Modelling tools for energy planning and energy system integration

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DTU Management Engineering

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Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

- 5 832 staff, 10 631 students, 1 406 PhD students
- My division: Systems Analysis at Management Engineering dep.
 - 30+ years experience in energy systems modelling and economic assessment of energy technologies
 - working for Danish authorities on forecasts and planning of the energy system, development of energy markets and response to climate change
 - international network: IPCC, EERA, EU Research Programmes, Climate-KIC, Nordic collaboration



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What is energy planning?

- Process of developing future energy system setup and policies, focusing on: sustainability, resilience, flexibility, efficiency, affordability etc.
- Incorporates: energy policy, energy economics, engineering, social science
- Energy system modelling allows developing techno-economic scenarios for energy planning facilitation



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Energy system models





Selected modelling tools





| | Developers and users |
|------------|---|
| Balmorel | DTU, Danish Energy Association, China National Renewable Energy Centre |
| EnergyPLAN | Aalborg University, PlanEnergi |
| | ENID Danich district boating companies |
| energyPRO | EIVID, Dahish district heating companies |
| Sifre | Danish TSO Energinet.dk and external collaborators, e.g. DTU |
| TIMES-DK | DTU, Danish Energy Agency |

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Sectoral representation and issues solved

| | Sectoral representation | E.g. issues solved |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Electricity markets; expansion |
| Balmorel | Electricity + heat (+ EVs) | of DH |
| | | 100% RES energy systems; |
| EnergyPLAN | Electricity+heat+transport | energy storage |
| | Flexible: electricity + heat, | CHP plants on the spot market; |
| energyPRO | (transport as "energy plant") | compressed-air energy storage |
| | | Electrolysis and biomass |
| | | conversion in Sønderborg, |
| Sifre | Electricity+heat+transport+gas | Denmark |
| | | Renewables in heating/cooling |
| TIMES-DK | Electricity+heat+transport | systems in 6 EU countries |



Implementation and optimization

| | Implementation | Optimization type |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Linear Programming in | |
| Balmorel | GAMS, solvers e.g. CPLEX | Total cost minimization |
| | | Operation cost |
| | | minimization; technical or |
| | | market-economic |
| EnergyPLAN | Delphi Pascal | simulation |
| | | User-defined or auto- |
| | | calculated operation |
| energyPRO | Delphi | strategy |
| | Mixed Integer Linear | Operation cost |
| Sifre | Programming in C# | minimization |
| | GAMS programming, VEDA | |
| TIMES-DK | front- and back-end, Excel | Total cost minimization |



Geographical and temporal representation

| | Geographical representation | Temporal representation |
|------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | | Hourly over a year - can be |
| Balmorel | Flexible; regions and areas | aggregated |
| | Flexible | Hourly over a year |
| EnergyPLAN | | |
| | | Calculation steps:10-30 min, 1h; |
| | | optimisation period: month or |
| energyPRO | Flexible | year |
| | Floviblo | |
| Sifro | | Hourly over a year |
| Sille | | Hourry over a year |
| | | 32 time slices: depending on |
| | Flexible | availability, demand profiles, |
| TIMES-DK | | electricity import/export |



Case study: Sønderborg, Denmark

- Tool: Sifre
- Electricity, heat and transport (as energy service)
- Year 2029, hourly resolution
- RQ: How can Sønderborg become a low-CO₂ emitting municipality in 2029 in an energy efficient and cost-effective way, while limiting biomass use to locally available resources
- Energy system integration:
 - conversion technologies: large-scale heat pumps, biogas production and methanation, thermal gasification, electrolysis and transport fuel synthesis
 - comparison of: total system socio-economic costs, CO2 emissions, biomass consumption and energy conversion efficiency



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Challenges of energy system models

- Demand side optimization rarely modelled (usually by manually changing the demand and analyzing the resulting impact)
- Accounting for air pollution other than CO2: e.g. particulate matter from biomass
- Global optimization
 - one-way direction: but how to represent and "optimize" prosumers?
 - behaviour: how to model people's choices?
- Developing and soft-linking agent-based models with energy system models?



Summary

- Energy system modelling allows developing techno-economic scenarios for energy planning facilitation
- Main differences:
 - Balmorel and TIMES-DK are investment and operation optimization tools; Sifre, energyPRO and EnergyPLAN are operation optimization tools
 - Various sectoral and technology representation
- Hourly time series suitable for modelling flexibility (intermittent renewables, thermal storage)
- Energy models/modelling tools
 - all are flexible enough for many applications
 - each has its strengths and weaknesses = some more suitable for selected research questions than others



Summary (2)

- Main challenges
 - accounting for demand side flexibility
 - modelling more air pollution types
 - quantifying and modelling people's behavior
- Developing and soft-linking agent-based models with energy system models?



Thank you for your attention!

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