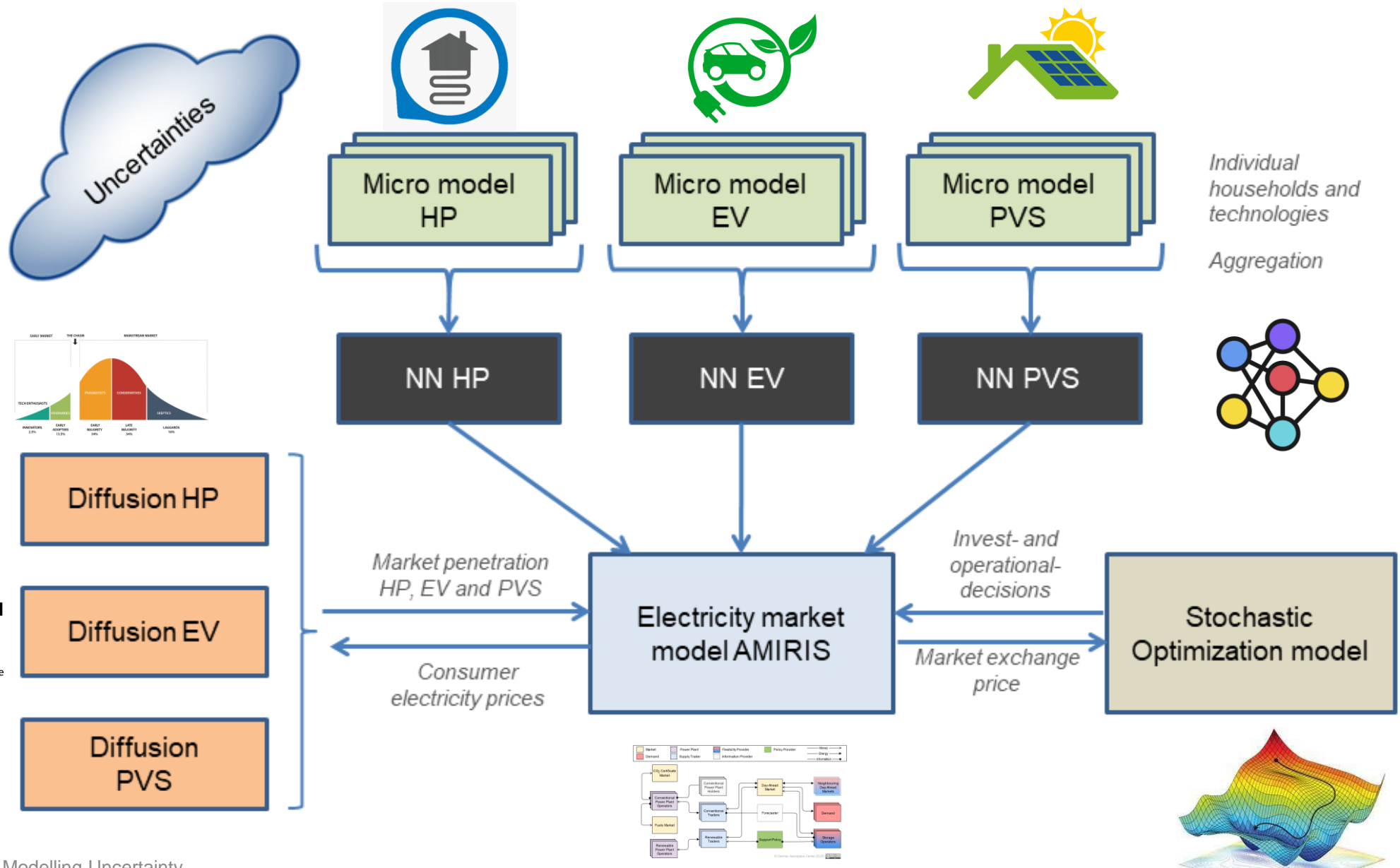


- Model **individual** decisions:
 - Simulate **optimal** operation of PVS, HP, EV
 - **Diffusion model** of household investment decisions in PVS, HP, EV
 - **Learn** aggregated demand of individual households via **ML**
- Large energy system models:
 - Bring ML-agents into an **agent-based simulation** of electricity markets, AMIRIS
 - Couple AMIRIS with a **stochastic optimization model** for the supply side

→ **Gain ability** to model uncertainties between all these components of the energy system comprehensively



Model Setup



The background of the slide is a photograph of a solar tower power plant. Numerous large, rectangular mirrors (heliostats) are mounted on tall, dark metal poles in a grassy field. The mirrors are tilted at various angles, reflecting the bright blue sky and scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear.

GETTING THE DATA



Survey for individual household characteristics



Representative survey (n=809)



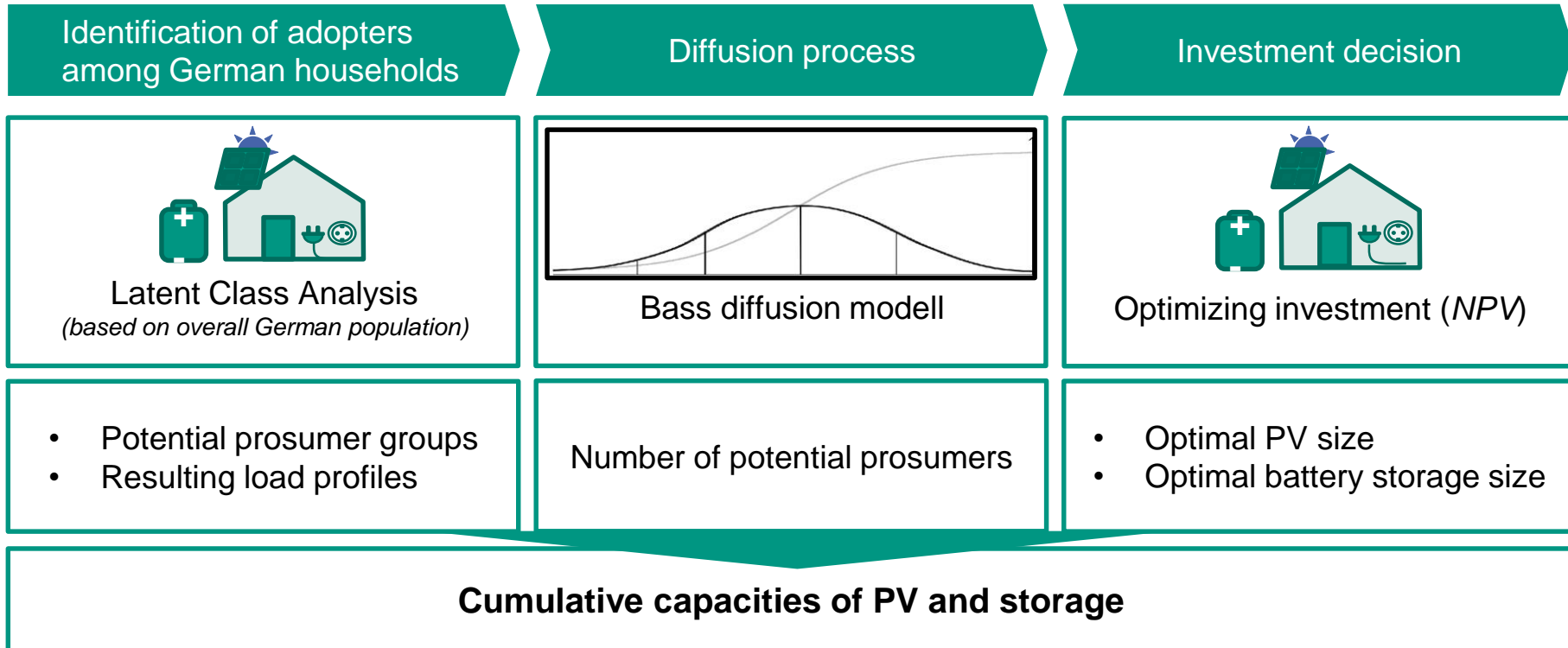
	%
Building ownership	
Household property	45.5
Rented building	54.5
State of renovation	
Extensive retrofit	30.7
Replacement of the windows	21.3
No retrofit	48.1
Installed technologies	
Photovoltaic	9.9
Battery storage system	4.6
Heat pump	13.3
Electric vehicle	10.4

The background of the slide is a photograph of a solar farm. Numerous large, rectangular solar panels are mounted on dark metal poles in a grassy field. The panels are tilted at an angle and reflect the bright blue sky and scattered white clouds. The foreground shows green grass with small yellow wildflowers.

DIFFUSION OF INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS



Diffusion model



A photograph of a solar tower power plant. Numerous heliostats (mirrors) are mounted on tall poles in a grassy field, reflecting the sky. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some light clouds. A green banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

MODELING INDIVIDUAL DECISIONS



Heat pump model: Input variations

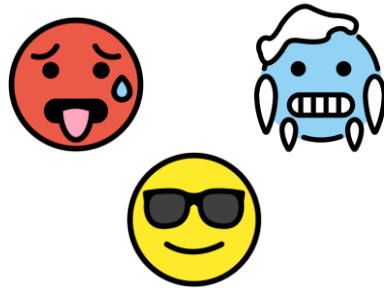


Exploring various household's decisions

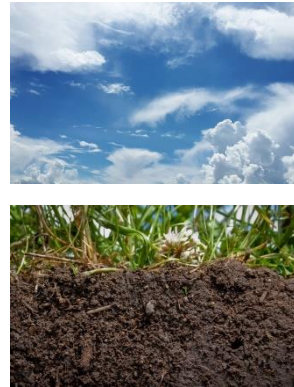
18 building types



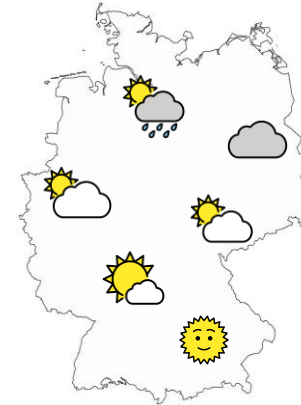
3 user comfort types



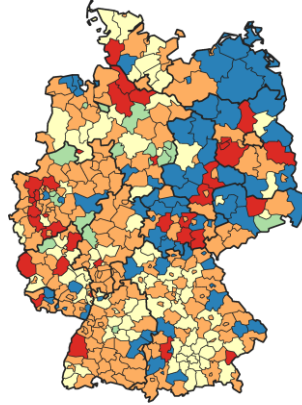
2 heat pump types



6 weather locations



Total demand



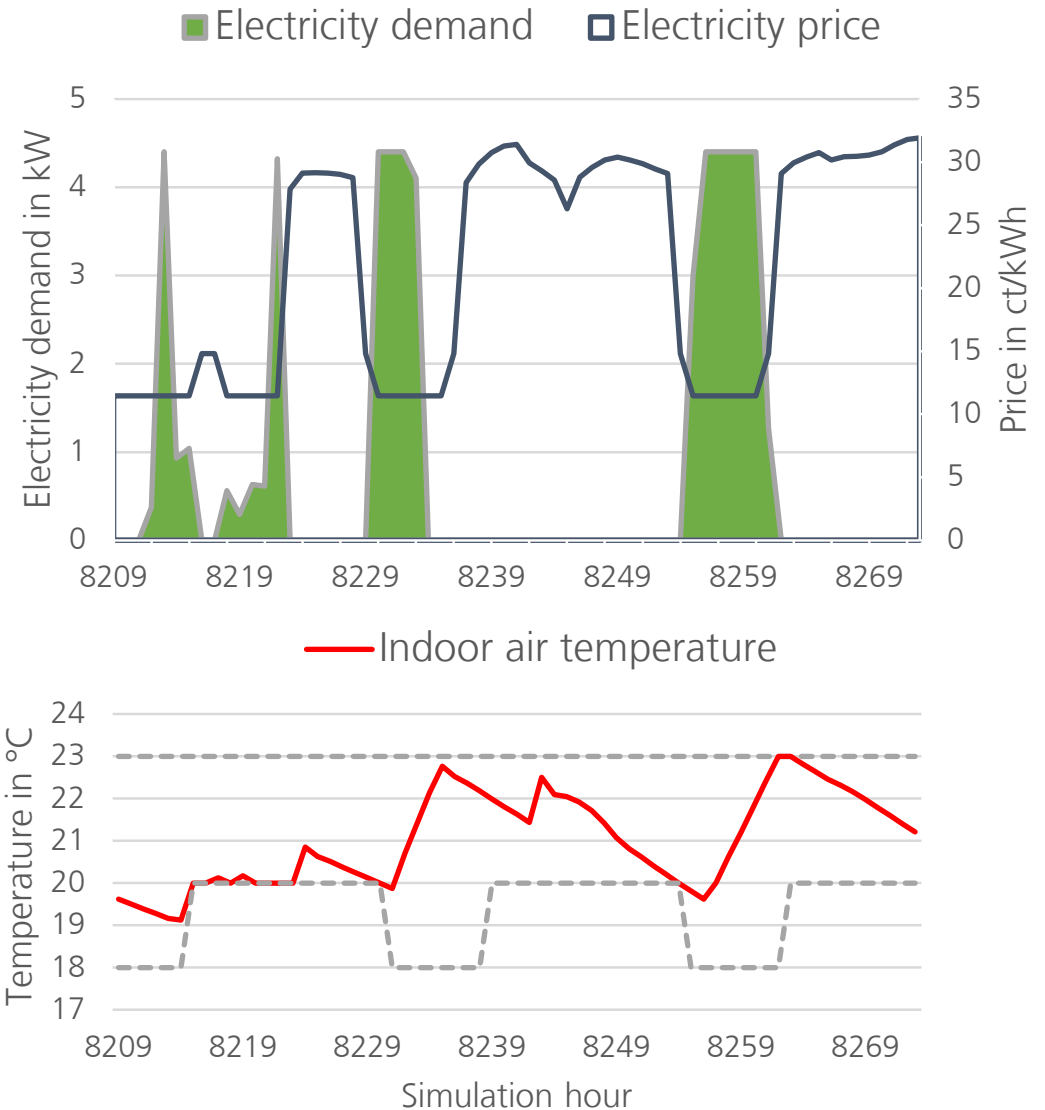
Annual Electricity Demand



Heat pump model: Optimizing operating costs



- **GAMS optimization model:**
 - Minimizes operating cost of residential heat pumps
 - Flexibility by varying temperature within boundaries
 - Electricity demand calculated bottom-up by reduced-order thermodynamic models of building archetypes¹⁾



1) Sperber, Frey, Bertsch: Reduced-order models for assessing demand response with heat pumps – Insights from the German energy system, *Energy & Buildings* vol. 223, 2020

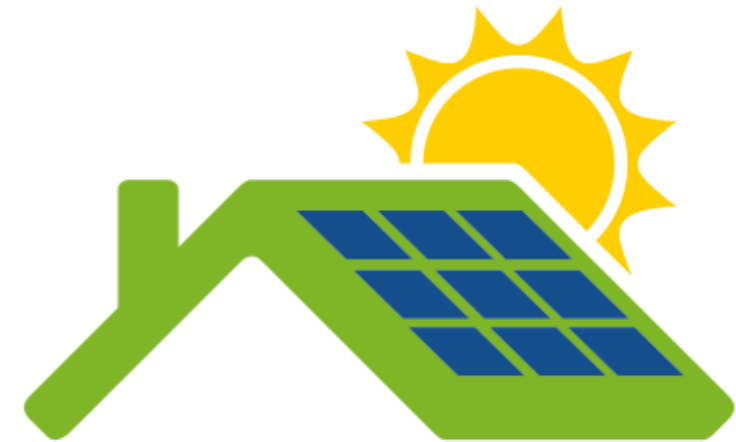
Electric vehicle model & Photovoltaic + storage model



- Same approach like heat pump model
- Optimization of demand given varying inputs like weather or electricity prices



Open Source Model: <https://pypi.org/project/vencopy/>



Modified version of AMIRIS

A large field of solar panels in a grassy area under a blue sky with light clouds. The panels are tilted and arranged in rows, reflecting the sky. The foreground shows green grass with small yellow flowers.

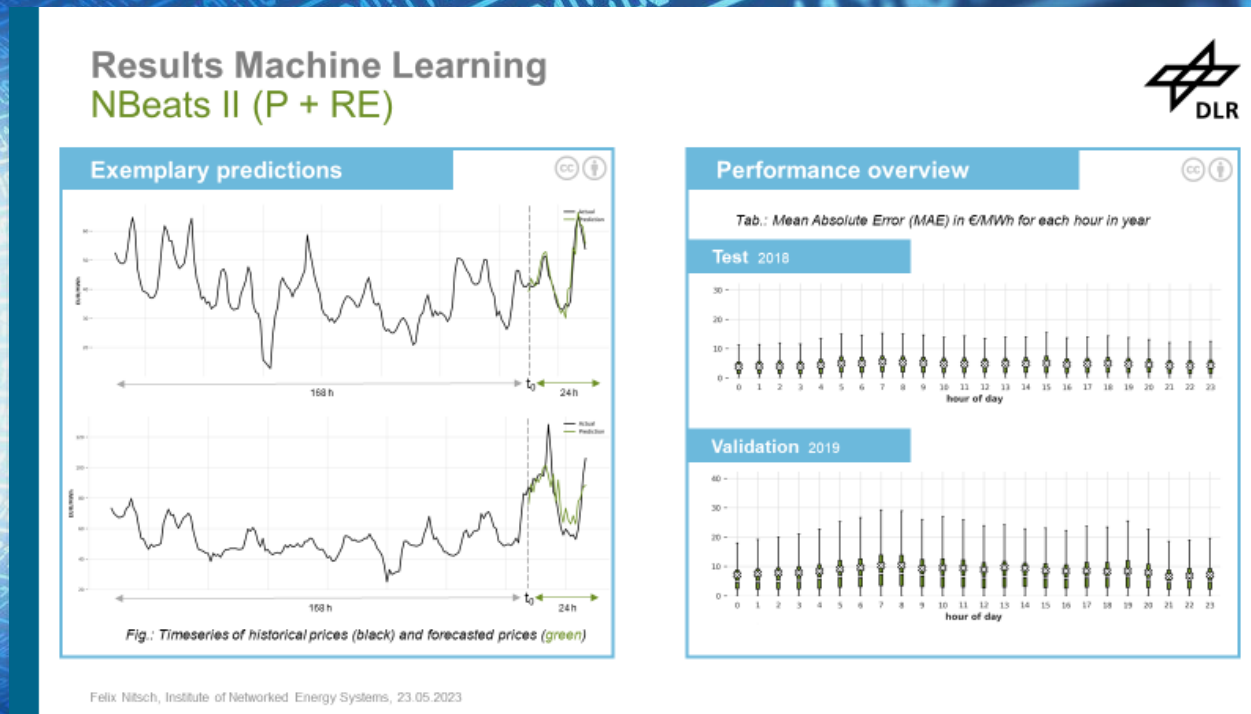
USING ML TO FORECAST DEMAND



Comparison of Machine Learning Architectures

The competitors:

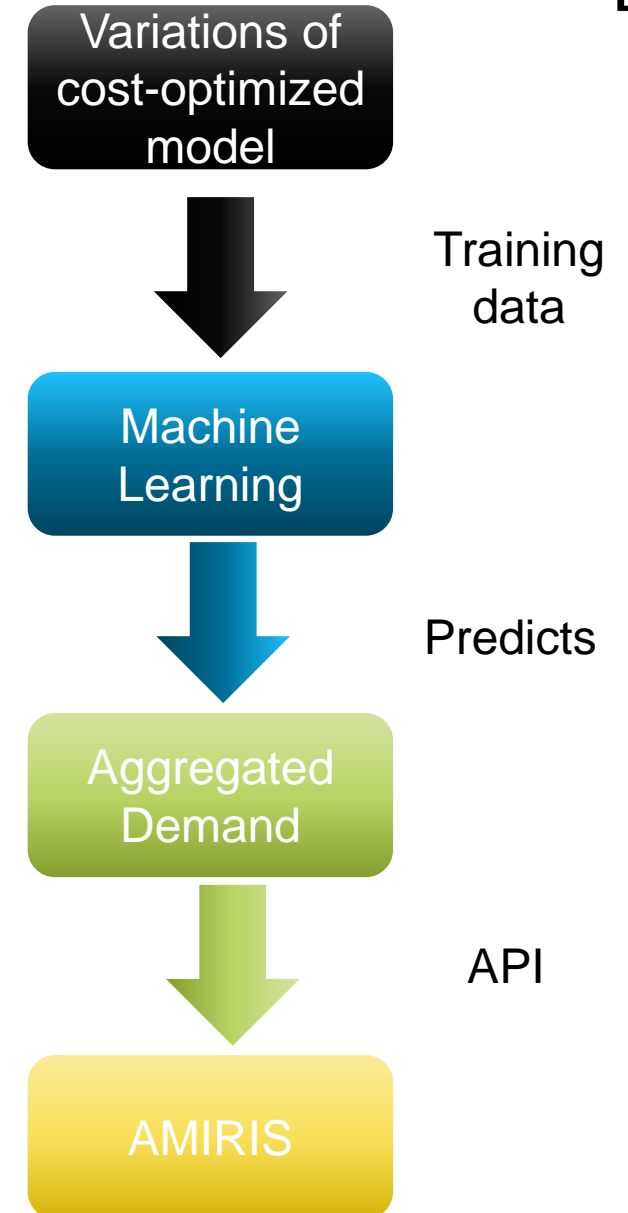
- Naive Seasonal
- Exponential Smoothing
- ARIMA
- Linear Regression Model
- LightGBM Model
- LSTM
- Random Forest
- NBEATS
- TFT



**And the winner for the aggregated demand of typical households are...
Long Short-term Memory Models (LSTM)**

Machine Learning Models: Predicting demand for Germany for EV, PVS, HP

- Cost-optimized models provide training data
- Machine Learning models train from individual household data given different inputs
- ML models predict aggregated demand from individual households
- ML models connect to ABM AMIRIS via Fast-API



RESULTS



Diffusion model: Survey + latent class analysis



LCA resulted in a **4-class model**



(1) Non-adopters of renewable energy technologies
(84.5%)



(2) PV owners living in (semi-)detached houses
(5.4%)



(3) Heat pump owners with comprehensive retrofit
(7.05%)



(4) Multiple renewable energy technology adopters
(3.0%)

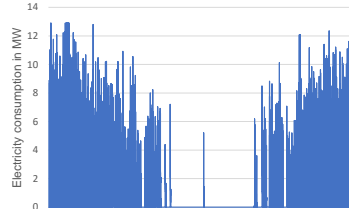




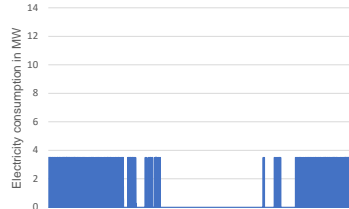
Heat pump model: Aggregating individual household decisions



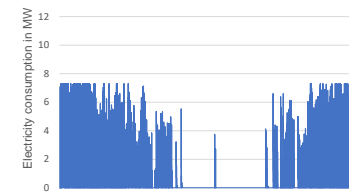
1



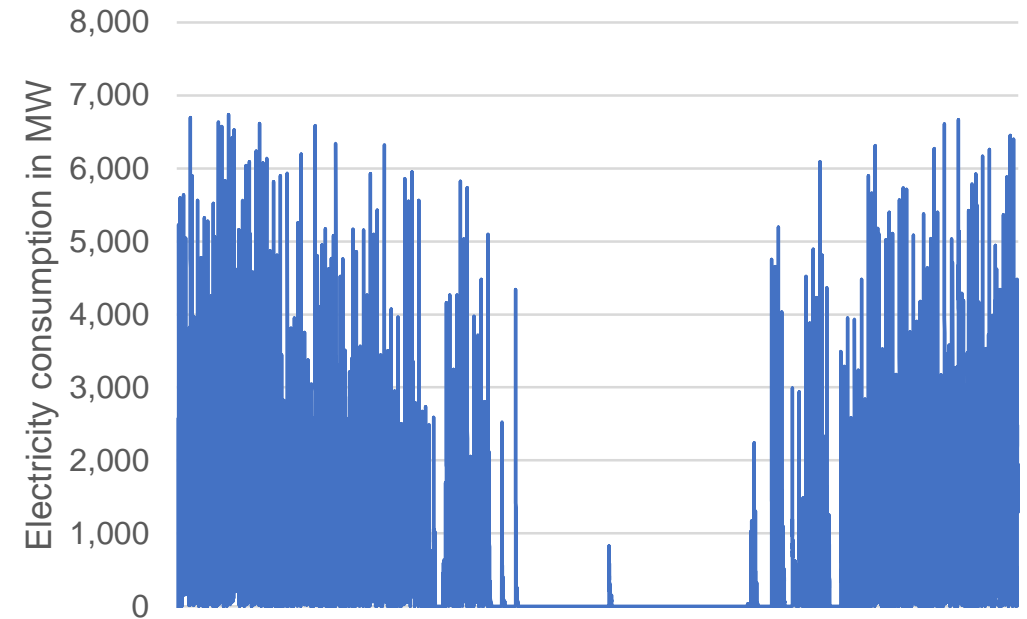
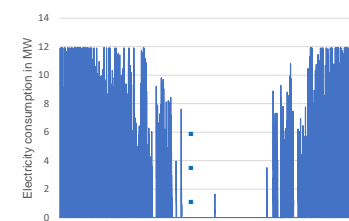
2



3



4



- Building types
- User comfort types
- Heat pump types
- Weather locations

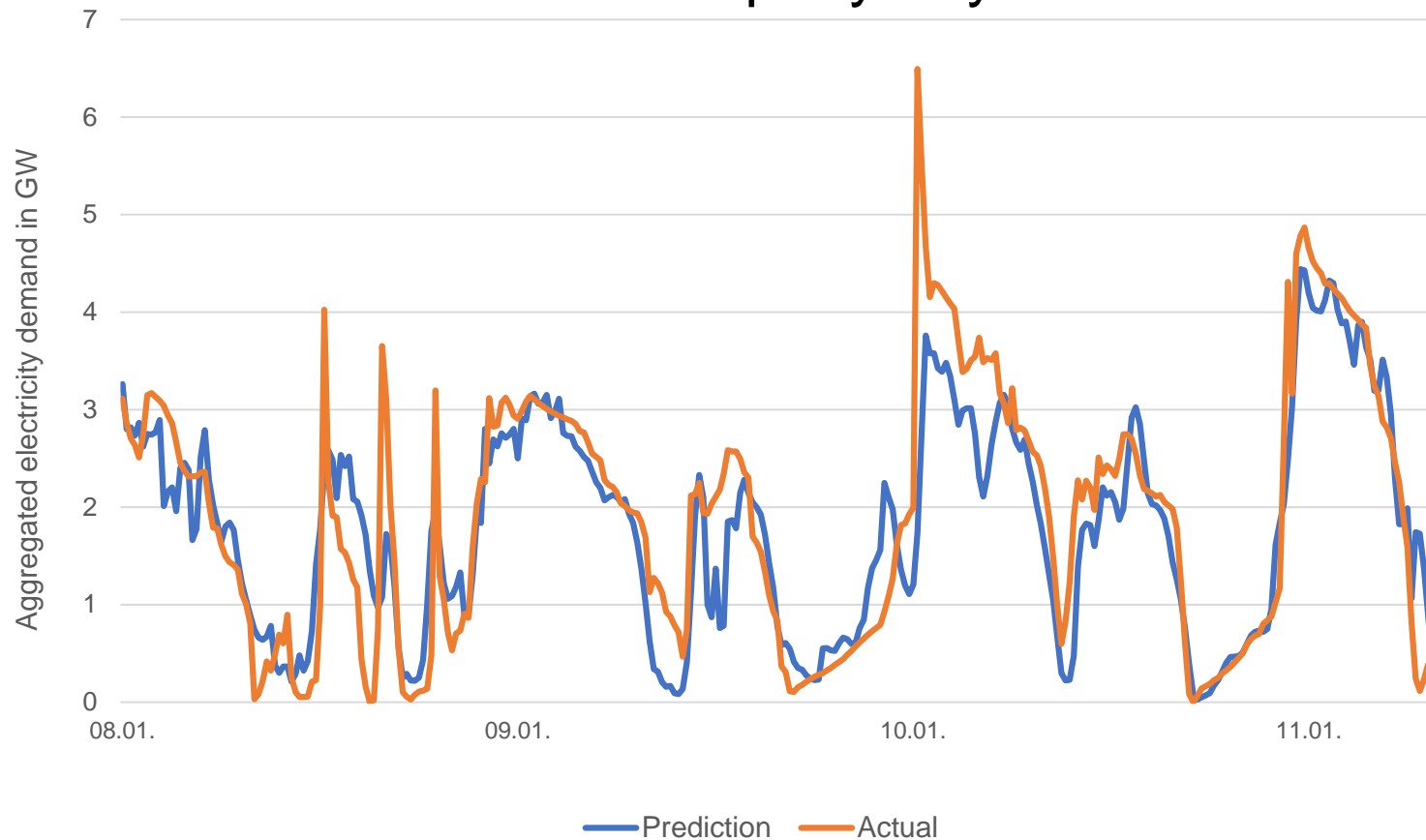
- **Best Model:** LSTM with 15 K params
- **Look-back-size:** 24 h
- **Train / Predict:** 5 locations / 1 other location
- **Data resolution:** 8760 h in ¼ h resolution



Heat pump model: Predicting aggregated demand for Germany



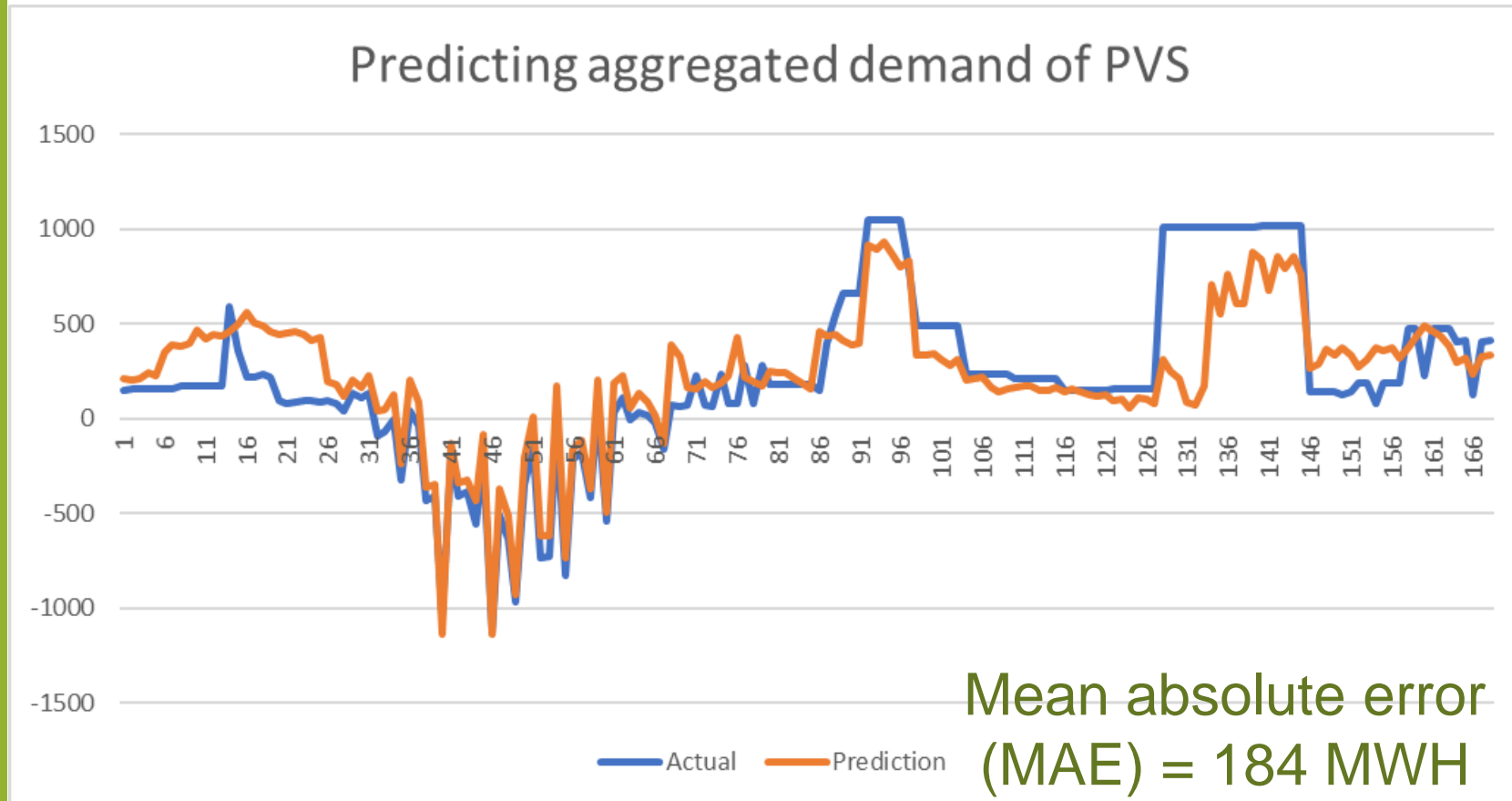
Exemplary days for HP



- **Best Model:**
LSTM, 16 K params
- **Look-back-size:**
24 h
- **Train / Predict:**
5 locations / 1 other location
- **Data resolution:**
8760 $\frac{1}{4}$ h resolution
- **Error:**
~ 8 % error



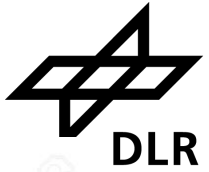
Photovoltaic + Storage model: Predicting aggregated demand for Germany



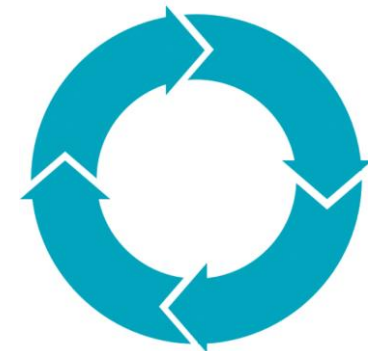
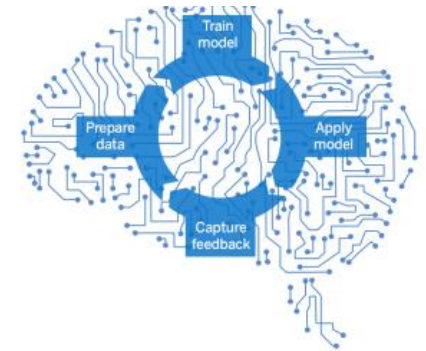
- **Best Model:**
LSTM, 16 K params
- **Look-back-size:**
24 h
- **Train / Predict:**
5 locations / 1 other location
- **Data resolution:**
8760 h resolution
- **Error:**
~ 6% error

CONCLUSION

High-level Conclusion



- **Model coupling** helps to analyze multiple aspects of the energy system at the same time
- **Abstracting individual decisions with ML** is a general solution for integrating computationally intensive tasks into simulations that were previously impossible
- **Combining** an ABM in a feedback-loop with an optimization model produces robust scenario pathways that are in fact economically viable



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THANK YOU!

Contact: ulrich.frey@dlr.de



Image sources



- AI-Brain: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/so-what-difference-between-ai-ml-deep-learning-kanishka-mohaia>
- Uncertainty: <https://uncertain2degrees.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/?p=2157>
- EV+Solar: <https://www.istockphoto.com/de/foto/frau-wartet-auf-elektroauto-aufladen-und-sonnenkollektoren-im-hintergrund-gm1284781525-381820745>
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- Coal stove: <https://home.howstuffworks.com/home-improvement/heating-and-cooling/coal-stoves.htm>
- Wind/Solar: <https://www.tradeindia.com/products/wind-solar-system-5886912.html>