

# Multi-Objectives, Multi-Period Optimization of district networks Using Evolutionary Algorithms and MILP: Daily thermal storage

Samira Fazlollahi,  
Supervisor:  
François Maréchal

Industrial Energy Systems Laboratory, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne  
(EPFL)

Veolia Environnement Recherche et Innovation (VERI)



# Outline

---

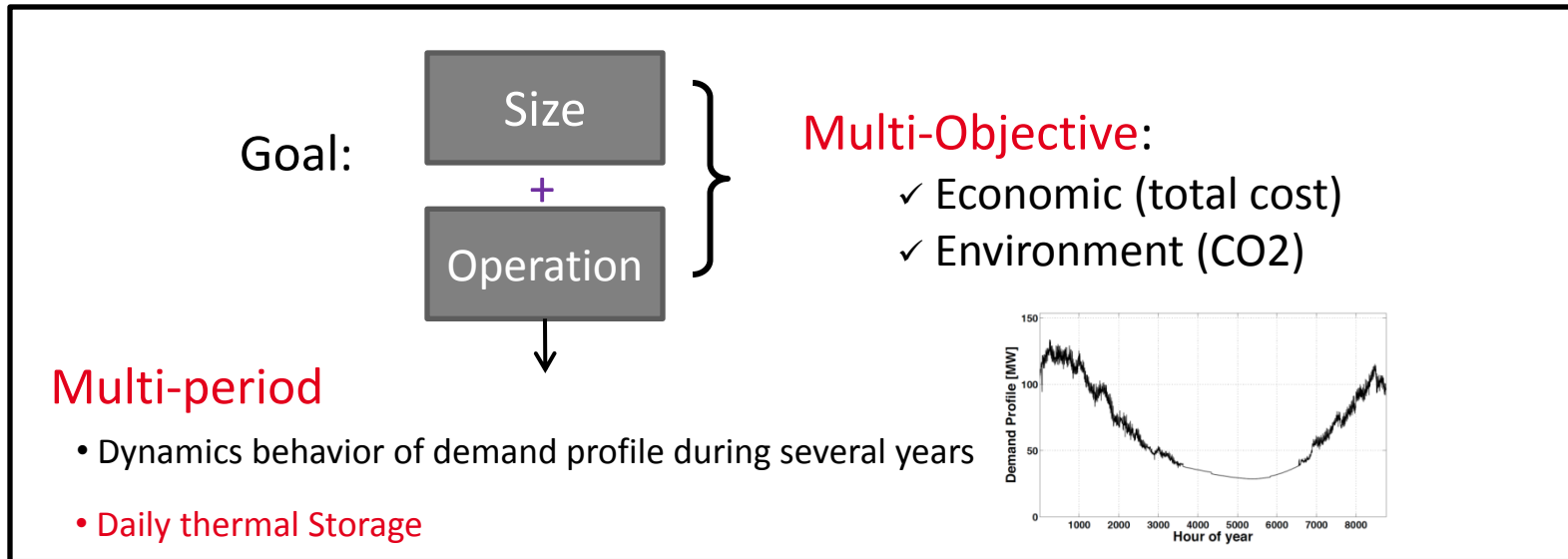
- Motivation and objective
- District energy system optimization: Method
  - Structuring phase
  - Multi-objective nonlinear optimization phase
- Daily thermal storage: Model
- Illustrative example
- Conclusion



# Objective and motivation (1)



- Design a district energy system:



Goal

- ✓ To develop a computational framework for **Multi-Period, Multi-objective** optimization of district energy system
- ✓ To integrate the **daily thermal storage** in the optimization model
- ✓ To study the influence of a thermal storage on operating condition and capital investment

1

A computational framework for  
**Multi-Period, Multi-objective**  
optimization of district energy  
system:

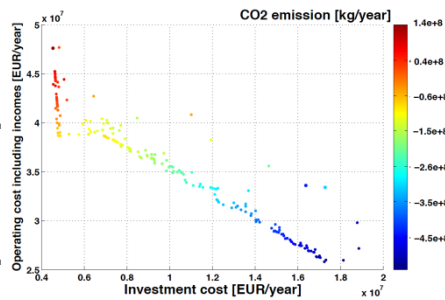
Integration of a thermal  
storage

# Main steps of methodology



**Multi-objective  
nonlinear optimization phase**

**Structuring phase**

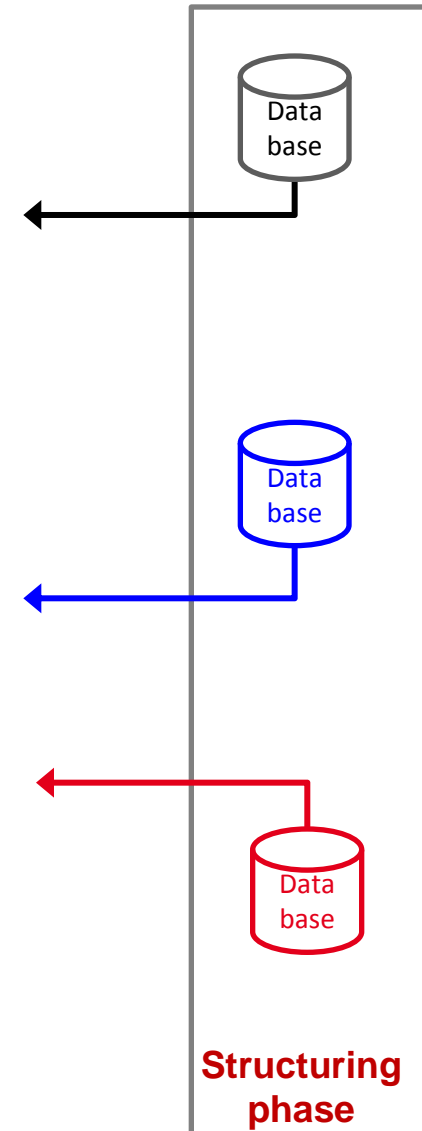


**Post-processing phase**

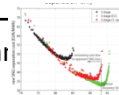
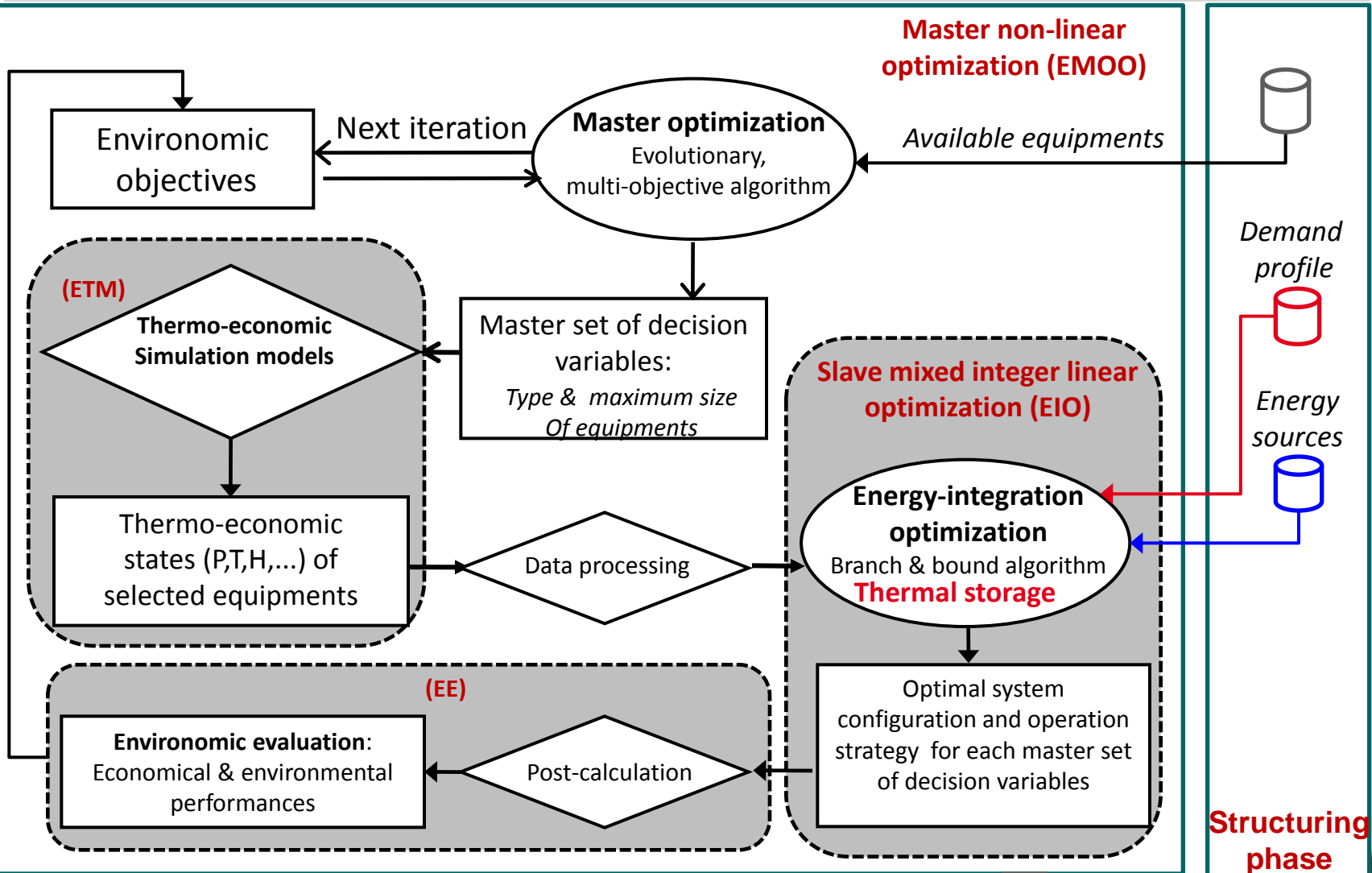
# Structuring phase

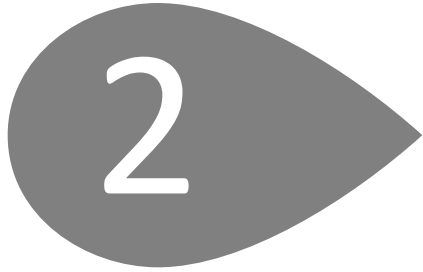
Goal: to collect and manipulate the required data:

- ✓ *Available equipments*
  - *Conversion technologies*
  - *Backup technologies*
  
- ✓ *Supply and demand profiles:*
  - *Energy sources*
  - *Energy demand: **Typical days***
    - *Heating*
    - *Hot water*
    - *Cooling*
    - *Electricity*



# Multi-objective nonlinear optimization phase

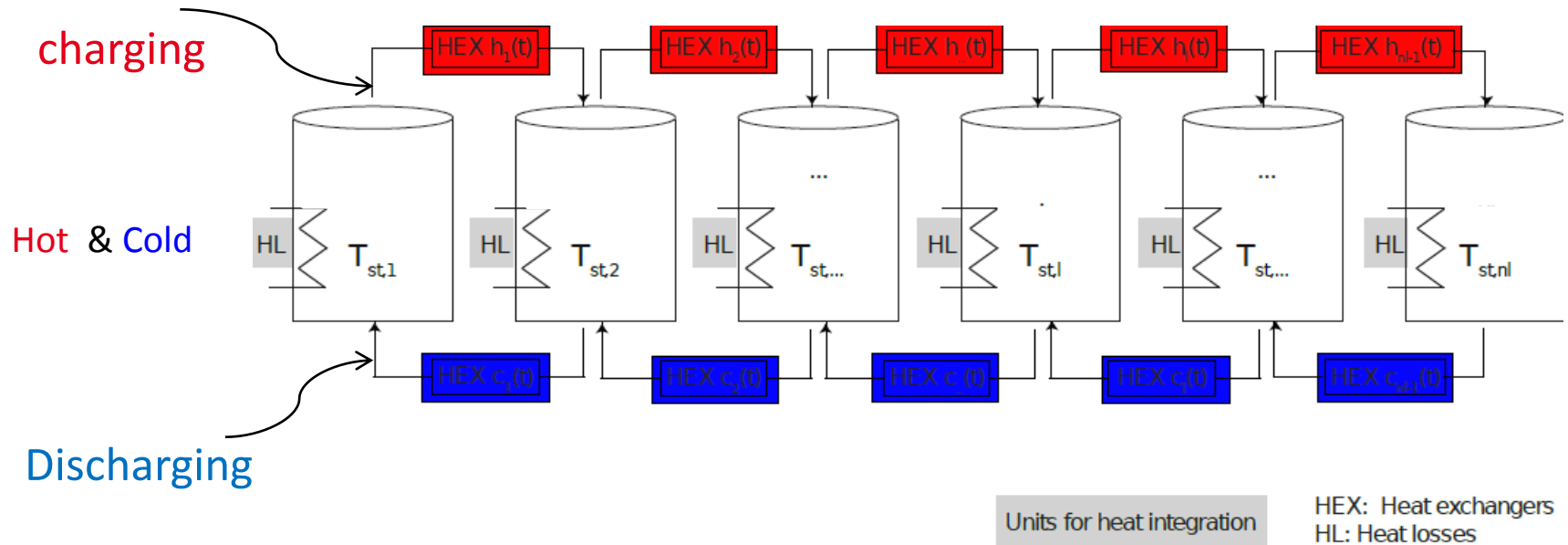




# Daily thermal storage



# Daily thermal storage: Model



## Decision variables:

- ✓ Heat availability in each temperature interval
- ✓ Charging and discharging rate in each time step
- ✓ Temperatures of the storage tank
- ✓ The initial heat load of each temperature interval in  $t_0$



## Parameters:

- ✓ Maximum capacity of the storage system:  $Q^{max}$
- ✓ Number of temperature intervals
- ✓ Investment cost

# Daily thermal storage: Model



## Energy balance of the storage system

**Q**: Reference heat load (parameter)    **f**: Utilization rate (variable)

### 1. Limits on charging and discharging rate

$$F_{\min_S} \times y_{S_p^c} \leq \max(f_{S_{T,p}^c}) \leq F_{\max_S} \times y_{S_p^c}, \forall p = 1, \dots, N_p$$

$$F_{\min_S} \times y_{S_p^h} \leq \max(f_{S_{T,p}^h}) \leq F_{\max_S} \times y_{S_p^h}, \forall p = 1, \dots, N_p$$

Utilization rate

T: temperature intervals    p: time steps

### 2. Cyclic constraint

$$\sum_{p=1}^{N_p} \sum_{T=1}^{N_T} (f_{S_{T,p}^c} \times \dot{Q}_{S_{T,p}^c}^- - f_{S_{T,p}^h} \times \dot{Q}_{S_{T,p}^h}^+) \times \Delta p = 0$$

Total charging load

Reference heat charging

# Daily thermal storage: Model



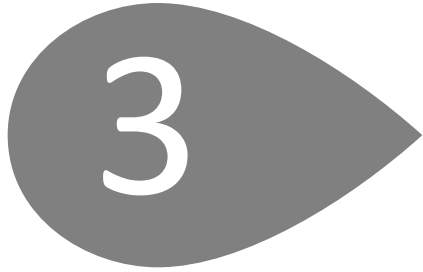
## 3. Initial heat load

Initial heat load (MWh)

$$\sum_{T=1}^{N_T} Q_T^0 \leq Q^{\max} \rightarrow V^{\max}$$

## 4. Heat load availability in each intervals

$$Q_T^0 + \sum_{p=1}^{N_p} (f_{S_{T,p}^c} \times \dot{Q}_{S_{T,p}^c}^- - f_{S_{T,p}^h} \times \dot{Q}_{S_{T,p}^h}^+) \times \Delta p \geq 0,$$
$$\forall T = 1, \dots, N_T, \forall p = 1, \dots, N_p$$



# Illustrative example

# Illustrative example: Structuring phase

Goal: Design the energy system in a district with 3000 inhabitants

- provide heat and hot water demand
- electricity as an opportunity

Table 3:  $CO_2$  Intensity and Price of available resources

Resources	$\Delta CO_2$ : [kg/MJ]	Price: [31] [€/MJ]:
Electricity	0.3071[32]	0.0198
Natural Gas	0.0641	0.0092
Biomass	0	0.0036
SNG	0	0.0099

Table 5: Reference capacity of each equipments with the corresponding ranges

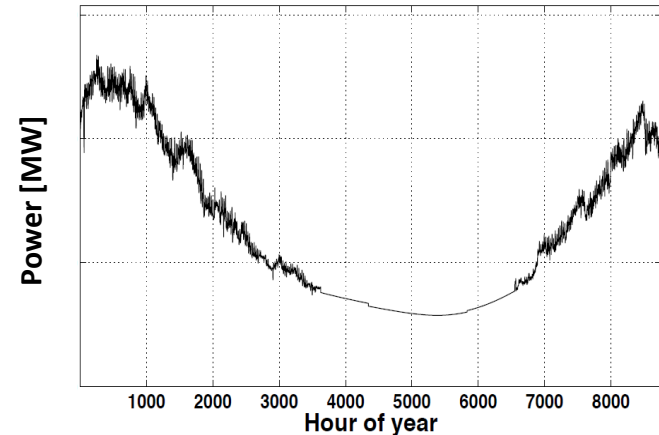
Equipment	Reference: [MW <sub>th/el</sub> ]	Ranges: [MW <sub>th/el</sub> ]	$\beta_s$ [€/kW/an]	$\alpha_s$ [k€/an]	O&M [€/MWh]	
Boiler (NG)	42 <sub>th</sub>	[0 210]	14	84	3.5	[20]
Boiler (BM)	42 <sub>th</sub>	[0 210]	14	84	10.4	[20]
Engine (NG)	5 <sub>el</sub>	[0 100]	25	15	10	[15]
Engine (BM)	5 <sub>el</sub>	[0 50]	25	15	10	[15]
SNG*	20 <sub>bm</sub>	[0 200]	67	10 <sup>3</sup>	40	[36]
Gasifier*	20 <sub>bm</sub>	[0 200]	64	10 <sup>3</sup>	1	[36]
Gas turbine(NG)	20 <sub>el</sub>	[0 200]	73	14	50	[15]
Gas turbine(BM)	20 <sub>el</sub>	[0 200]	73	14	50	[15]
Steam turbine	30 <sub>el</sub>	[0 200]	32	272	10	[20]
BRC	2 <sub>el</sub>	[0 20]	38.5	96	30	[37]

BM: Biomass, NG: Natural gas

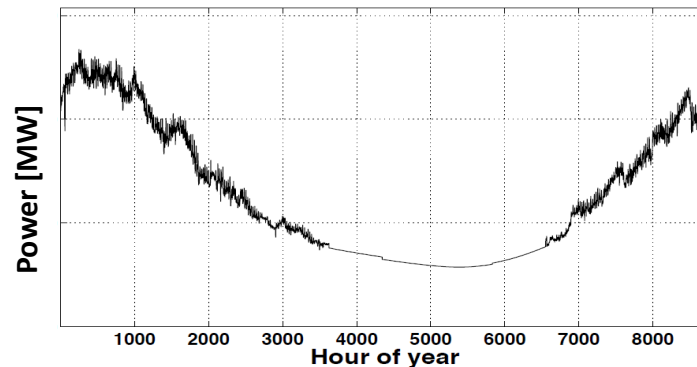
\*It is based on the fuel consumption



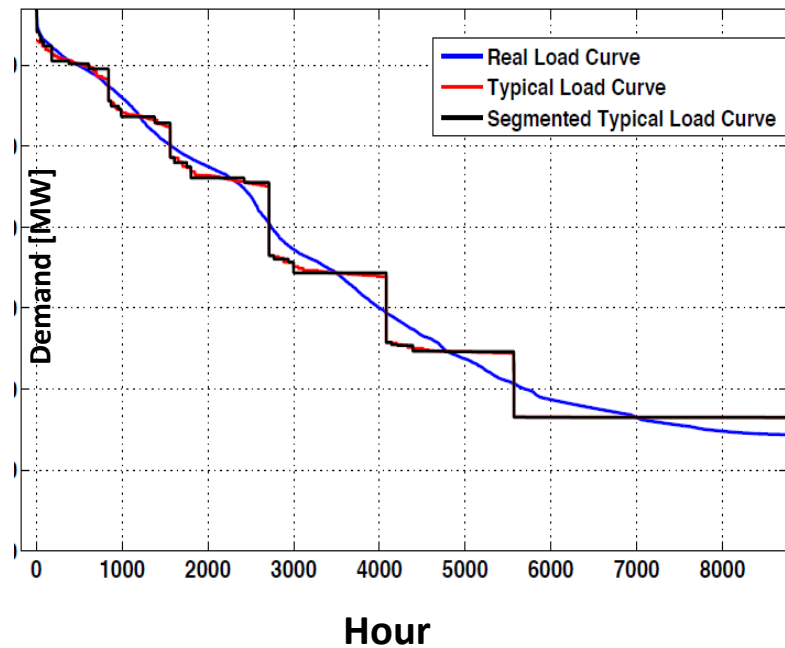
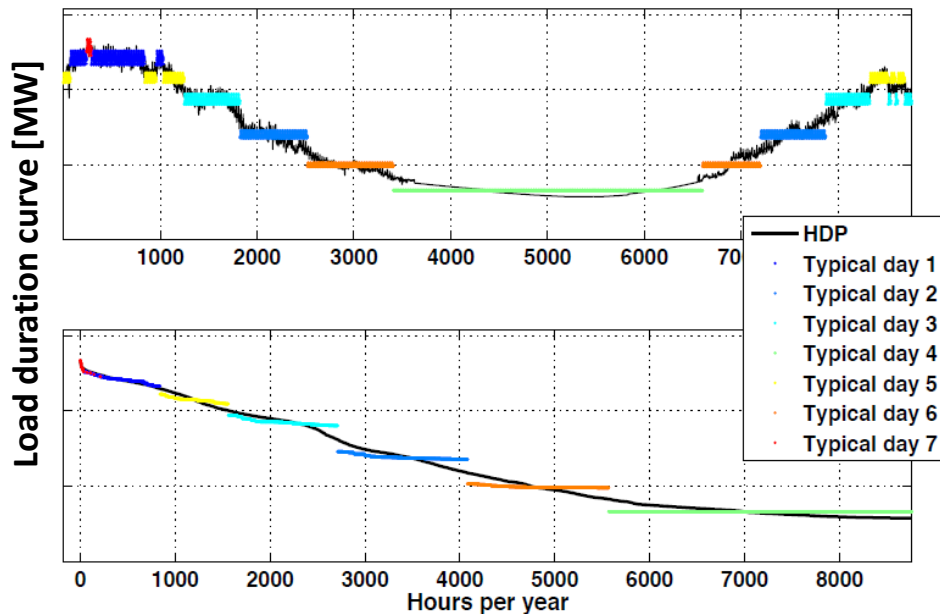
Hourly heat demand profile of a typical year



# Structuring phase: Typical days



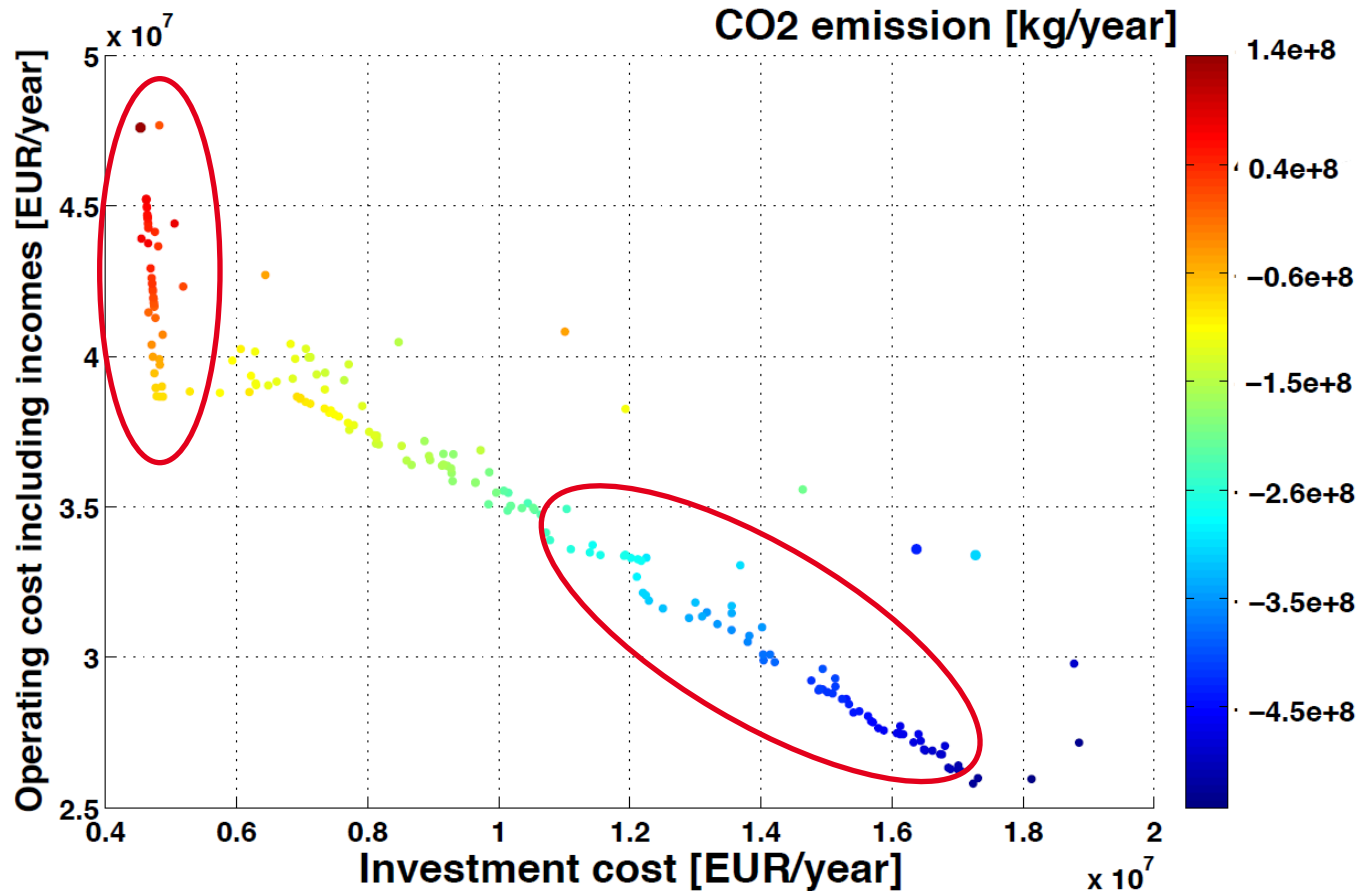
7 Typical days



S. Fazlollahi, S. L. Bungener and F. Maréchal. *Multi-Objectives, Multi-Period Optimization of district heating networks: Selection of typical days*. The 22nd European Symposium on Computer Aided Process Engineering (ESCAPE), London, 2012.



# Illustrative example: Multi-objective optimization results



## Objectives:

- Investment cost [Euro/year]
- Operating cost [Euro/year]
- CO2 emission [Kg/year]



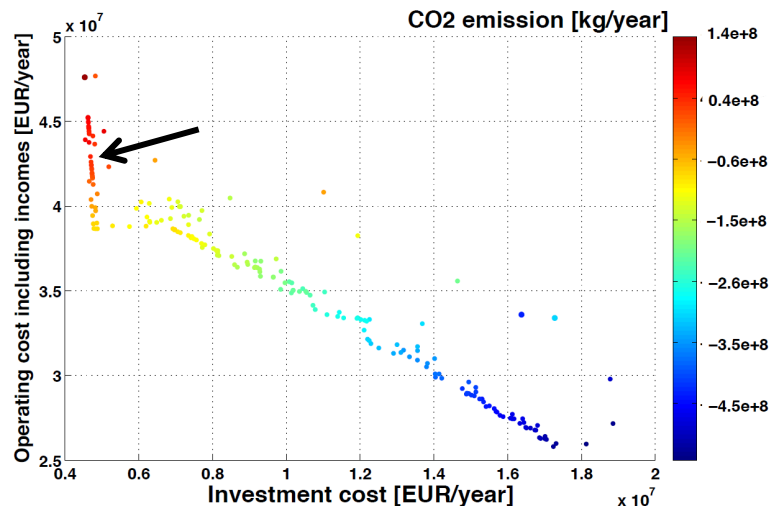
# Illustrative example: Post-processing phase

evaluate and select a solution(s)



Configuration of a selected solution :

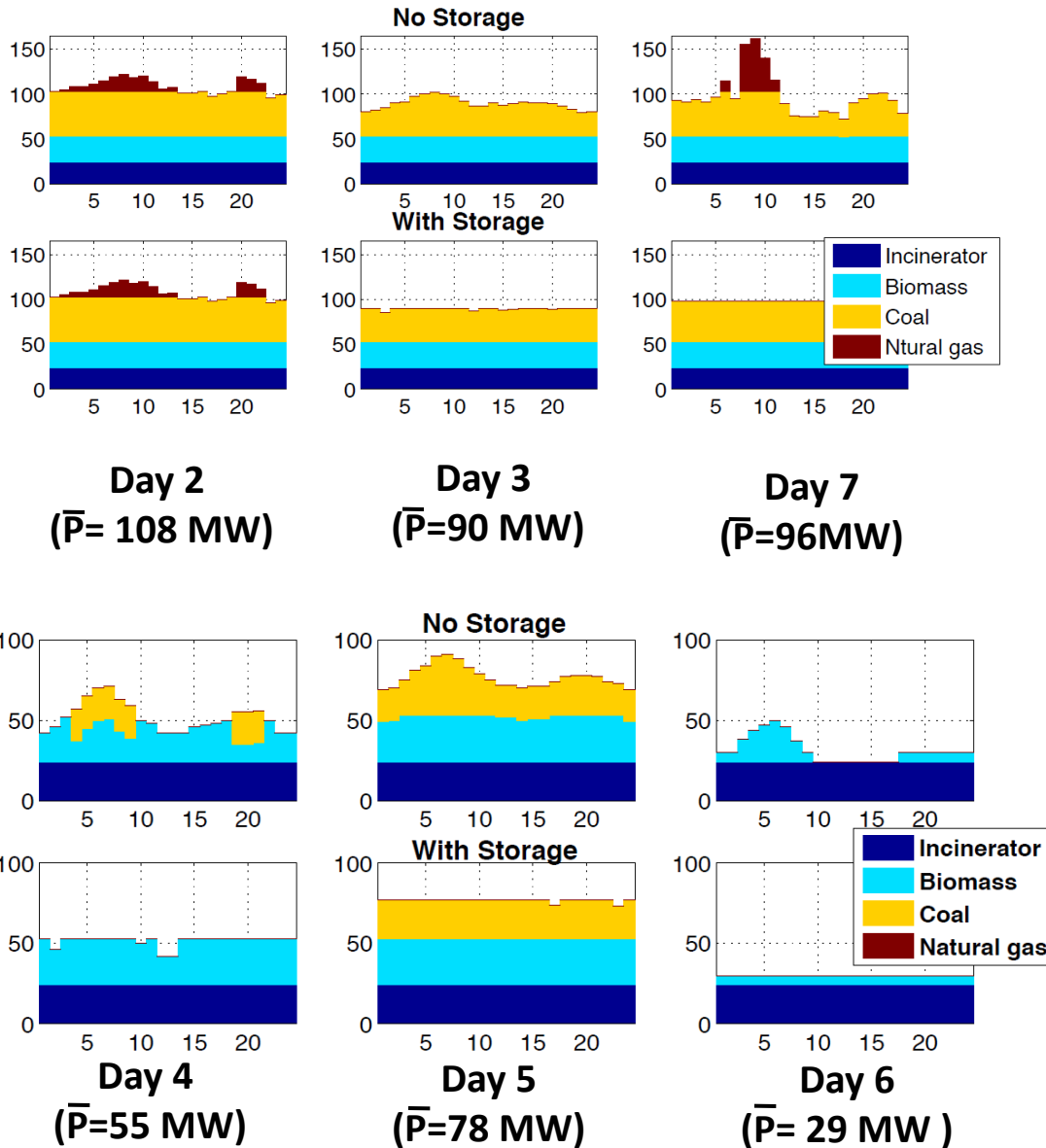
- Incinerator integrated with steam turbine [ 26 MW<sub>th</sub>]
- Biomass boiler [ 23 MW<sub>th</sub>]
- Coal boiler [ 30 MW<sub>th</sub>]
- Backup natural gas boiler



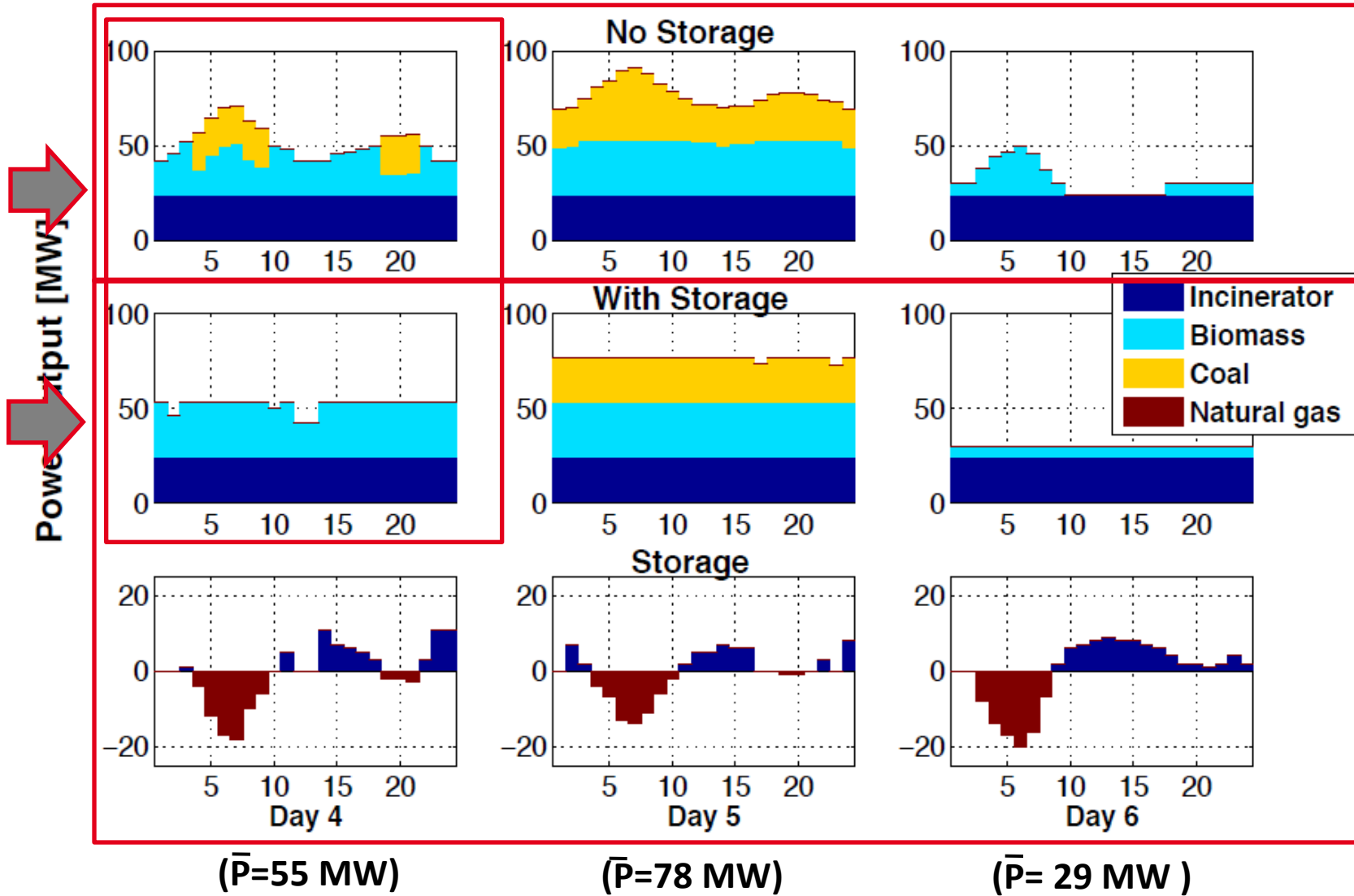


# Illustrative example: Daily units operation

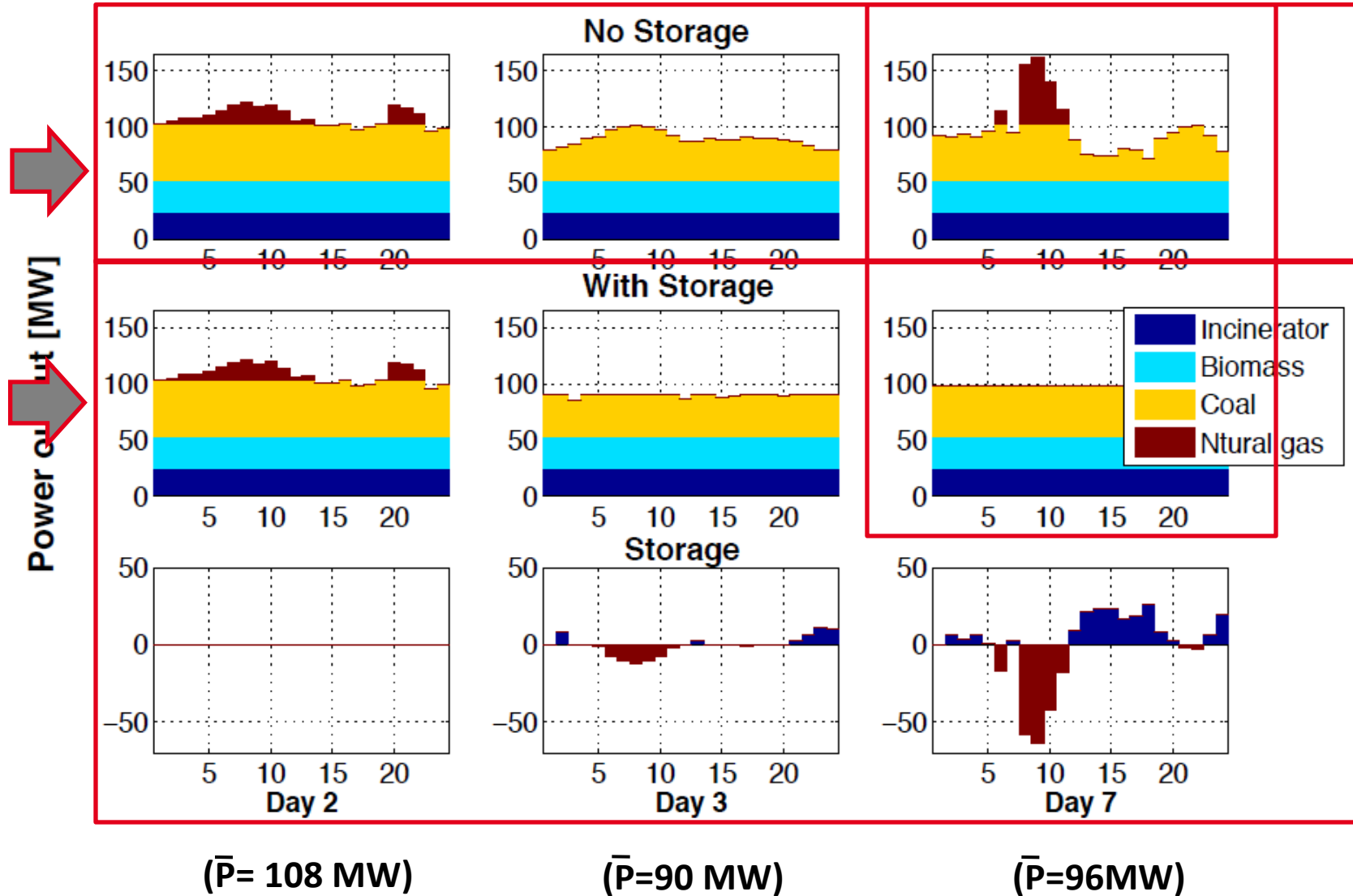
Outlet power [MW]



# Illustrative example: Daily units operation



# Illustrative example: Daily units operation



# Illustrative example: Results

- **7.5 %** reduction in the total investment cost  
Natural gas boiler 69 MW → 18 MW
- **19%** reduction in the annual operating cost
- **14 %** reduction in the annual coal consumption
- **15.8 %** CO2 emission reduction



# Illustrative example: Daily storage operation

---

- Optimizing the operation and investment strategy
  - Operating strategy
  - Storage tank volume
  - Storage tank management strategy



# Conclusion

---



- Motivation
  - Integrating the daily thermal storage in the **Multi-Period & Multi objective** optimization model of district energy system:
    - Design
    - Operation
    - Environomic objectives
- The illustrative example shows the influence of a thermal storage on sizing and operating condition of the system
  - Decrease the install capacity
  - Remove the fluctuation of operating condition



---

# Thank you for your attention

Industrial Energy Systems Laboratory, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)  
Veolia Environnement Recherche et Innovation (VERI)