

# Modeling the Ability of Thermal Units to Perform Load Changes in Energy Systems

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# Agenda

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Motivation

2

The Electricity System Model PERSEUS-NET-ESS

3

Modeling the Load Changing Ability of Thermal Units

I

Minimum power, minimum times stopped and running

II

Start-up costs on positive load changes below the minimum power

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Costs on all load changes

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Data Availability

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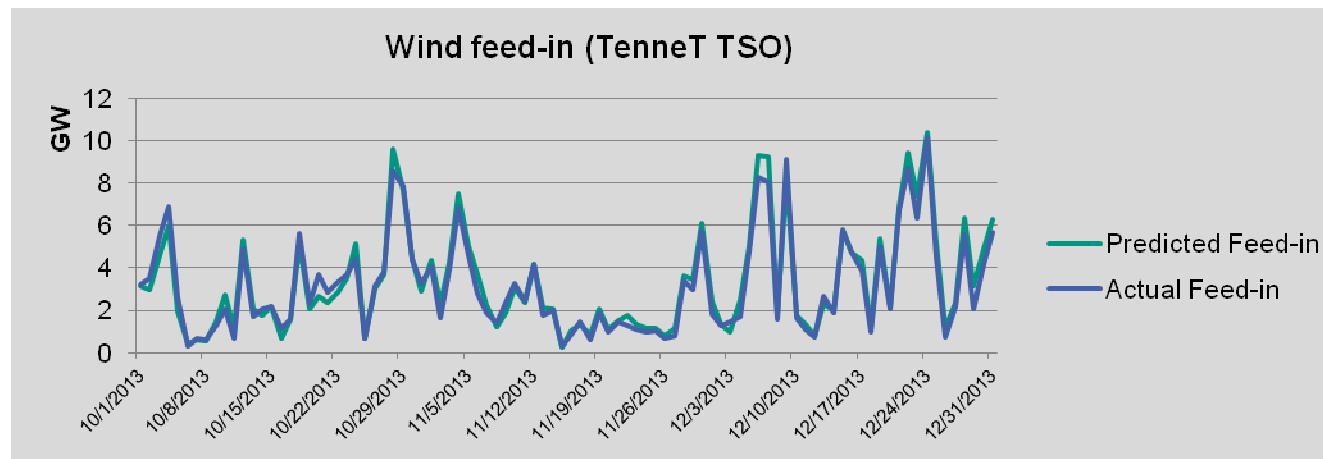
Test Calculations to Analyze the Different Modelling Technics

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Summary and Conclusions

# 1 Motivation

Increasing share of electricity generation from volatile renewable sources (wind, solar) in Germany



- ➔ The electricity generation in thermal units has to become increasingly flexible
- ➔ Increasing relevance of cycling costs
- ➔ Growing importance to model the load changing ability of thermal units in energy system models

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# 2 The German Electricity System Model PERSEUS-NET-ESS

## Modeling of the transmission grid

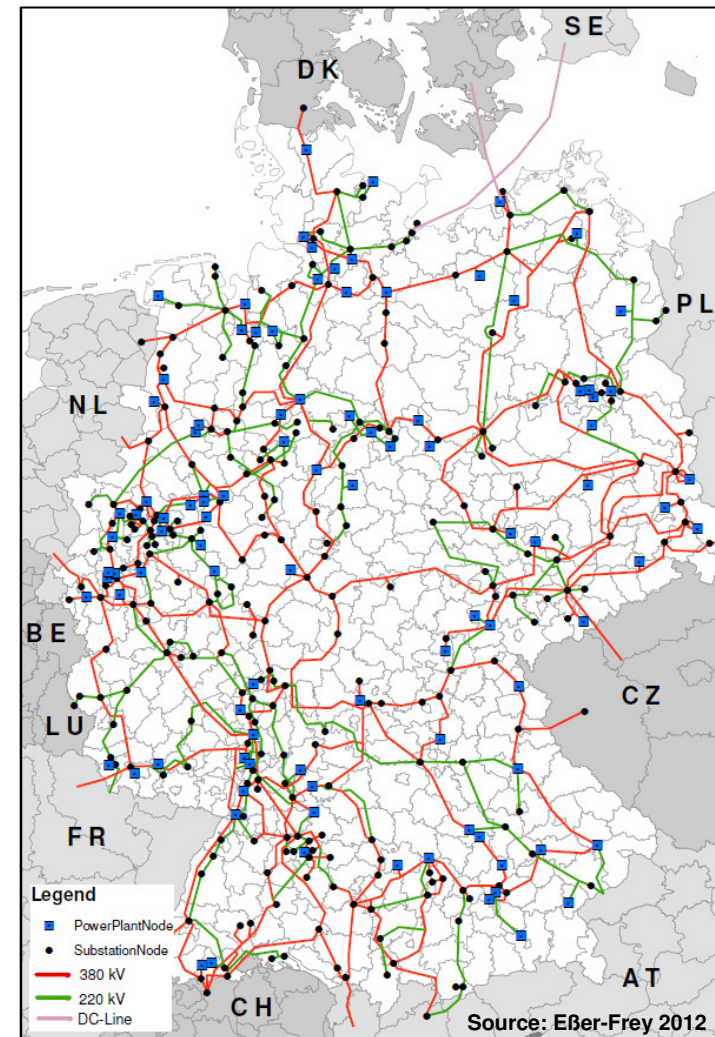
- 441 grid nodes  
(locations of power plants and electricity demand processes)
- 560 power lines as grid node connections

## Modeling of power generating capacities

- ~ 270 plants > 100 MW modeled individually at specific nodes
- Smaller plants < 100 MW modeled cumulated and assigned to NUTS3-regions

## Specific electricity demand assigned to each grid node

- Forecast based on population and GDP of the NUTS3-region



## 2 PERSEUS-NET-ESS: Model specifications

### Model type and methodology

- Myopic linear (mixed-integer) programming approach
- Technology oriented bottom-up energy and material flow model combined with nodal pricing

### Objective function and constraints

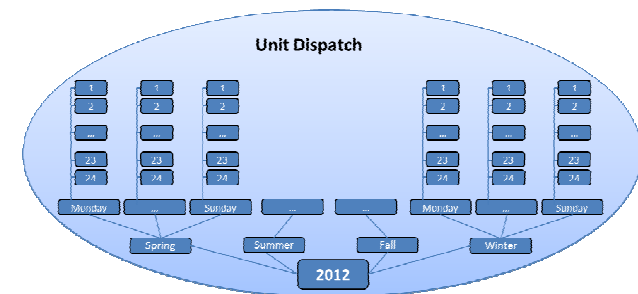
- Objective function: minimisation of decision-relevant expenditures (net present value)
- Variables: plant commissioning, unit dispatch, operation modes, electricity flows on the grid
- Constraints: generation capacity, plant availability, transmission capacity...
- Driving force: electricity demand has to be satisfied

### Market understanding

- Perfect markets with complete information

### Modelling timeframe and time structure

- Consideration of three days of a type per season (weekday, Saturday and Sunday) for the year 2012



### Main results

- Optimal system dispatch

## 2 PERSEUS-NET-ESS: Objective function

$$\min \left[ \begin{aligned} & \sum_{ec \in EC} \left( \sum_{imp \in IMP} \sum_{prod \in PROD} FL_{imp,prod,ec,t} \cdot C_{fuel_{imp,prod,ec,t}} \right) \\ & + \sum_{prod \in PROD} \sum_{prod' \in PROD'} FL_{prod,prod',ec,t} \cdot C_{var_{prod,prod',ec,t}} \end{aligned} \right] \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Fuel costs} \\ \text{Transport,} \\ \text{system usage} \\ \text{charge} \end{array} \\ + \sum_{proc \in PROC} \left( \begin{aligned} & PL_{proc,t} \cdot C_{var_{proc,t}} \\ & + \sum_{seas \in SEAS} C_{loadchange_{proc,t,seas-1,seas}} \end{aligned} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Variable costs} \\ \text{Load changing} \\ \text{costs} \end{array}
 \end{array}$$

$\forall t \in T \subset \{2012\}$

**Minimization of the system relevant expenditures. These consist of**

- Energy carrier costs (*EC*),
- Costs of electricity generation processes (*PROC*)
- Costs related to electricity generation units (*UNIT*)

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## Minimum power

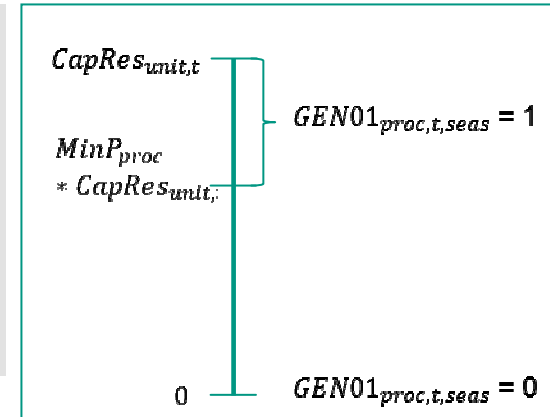
The process level is either “0” or above the minimum power

$$CapRes_{unit,t} \cdot h_{seas} \cdot Avai_{unit,t} \cdot GEN01_{proc,t,seas} \geq PS_{proc,t,seas}$$

Equation based on [Díaz 2008]

$$\geq CapRes_{unit,t} \cdot h_{seas} \cdot MinP_{proc} \cdot GEN01_{proc,t,seas}$$

$$\forall proc \in PROC_{unit}; \forall unit \in UNIT_{therm}; \forall t \in T; \forall seas \in SEAS$$



With:

$GEN01_{proc,t,seas}$	Binary variable stating if the generation process $proc$ is on or off (0/1) in hour $seas$ of year $t$
$PS_{proc,t,seas}$	Process level of the generation process $proc$ in the hour $seas$
$CapRes_{unit,t}$	Installed capacity of the generation unit $unit$ in year $t$
$h_{seas}$	Weighting of the considered hour $seas$
$Avai_{unit,t}$	Availability factor of unit $unit$
$MinP_{proc}$	Minimum power of the generation process $proc$ as a share of the installed capacity

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## Minimum times stopped & running

### Minimum time stopped ( $MinStopped_{proc}$ )

$$\sum_{seas = seas' - MinStopp_{proc}}^{seas' - 1} (1 - GEN01_{proc,t,seas})$$

$$\geq$$

$$MinStopped_{proc} \cdot (GEN01_{proc,t,seas'} - GEN01_{proc,t,seas' - 1})$$

 Equations based on  
 [Díaz 2008]

### Minimum time running ( $MinOperate_{proc}$ )

$$\sum_{seas = seas' - MinOperate_{proc}}^{seas' - 1} GEN01_{proc,t,seas}$$

$$\geq$$

$$MinOperate_{proc} \cdot (GEN01_{proc,t,seas' - 1} - GEN01_{proc,t,seas'})$$

$$\forall proc \in PROC_{therm} \subset PROC; \forall t \in T; \forall seas, seas' \in SEAS$$

Example: If  $seas' = 4$  p.m.,  $MinOperate_{proc} = 3$  and  $GEN01_{proc,t,3p.m.} = 1$  than

$$GEN01_{proc,t,1p.m.} + GEN01_{proc,t,2p.m.} + 1 \geq 3 \cdot (1 - GEN01_{proc,t,4p.m.})$$

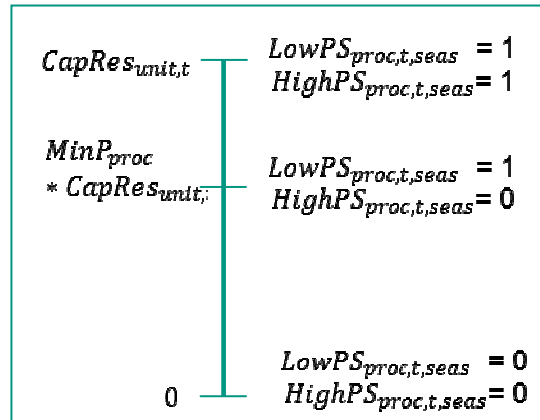
$$GEN01_{proc,t,4p.m.} \geq 1 - 1/3 \cdot (GEN01_{proc,t,1p.m.} + GEN01_{proc,t,2p.m.} + 1)$$

### 3 II Costs on positive load changes below the minimum power (start-up costs)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & LowPS_{proc,t,seas} \cdot CapRes_{unit,t} \cdot MinP_{proc} \\
 & + \\
 & HighPS_{proc,t,seas} \cdot CapRes_{unit,t} \cdot (1 - MinP_{proc}) \\
 & = \\
 & \frac{PS_{proc,t,seas}}{(h_{seas} \cdot Avai_{unit,t})}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\forall proc \in PROC_{unit}; \forall unit \in UNIT_{therm}; \forall t \in T; \forall seas \in SEAS$$

Equations based on [Warland 2008]



$$\begin{aligned}
 & LowPS_{proc,t,seas} \geq HighPS_{proc,t,seas} \\
 & \forall proc \in PROC; \forall t \in T; \forall seas \in SEAS
 \end{aligned}$$

$$LowPS_{proc,t,seas} - LowPS_{proc,t,seas-1}$$

$$\leq StartUpCount_{proc,t,seas}$$

$$\forall proc \in PROC; \forall t \in T; \forall seas \in SEAS$$

With:

$LowPS_{proc,t,seas}$

Positive variable between "0" and "1" to indicate process levels of process  $proc$  below the minimum power

$HighPS_{proc,t,seas}$

Positive variable between "0" and "1" to indicate process levels of process  $proc$  above the minimum power

$StartUpCount_{proc,t,seas}$

Positive variable that accounts for the load changes levels of process  $proc$  below the minimum power

## Costs on all load changes

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (LVup_{proc,seas-1,seas,t} - LVdown_{proc,seas-1,seas,t}) \\
 & = \\
 & No_{seas-1,seas,t} \cdot \left( \frac{PS_{proc,t,seas}}{h_{seas}} - \frac{PS_{proc,t,seas-1}}{h_{seas-1}} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{\eta_{proc,t}} \\
 & \forall t \in T; \forall seas \in SEAS; \forall proc \in PROC
 \end{aligned}$$

Equation based on  
 [Rosen 2008,  
 Eßer-Frey 2012]

With:

$LVup_{proc,seas-1,seas,t}$

Positive variable to account for positive load changes between the hours  $seas - 1$  and  $seas$  in [MW]

$LVdown_{proc,seas-1,seas,t}$

Positive variable to account for negative load changes between the hours  $seas - 1$  and  $seas$  in [MW]

$No_{seas-1,seas}$

Number of occurrences of the change from one hour  $seas - 1$  to the next one  $seas$  within the considered year  $t$

$\eta_{proc,t}$

Efficiency of the generation process  $proc$  in year  $t$

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## 4 Data Availability

### Data about a realistic power plant dispatch and specific cycling costs are hard to determine (and confidential)

#### ■ Minimum times stopped and running

- No real technical limitation, rather a “fictive” limitation for energy system modelling to prevent a unit dispatch with high cycling costs [Schröder et al. 2013; Hundt et al. 2009].
- Values for minimum times stopped and running can be found in literature. However, these differ [Schröder et al. 2013].

#### ■ Start-up costs

- Very few literature sources with specific values could be found [Kumar et al. 2012; Lew et al. 2013; Maiborn 2008; DENA 2005].
- Values differ and do not consider specific generation units’ characteristics. Subsequently values for start-up costs for PERSEUS-NET-ESS are estimated by the following equation:

$$StartUpCosts_{proc,t} = MinP_{proc} \cdot CapRes_{unit,t} \cdot MinStopped_{proc} \cdot \left( Cvar_{proc,t} + \frac{Cfuel_{proc,t}}{\eta_{proc,t}} \right)$$

$$\forall proc \in PROC_{therm}; \forall unit \in UNIT_{proc}; \forall t \in T$$

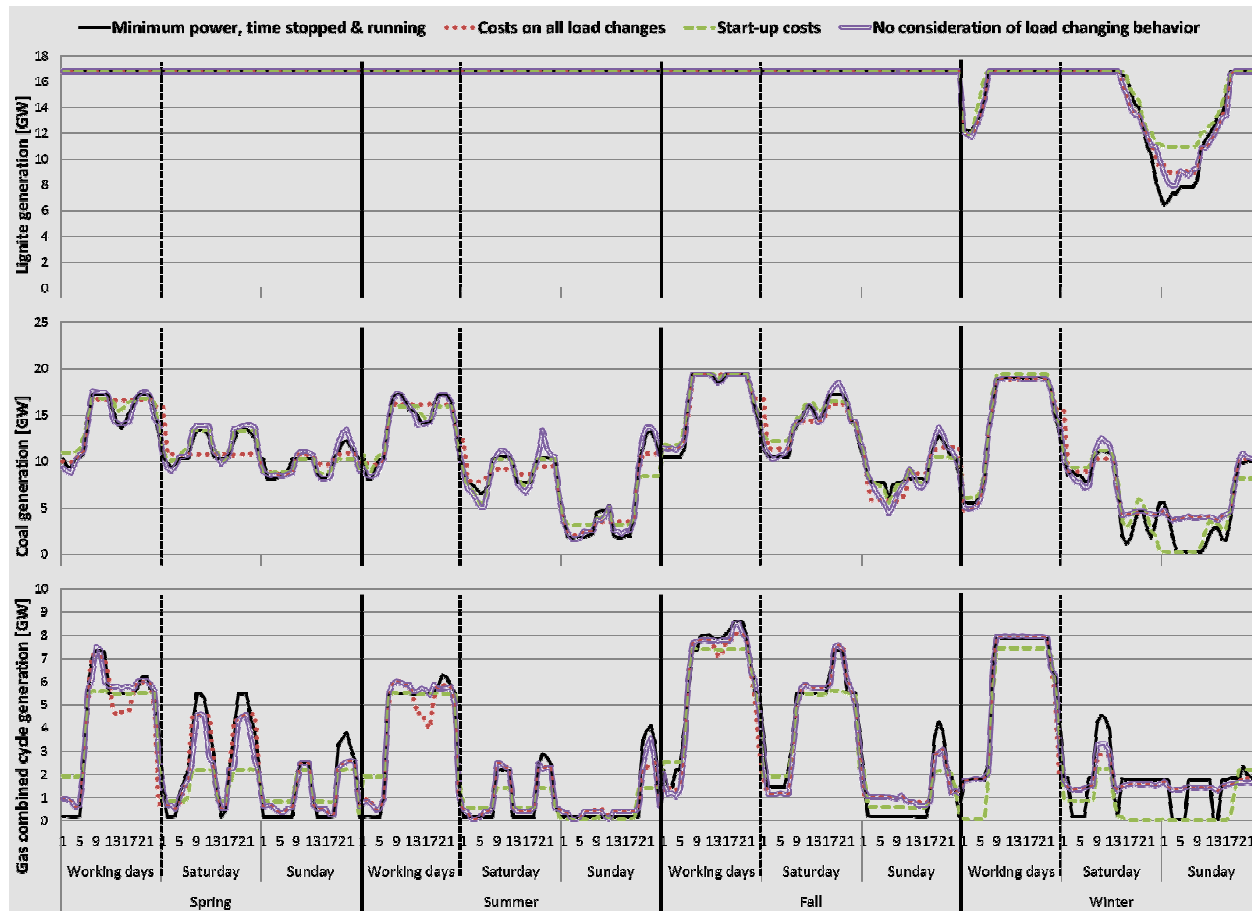
#### ■ Costs on all load changes

- Only one literature sources with specific values could be found.
- 1.96 \$/ΔMW for coal units; 0.64 \$/ΔMW for gas combined cycle units [Kumar et al. 2012; Lew et al. 2013]

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# 5 Thermal Unit Dispatch



Average derivation to the dispatch without consideration of the load changing behavior

	[GW]
Min. power and times	0.05
Cost on all load changes	0.02
Start-up costs	0.1

Min. power and times	0.46
Cost on all load changes	0.71
Start-up costs	0.82

Min. power and times	0.36
Cost on all load changes	0.24
Start-up costs	0.66

➔ Start-up costs have the highest effect on the dispatch of thermal units in PERSEUS-NET-ESS



## 5 Computation Time of Test Calculations

	Minimum power, time stopped & running	Start-up costs	Costs on all load changes	No consideration of load changing behavior	Start-up costs and costs on all load changes
Equations	1.82 Mio	1.79 Mio	1.72 Mio	1.68 Mio	1.83 Mio
Variables	1.44 Mio	1.48 Mio	1.45 Mio	1.36 Mio	1.59 Mio
Non-zero Elements	7.45 Mio	7.33 Mio	7.18 Mio	6.93 Mio	7.66 Mio
Binary variables	35,090	-	-	-	-
Total computation time*	12 min 57	5 min 57 sec	5 min 41 sec	5 min 35 sec	6 min 14 sec

\*with Cplex 12.4 on 12 threads on a computer with Windows Server 2008 R2 Enterprise, Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-1650@ 3.20 GHz 3.20 GHz; 96 GB RAM; 64 Bit

- ➔ As of the mixed-integer calculation the modelling approach with minimum power and minimum times stopped & running has a significantly higher computation time than the linear approaches
- ➔ A combination of start-up costs and costs on all load changes has a comparably “short” computation time and is therefore usable for PERSEUS-NET-ESS calculations

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## 5 Summary and Conclusion

### Minimum power in combination with minimum times running and stopped

- Widely used in energy systems modelling; Data available
- Disadvantage of needing binary variables
- No “real” technical restriction (?)

### Costs on positive load changes below the minimum power (start-up costs)

- Very few literature sources with specific data; Data that is found differs
- Assignment of specific start-up costs to generation units in PERSEUS-NET-ESS through the developed approach
- Comparably high effect on the dispatch of thermal generation units in the PERSEUS-NET-ESS model

### Costs on all load changes

- Easy to apply
- Very few literature sources with specific data
- Applicable in energy system models with endogenous linear commissioning of generation units
- No consideration of the minimum power



**For the energy system model PERSEUS-NET-ESS a combination of costs on all load changes and start-up costs seems to be advantageous**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION!**

# BACK-UP

3

II &amp; III

## Consideration of Costs in the Objective Function

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (LVup_{proc,seas-1,seas,t} + LVdown_{proc,seas-1,seas,t}) \cdot CLoadVar_{proc,t} \\
 & + \\
 & StartupCount_{proc,t,seas} \cdot CStartup_{proc,t} \\
 & = \\
 & Cloadchange_{proc,t,seas-1,seas}
 \end{aligned}$$

 $\forall t \in T; \forall seas \in SEAS; \forall proc \in PROC$ 

■ With:

 $CLoadVar_{proc,t}$ 

Costs on load changes of process  $proc$  in year  $t$  [\$/MW]

 $CStartup_{proc,t}$ 

Costs for starting-up the process  $proc$  in year  $t$

[\$/start-up to the minimum power]

 $Cloadchange_{proc,t,seas-1,seas}$ 

Costs for the load changes of process  $proc$  in year  $t$  between the hours  $seas - 1$  and  $seas$  to be considered in the objective function [\$/]

# PERSEUS-NET-TS: Selected Constraints

## Energy balance equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sum_{imp \in IMP} FL_{imp,prod,ec,t} + \sum_{prod' \in PROD_{prod,ec}} FL_{prod',prod,ec,t} + \sum_{proc \in GENPROC_{prod,ec}} PL_{proc,t} \cdot \lambda_{proc,ec} \\
 = & \sum_{exp \in EXP} FL_{prod,exp,ec,t} + \sum_{prod' \in PROD'_{prod,ec}} FL_{prod,prod',ec,t} + \sum_{proc \in DEMPROC_{prod,ec}} PL_{proc,t} \cdot \frac{\lambda_{proc,ec}}{\eta_{proc,ec}} \\
 & \forall t \in T; \quad \forall prod \in PROD; \quad \forall ec \in EC_{non-seas}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Process utilisation equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 Cap_{unit,t} \cdot Avai_{unit,t} \cdot h_{seas} & \geq \sum_{proc \in PROC_{unit}} PL_{proc,seas,t} \\
 \forall t \in T; \quad \forall unit \in UNIT; \quad \forall seas \in SEAS
 \end{aligned}$$

## Demand equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_{prod \in Prod} \sum_{exp \in Exp} FL_{prod,exp,t,seas} & \geq D_{t,seas} \\
 \forall prod \in Prod; \forall seas \in S; \forall t \in T
 \end{aligned}$$

## Decision variables

Process level

$$PL_{p,t,seas} \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Energy flow

$$FL_{prod',prod,t,seas} \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Capacity decision

$$Cap_{unit,t}, NewCap_{unit,t} \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

# Unit Dispatch

