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Shazam for the power sector

Application of Fourier transformation to unravel energy portfolio intermittency in the European power system









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Setting the scene

Fingerprints of volatility







Fourier transformation allows reverse engineering of volatile mixed time series data into reoccurring patters of volatility



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Methodology

Fourier in context of energy systems analysis







Analysis is applied to a high RES powered European system



Data: RE time series: PECD | RE capacities: TYNDP draft scenario report 2022 GA 2050 | demand: MAF 2030 calibrated to EU 1.5TECH

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Results





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Frequency spectra of RE infeed reveal distinct patters of volatility

Normalised frequency spectra for RE in five countries

Average deviations from mean capacity factor in % for 8760 hours over 35 climate years







Seasonality of RE mix matches well with demand on European average

Decomposed oscillations for RE infeed and demand in Europe 2050 – Seasonal & Weekly

Average hourly values in solid lines, climate year range in shades







PV drives daily volatility the most, RE surplus generation also substantial in winter time







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Relative share of PV versus wind shapes flexibility needs

Upward flexibility requirements in GW in Europe 2050

Selected regions, solid line is mean, shade is climate variability







Sensitivity analysis on adequate Belgian power mix







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Adding more PV to a power system is not a "wild card"



Data: RE time series: PECD | RE capacities: TYNDP draft scenario report 2022 GA 2050 and own assumptions





Weekly offshore wind volatility is not correlated across Europe



Correlation of BE offshore wind infeed with Europe in %

Statistics on fluctuations that occur simultaneously from one day up to a week







Summary

- Fourier Transformation is applied to RE time series data across Europe to disentangle drivers of volatility in a high RES powered power system
- Portfolios of RE mixes across countries reveal different fingerprints of volatility
 - Seasonality in the mix is best mitigated in a mix of 1/3 power generation from PV, onshore and offshore wind respectively
 - Daily volatility is driven by PV and best mitigated by short term flexibility means such as batteries
 - Medium term volatility is driven by wind onshore and offshore and efficiently mitigated by geographical spreading
- Future offshore grid development can leverage de-correlated infeed patterns
- An open-access python tool is made available to explore findings beyond this presentation

