Comparing Power-System and User-Oriented Battery Electric Vehicle Charging Representation and Its Implications on Energy System Modeling

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Abstract: Battery electric vehicles (BEV) provide an opportunity to balance supply and demand in future power systems with high shares of fluctuating renewable energy. Compared to other storage systems such as pumped-storage hydroelectricity, electric vehicle energy demand is highly dependent on charging and connection choices of vehicle users. We present a model framework of a utility-based stock and flow model, a utility-based microsimulation of charging decisions, and an energy system model including respective interfaces to assess how the representation of battery electric vehicle charging affects energy system optimization results. We then apply the framework to a scenario study for controlled charging of nine million electric vehicles in Germany in 2030. Assuming a respective fleet power demand of 27 TWh, we analyze the difference between power-system-based and vehicle user-based charging decisions in two respective scenarios. Our results show that taking into account vehicle users’ charging and connection decisions significantly decreases the load shifting potential of controlled charging. The analysis of marginal values of equations and variables of the optimization problem yields valuable insights on the importance of specific constraints and optimization variables. Assumptions on fleet battery availability and a detailed representation of fast charging are found to have a strong impact on wind curtailment, renewable energy feed-in, and required gas power plant flexibility. A representation of fleet connection to the grid in high temporal detail is less important. Peak load can be reduced by 5% and 3% in both scenarios, respectively. Shifted load is robust across sensitivity analyses while other model results such as curtailment are more sensitive to factors such as underlying data years. Analyzing the importance of increased BEV fleet battery availability for power systems with different weather and electricity demand characteristics should be further scrutinized.

Keywords: electric vehicles; sector coupling; energy system optimization; renewable energy integration; REMix; charging behavior; marginal values

1. Introduction

1.1. Motivation

The Paris Agreement calls for a nearly carbon-neutral global energy and transport system by 2050 [1]. Furthermore, the European Commission announced that Europe will be climate-neutral by
2050 [2]. In Germany, the transformation of the power system is well underway; however, the transition to a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission free transport system is far behind [3]. In order to achieve transport GHG emission goals, electric vehicles (EVs) are seen as a potential solution when combined with renewable energy sources (RES) [4]. This in turn requires a new integration of the energy and transport sectors.

Integrating the energy and transport sectors requires an alignment of power demand from EVs and power supply from fluctuating RES. In order to address this challenge, increasing flexibility of the power system is necessary to ensure demand is always met [5]. Measures to increase power system flexibility include an expansion of battery storage and sector coupling [6]. Sector coupling allows for the shifting of energy from different sectors such as heating or transport. Designing sector coupling requires a detailed analysis of the interactions and dependencies between the sectors.

Sector coupling in general and EVs in particular will create an additional load on the power system. At the same time, EVs often contain oversized batteries and offer an option for added flexibility in the energy system, assuming they can flexibly charge in contrast to uncontrolled charging [7] (p. 4). Daily demand patterns depend on individual transport demand, charging behavior, infrastructure availability, and differences between working day and weekend travel. Consequently, charging behavior will influence EVs’ role in the electricity system. This serves as the motivation for developing an integrated user behavior focused modeling approach for the interactions between future EV fleets and the energy system.

1.2. Literature Review

In this section, we present a selection of literature related to the potential of integrating EVs in power systems within energy system optimization modeling and more transport related research assessing driving factors for demand patterns, charging dynamics, users’ acceptance for controlled charging, and connection choices of EV users.

Integrating endogenous vehicle market development modeling into energy system modeling has been demonstrated by [8] for the case of the COCHIN-TIMES model for different drive-train technologies.

Transportation research has carried out various research to better understand EV charging related phenomena. The acceptance of utility controlled charging and its respective factors have been assessed for 1470 plug-in EV buyers in Canada [9]. The authors find general acceptance for utility controlled charging among one-half to two-thirds of the respondents interested in buying a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle. Turning more to transportation demand-oriented driving factors for EV charging, Sun et al. show that state-of-charge (SOC), interval in days before the next trip, and vehicle-kilometers to be traveled on the next day are the main predictors for deciding to charge or not [10]. Fischer et al. complement this finding by also mentioning location and comfortable range as determinants of recharge decisions and charging characteristics [7].

Another strand of studies examines the build-up of EV charging infrastructure. Gnann et al. utilized empirical charging data in a queuing model to estimate future fast charging infrastructure requirements [11]. Chakraborty et al. examine the influence of electricity costs on charging behavior and thereby on infrastructure needs [12]. Tian et al. similarly use analysis of charging behavior to optimize the location of charging stations in China [13]. As a final example, Hardman et al. conduct a review of charging preferences in relation to the build-up charging infrastructure [14]. Thus the main focus of charging behavior models and investigations has been on determining charging infrastructure to support the uptake of EVs.

Steck et al. simulate charging behavior of EV users to determine potential emission reductions from shifting charging events [15]. Taking into account user preferences and user specific alternatives, their results show that charging demand can be shifted away from demand peaks due to the price sensitivity of EV users. Schuller shows the impact of controlled charging on RES utilization for EVs. He describes a concentrating effect of charging events when decisions are taken based on power prices [16].
Energy system modeling has been incorporating partly flexible electricity demand by EVs in their models for some time. Brown et al. (2018) describe an over proportionally high increase in system cost with uncontrollable electricity demand from the transport sector. Controlling charging times of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) is described to provide a PV-integrating effect, reducing total system cost by 10% when 25% of the fleet is flexible for a study of the European power system with 95% GHG reduction targets for 2030 [4].

Michaelis et al. assess the role of controlled charging for the German power system in 2030 utilizing the models ALADIN and eLoad taking into account commercial and public charging stations. They reproduce the finding of Schuller et al. (2013) that price-based charging leads to a load concentration around noon in summer and a night and a day peak in winter. They find a 1.8 TWh reduction of RES curtailment and up to 2.2 GW reduction of peak load by controlled charging [17]. However, charging power is limited to a conservative value of 3.7 kW per vehicle. Furthermore, the power system setup is not described so results are hard to compare and the authors call for an assessment of different flexibility options.

Luca de Tena & Pregger assume an additional power demand of 49 TWh/a for EVs in Germany for 2050. In their analysis, system losses are reduced by 1.4 TWh/a in 2030 in the base scenario. Residual peak demand can be reduced by 1.2 GW in 2030 [18].

Gerhardt et al. assume German transport sector’s power demand in 2050 amounting to approximately 120 TWh including light duty vehicles. They assume the vehicle fleet is comprised of 20% BEVs and 40% plug-in hybrid and range extended EVs. RES curtailment is reduced from 12.2 TWh to 10.7 TWh [19].

Taljegaard et al. assess implications of future BEV fleets on power system investments up to 2050 and power system operation in 2030 for a geographical scope of Scandinavia and Germany. They find that the increase in needed power plant capacities for fulfilling increased electricity demand for the BEV fleet is lower than the increase in annual power demand through increased utilization rates of wind power (2–4%), thermal power plants, and grid interconnectors (increase of 10%), at the same time implying decreased cycling of thermal power plants. Furthermore, a potential EV fleet may decrease necessary peak power capacity by 13–15 GW by smoothing the net load curve reducing peak net load by 7 GW from 120 to 113 GW. Investments for solar power are drastically reduced by 22–42% due to PV feed-in competing with vehicle-to-grid feed-in in midday peak hours. Taking into account only the optimization of charging hours without feeding back to the grid, electricity costs from operation lies in the same order of electricity costs without optimization with slightly lower costs for an assumed 60% BEV fleet and slightly higher costs for a 100% BEV fleet [20].

Both strands of research, energy system analysis and transport research, provide valuable insights. However, the research fields of energy system analysis and transport research have been carried out in a fairly distinct manner, formulating the interest of each field’s research to the other. So far, this gap has not been bridged to integrate BEV users’ preferences in energy system analytical frameworks. At the same time, energy system model studies are hard to compare since model experiments cannot be reproduced, model scopes vary among the studies and energy system model sensitivities to different aspects of BEV charging has not been assessed in-depth.

Robinius et al. formalize the concept of sector coupling [6] and the challenge of describing different parts of both power and transport systems in adequate detail. They suggest an open model environment where sector and technology specific calculations are carried out in sub-models and interfaced with each other [21]. This approach is adopted in our paper. We use the two terms ‘energy system’ and ‘power system’—differentiating power plants, stationary storage, grids, and power demand (power system) from power demand in the transportation sector (which is part of the energy system).

This paper contributes to the existing literature by providing a first step towards bridging the gap between detailed transport modeling tools and energy system optimization models. By comparing power-system-based and vehicle user-based charging decisions, we identify the most crucial aspects that deserve high analytical detail when representing EV fleets as a potential load shifting option in power systems with high shares of fluctuating renewable energies.
1.3. Scope of This Work

Despite the fact that the flexibility related to the controlled charging of EVs is regarded as potentially highly relevant to the integration of fluctuating RES power generation, the role of EV user behavior, as well as a detailed modeling of charging infrastructure, has received relatively little attention in energy system modeling literature. We address this gap in the literature by specifically analyzing the limitations of charging flexibility related to individual decisions on when, where, and to what degree vehicles are charged. Furthermore, we evaluate the impact of representing these decisions on energy system optimization models results. By combining four models focused on vehicle buyers’ decision making, BEV charging behavior, and the energy system, we answer the following research question:

How are energy system optimization modeling results affected by representing BEV charging based on a power-system oriented perspective vs. a more user-oriented perspective?

We assess this question with regard to annual energy system results such as annual curtailment, added capacities etc. (Section 3.2.1), cost-optimal charging of EV fleets (Section 3.2.2), show explanatory insights (Section 3.2.3), and test respective sensitivities (Section 3.3).

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 gives a brief introduction into representing vehicle buyers’ and EV users’ decisions, as well as energy system modeling, how we interface the approaches, and the scope and boundary assumptions of our scenario study. In Section 3, we describe similarities and differences in the results of the two modeling approaches, and then explain and discuss them. In Section 4, we summarize our work and identify potential areas for future research.

2. Methodology

In the following, we describe the methodological framework for model coupling and give an overview on each model. This includes the model structure, implicit modeling assumptions, and the parametrization of the models. The four models are VECT0R21, VencoPy, CURRENT, and REMix. The models stem from both energy system analysis and transport research. We apply a stock-and-flow model, VECT0R21, to model technology diffusion as well as regional differentiation of vehicle fleets serving as harmonized boundary conditions for further analyses. Individual mobility demand, EV charging, and respective power system flexibility are represented by two tools. VencoPy is a data preparation tool that was developed for the application in the REMix analysis framework [22] and calculates maximum flexibility of a hypothetical fleet based on real German travel data. In a more detailed manner, CURRENT simulates charging decisions of each EV user depending on locational preferences, infrastructure availability, and the users’ knowledge of their future trips. Both tools are based on the German travel survey from 2008 (MiD) [23]. The energy system is represented by the linear optimization model (REMix) comprising competing power system flexibility technologies including sector coupling [24]. The BEV fleet charging models and the energy system model are interfaced via five BEV fleet flexibility profiles. What they represent is described in the subsection describing BEV charging modeling while their form and function for the energy system is described in the subsection thereafter.

A baseline scenario (S0) acts as a reference and models the power system without additional demand and flexibility from an EV fleet. We then describe the model coupling framework and its application for two scenarios. In the first scenario (S1), the EV load shifting potential is calculated by VencoPy with the assumption that the fleet batteries are highly controllable by the power system. In the second scenario (S2), CURRENT simulates EV load-shifting potential with increased detail on user charging behavior, infrastructure, and variability of mobility between weekdays. Boundary conditions on technology, EV fleet, and transportation demand have been harmonized in both scenarios for comparability. Figure 1 provides an overview of the four models, their application in the scenario study, the presentation of results, and the respective sections of this paper. The flexibility profiles (Section 2.2) are the only difference between S1 and S2. Both sets of flexibility profiles are model inputs for REMix and model outputs of VencoPy (S1) and CURRENT (S2). Due to their pivotal function for further analysis, they are described in Section 3.1.
2.1. Model Descriptions

2.1.1. Vehicle Fleet Model (VECTOR21)

The model VECTOR21 (Vehicle Technologies Scenario Model) is a hybrid of an agent based and discrete choice market penetration model that assesses the competition between different powertrain alternatives. It simulates future passenger vehicles’ market shares of powertrain technologies under effects of changing political and technological conditions in an annual resolution. The basis of the simulation is the customer purchase decision. Therefore, different customer profiles (agents) choose a powertrain with the highest perceived value in a predefined framework such as regional policies or energy prices. To calculate each utility, five unique customer preferences are been identified: purchase price, operating cost, range, CO₂-emissions, and maximum vehicle acceleration [25]. To take into account current market phenomena we implement boundaries for range anxiety, as well as the lack of charging infrastructure availability.

The model also incorporates various drivetrain technologies in three size segments (i.e., small, medium, large). In particular, the model differs between pure conventional internal combustion engines and minor electrification internal combustion engines both for diesel and gasoline. In addition, there are alternatives such as plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, battery electric vehicle, fuel cell electric vehicle, and combustion engine with compressed natural gas. Furthermore, VECTOR21 covers aspects like manufacturer strategies to comply with CO₂ regulations and the regulation’s influence on the vehicle stock. Throughout the simulated year, customer purchase decisions affect the prices for new components (i.e., lithium-ion batteries, fuel cell systems) with a learning curve model.

In the second step, all new passenger vehicles are transferred into the stock model. The future evolution of a vehicle fleet is modeled based on segment specific survival rates [26]. The survival rate depends on the vehicle age and vehicle miles thus far traveled. As a result, the model offers analysis on a ZIP-code level to see stock alteration.

For our study, the penetration of battery EVs calculated for the year 2030 by VECTOR21 is aggregated to the two model regions considered in REMix (i.e., Northern Germany and Southern Germany).
2.1.2. Electric Vehicle Charging Models (VencoPy, CURRENT)

User-optimal BEV charging strategies are not necessarily system-optimal strategies [7]. Therefore, the consequence and differences of both approaches have to be considered in order to assess challenges and opportunities of high BEV-penetration scenarios and to draw conclusions on the detail of representing BEV charging for energy system optimization models.

In our paper, we compare two methods to simulate charging behavior of an electric fleet and then evaluate the influence of these different approaches on the energy system. First, we apply VencoPy (Vehicle Energy Consumption in Python), which is the original data preparation tool in the energy model REMix to simulate EVs and its load shifting potential in high temporal detail. VencoPy accounts for the electric demand of an electric fleet, but the charging decision and the average battery level of the fleet is determined by the power system. Second, we implement an existing transport model, CURRENT, which simulates charging behavior from a utility based approach, within the framework of REMix. This replaces the existing approach with VencoPy and accounts for detailed user behavior. We next present both models in detail. VencoPy does not directly calculate BEV charging but rather a best-case yielding high flexibility and a worst case yielding low flexibility for the energy system. Thus, when we talk about BEV charging in VencoPy’s results, we mean charging in its two respective cases.

VencoPy calculates BEV flexibility profiles constraining fleet battery charging and discharging for controlled charging in hourly temporal resolution. Only home charging is assumed with vehicle segment-dependent power (small, medium, large, see Table 4). This approach is backed by empirical findings, showing a 72% of charging energy is from home charging [27]. Long-distance trips requiring fast charging events are excluded from the analysis. VencoPy calculates the hourly information of electric mileage, if a BEV is connected to the grid, and the maximum and minimum battery SOC possible to realize all travel demand. Demand data is taken from the trip dataset of the German travel survey for German household transportation demand (MiD) [23]. The maximum SOC level profile represents a case where BEVs always charge when possible with maximum SOC at beginning of the day, while the minimum battery level describes the opposite case of minimum SOC and only needed electricity for the next trips is charged before departure. A similar approach is described in e.g. [19].

Each vehicle profile is summed unweighted and normalized to a fleet profile for one day. The share of the BEV fleet that can shift its charging demand to conduct controlled charging is exogenously defined in REMix and used as a scaling factor for the normalized profiles (see next section).

CURRENT stands for “charging infrastructure for electric vehicles analysis tool” [29]. It is a microscopic charging demand tool for BEVs providing time and location-specific information about charging [15]. CURRENT gives information on the hourly electricity demand of an electric fleet over the course of a week and shows flexibility potential for controlled charging. The overview of the model is presented in Figure 2.
Two assumptions form the basis for CURRENT’s calculations. First, BEV users do not significantly change their travel pattern. Second, users predominantly charge where they already park. These assumptions are consistent with other research [30,31] and the anticipated user behavior for a mass-market of EVs. For our case study, we use the 2008 German household travel survey (MiD) [23]. Next, we outline the workings of the model.

First, CURRENT takes the household travel dataset and creates 24-hour vehicle diaries with information for all trips and parking events for one day. Specific information for each vehicle is added to model it as an electric vehicle (e.g., electric range, charging power capacity). We then define the availability of charging infrastructure at different locations (e.g., home, work, shopping), available charging power, and a minimum parking time for a charging event. Using these assumptions and the vehicle diaries, every vehicle must run through the charging algorithm as a BEV. In the charging algorithm, every vehicle must complete every activity of the day (i.e., trip and parking event). Based on charging preferences and depending on charging opportunities during a day, a BEV is charged while parking or during a trip interruption at a fast charging station. At a fast charging event, a vehicle is charged up to 80% of its battery capacity with an average charging power of 37.5 kW. This results in an aggregated charging demand per hour of the week and per location for an entire fleet of EVs.

A charging event occurs stochastically based on a multinomial logit approach. The model enables users to account for charging preferences in their decision algorithm. A utility-based approach gives the probability of charging at each activity of the day and also for interrupting the trip for a fast charging event. The utility function of each activity considers the preference of charging per location and price per kWh. The charging decision is made by a Monte Carlo simulation according to the charging probability at the charging point. In addition, the probability of finding available charging infrastructure differs for each location (i.e., home, work, shopping, leisure, other). For each household with a vehicle and a private parking spot at home, we assign a private charging infrastructure with a maximum charging power of 7.4 kW. When interrupting a trip for a fast charging event, the probability to find a fast charging station is 100 percent. Fast chargers have a maximum charging power of 50 kW. At all other locations normal charging infrastructure with a maximum charging power of 11.1 kW is assumed. Due to a lack of empirical information, we make assumptions on the probability of finding available charging infrastructure based on [32] and assigned the information for each parking event by a Monte-Carlo simulation.
As a vehicle user does not have to charge every day—the average German daily mileage of 40 kilometers is far below an electric range of a BEV—a non-choice opportunity of not charging the vehicle on the same day is included in the choice set of the charging decision in CURRENT. The non-choice opportunity gives a probability that a vehicle is not charged every day. By simulating every vehicle diary by several sequential runs, CURRENT can simulate charging events which do not occur daily. In the end, the utility based approach leads to charging events enabled by preferences for location, price, alternatives, and current SOC. These charging events do not occur every day and at every opportunity. The calibration of CURRENT aims to get the same average SOC for the fleet at the beginning and end of the week. Further detailed information on CURRENT, all assumptions, and the detailed algorithm are summarized in [15,29].

By using the 2008 German household travel survey (MiD) VencoPy and CURRENT use the same input data. The number of BEVs by segment and region differentiated for Northern Germany and Southern Germany are harmonized for both methods and based on the results of the aforementioned stock-and-flow model VECTOR21. Also, technological assumptions of BEVs such as battery capacity, consumption, and electric range are harmonized (see Section 2.2.1).

Both models differ in their degree of complexity regarding infrastructure, weekday differentiation, and users’ preferences. In comparison to VencoPy, CURRENT calculations lead to fewer charging events per day, but with the same amount of electric demand in total, and a lower number of vehicles connected to the grid because of BEV users charging and thus connecting their BEVs sufficiency-oriented in CURRENT. Also, fast charging during the trip generates a significant load due to the high charging power of each charging event and leads to high charging power during the day than in VencoPy yielding charging peaks during night hours. Fast charging events in CURRENT also give the energy system no potential to shift electricity demand, as charging time equals parking time. Since VencoPy only allows for charging at home nighttime charging is higher than during the day at other activities (i.e., work, during shopping). Allowing fast charging and charging apart from home in CURRENT, leads to more charging events during the day.

Deviating from VencoPy’s interpretation of uncontrolled charging as connecting their EV after returning home, CURRENT’s uncontrolled charging is a specific sub-part of the travel activities that require the BEV owner to recharge in order to reach sufficient SOC including fast-charging as an option of last resort. In CURRENT, minimum and maximum SOC levels of single profiles are determined via evaluating the charging time of an activity in comparison to the respective parking and thus connection time. Only if the latter is higher than necessary charging, minimum and maximum SOC profiles differ where maximum SOC represents direct charging after connection and minimum SOC the latest possible charging beginning. Thus, the power system has only little control over charging procedures under the condition of a user-oriented connection decision. This reduces the potential to shift charging demand as charging time is equal or almost equal to parking time during daytime and fast charging.

On a modeling level, a very relevant difference of the two models is their means of enforcing boundary conditions at the beginning and end of a day (VencoPy) and week (CURRENT). VencoPy assumes maximum and minimum SOC at beginning and end of a modelled day for SOC max and min respectively with a SOC security margin of 3% and secures meeting boundary conditions on each single profile basis, thus each profile and thus fleet has the same beginning and end SOC min and max. CURRENT on the other side calculates user specific SOCs for each profile under the assumption that the average BEV fleet SOC at beginning and end of the week is equal. Table 1 summarizes the main structural differences between BEV charging representation using VencoPy or CURRENT.
2.1.3. Energy System Optimization Model (REMix)

The main aim of REMix (renewable electricity mix) is to model future energy systems in high temporal and spatial resolution to adequately represent the influence of high shares of variable renewable energy sources. The model is composed of two sub models: the EnDat model for processing of input data and OptiMo to optimize the system design and operation. Figure 3 shows the main elements of the REMix model. One of the main pillars of REMix-EnDat is an inventory of renewable energy source data. It contains potentials of hourly renewable energy generation and maximum installable capacities. The model and its database are described in detail in [33]. The optimization model REMix-OptiMo relies on a linear optimization approach, which is formulated in the General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS). The energy system is described in a system of linear equations and inequalities. The model optimizes both the hourly operation of the system during one year and the investment in additional capacities if needed to balance the energy demand. The objective function to be minimized contains the variable operational costs of all considered assets, including fuel as well as optional CO₂ emission costs, and the annuities and fixed operational costs of all endogenously added capacities.

![Figure 3. Overview of the REMix model for energy system optimization. Source: [34].](image)

REMix-OptiMo is a multi-node model, which implies that power generation, demand, and transmission are aggregated to predefined regional model nodes. The most important boundary condition is the power balance, which assures that power demand and supply are equal in each time step and model region. Power generation, storage, and grid technologies are represented by their cost, efficiency, availability, and maximum installable capacity. A detailed description of the general modeling approach and fundamental equations can be found in [35]. Building upon the basic model setup introduced there, REMix-OptiMo has been continuously enhanced in its scope to not only include the power sector, but also the most relevant links to the heating and transport sectors as described in [36].
The representation of EVs was originally developed within [22] and has been developed further for this work. Due to REMix’ modular structure, the sets, variables, parameters, and equations of the module representing BEVs can easily be activated or deactivated for the optimization model of minimizing the overall system cost.

In order to represent load shifting, REMix-OptiMo requires five hourly input profiles, defining optimization constraints for charging of BEV fleet batteries. These time series input profiles contain information as follows:
1. The power demand in the case of uncontrolled charging;
2. The electric power demand required to fulfill mobility demand;
3. A maximum fleet battery state-of-charge level (SOC Max);
4. A minimum fleet battery state-of-charge level (SOC Min);
5. The maximum rated power of the vehicle fleet connected to the grid;

More details are given in [22]. Profiles can either be given in normalized or absolute figures in units of GW and GWh. Scaling of normalized profiles to optimization input constraints is carried out in REMix’s pre-calculation phase with additional assumptions on battery capacity, vehicle numbers, charging efficiencies, and BEV segment-specific rated connection power. Non-linear effects such as the degradation of batteries depending on cycling frequency cannot be accounted for within REMix.

In [22], Venco provided normalized profiles with battery capacity and vehicle consumption given as input parameters. These profiles were then scaled by regional technology specific vehicle numbers, battery sizes, and consumption rates in the data preparation stage of REMix. For S1, this approach is adopted with harmonized technical and fleet-size assumptions. For S2 on the other hand, scaling from single-profile level to fleet level as well as infrastructure assumptions are endogenous parts of CURRENT calculations, thus the scaling step is skipped.

2.2. Linking the Models and Description of the Scenario Study

2.2.1. Linking the Models

Coupling the above described models requires a harmonization of dimensionality of the models, input assumptions, and at least a partial harmonization of the models’ scopes. This requires parallel runs of the lower resolution model across the higher resolution model dimension, aggregating results of the higher resolution model or selecting a relevant subset of the high-resolution dimension. Additionally, data processing steps—such as normalization, scaling, and reformatting—are needed. Harmonizing the model scope is the most challenging harmonization technique since often model endogenous specifics have to be adjusted. Table 2 shows the model dimensionality and harmonization approaches for respective model dimensions.

| Dimension             | VECTOR21                                      | REMix                              | CURRENT                  | Harmonization approach                                      |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Spatial horizon       | Germany                                       | Germany plus neighboring countries | Germany                  | -                                                           |
| Spatial resolution    | ZIP code areas                                | Germany in 2 nodes, others in 1 each | 1 node                   | Aggregation of ZIP code areas to 2 nodes in Germany         |
| Temporal horizon      | 2010–2050                                     | 1 year in 2030                     | 7 days in 2030           | Filtering for 2030, cloning CURRENT output for REMix       |
| Temporal resolution   | Annual                                        | Hourly                             | Activity/hourly          | No model harmonization between VECTOR21 and the other models, CURRENT-adaption to hourly output |
| Technological resolution | 3 drivetrain technologies, 3 vehicle sizes   | Transport: 6 technologies, Power: X technologies | 1 technology             | Filtering BEV, parallel CURRENT runs for each REMix-technology |
| Infrastructure resolution | Input to agent’s preference                  | 1 plug power value per transport technology | Probability distributions of plug power availability depending on places | No harmonization with VECTOR21, REMix-adaptation to be able to model CURRENT output |
VECTOR21 model output is relevant for both REMix and CURRENT calculations, as it is taken as a quantitative input for estimating vehicle fleets of BEVs in Germany in 2030. Dimensionality mismatches are treated by either filtering or aggregation.

Cloning of CURRENT output is conducted to transfer the time horizon of a week to a full year for REMix, thereby neglecting effects of seasonal mobility behavior changes and holidays [37]. Filtering and separate runs are carried out for model regions. REMix models Germany and its neighboring countries, while surrounding countries are not relevant for modeling BEV charging decisions within Germany.

In the first scenario, S1, the BEV flexibility profiles are calculated based on the method described in [22] assuming that 94% of battery capacities of the BEV fleet are available to the power system as a battery storage. Thus, in extreme cases, each vehicle’s battery is available as battery storage with hourly varying capacity, described by profiles 3 and 4 and charge power described by profile 5 (see Section 2.1.3). In scenario S2, BEV flexibility profiles are calculated based on a harmonized CURRENT run, taking into account agent’s preferences with regard to charging location and the SOC.

2.2.2. Description of the Scenario Study

This section summarizes the main structural and quantitative model assumptions for our case study of a hypothetical German power system in 2030 including its neighboring countries. We start by describing the model scope and continue to present the main assumptions on the EV fleet and its power demand as well as techno-economic assumptions. The REMix parametrization builds upon assumptions and data given in [38].

We apply a model setup with two model regions for Germany (North and South) and its neighboring countries (i.e., Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and Switzerland). The division into Northern Germany and Southern Germany is done to analyze the impact of the different renewable power plant portfolios. Southern Germany is dominated by wind power with approximately twice as high wind than PV installations while this relationship is inversed in Southern Germany with PV fluctuating in diurnal day and night patterns. Total fluctuating RES capacities before optimization are more than three times higher in Northern Germany compared to Southern Germany. The division of Germany is based on 21 sub-control zones of the four German transmission system operators (TSOs) [39]. Since our focus lies on differences in representation of a hypothetical EV fleet and their respective impacts on power system modeling, the German neighboring countries are taken as constant boundary conditions, even though investments in power plants and storage are allowed. Grid transmission capacities are based on [40,41]. Power system dispatch is cost-optimized for the scenario year 2030 in hourly resolution and with perfect foresight over the overall time horizon. Fluctuating RES time series are taken on the basis of calculations in [24,33,42].

We implement five conventional power plant technologies, six renewable energy technologies, as well as three storage and one transmission grid technologies as shown in Table 3. Technology expansion is optimized in a brownfield approach based on existing capacities with the option to invest in a technology expansion to meet the power demand. Power demand from other sectors is considered only with regard to passenger BEVs.

The annual electricity demand data are taken from the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E). Values are disaggregated by German ENTSO-E profiles to yield hourly time series of electricity demand in order to account for the difference between weekend and weekday electric demand which is taken into account for BEV flexibility profiles in S2 as well.

In the following, we describe the quantitative basis for modeling the power system flexibility of a future EV fleet. For scenarios S0 and S1, the annual power demand from the BEV fleet has to be explicitly given and scaled in the pre-processing phases of REMix, while for scenario S2 the total EV fleet power demand is an implicit result of CURRENT. Thus, S0 and S1 input assumptions have to be harmonized in order to assure comparability across all scenario calculations. Results of the harmonization are shown in the fourth column in Table 5.
Table 3. Technology resolution of power plant, grid, storage, and EV technologies in REMix. Rows are not related to each other.

| Power plant technologies | Grid technologies | Storage technologies | Electric vehicle technologies |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fluctuating renewable energies | Photovoltaic, wind onshore, wind offshore, run-of-the-river hydro | Stationary lithium-ion batteries | Small BEVs |
| Controllable renewable energies | Reservoir hydro dam power | HVDC | Medium BEVs |
| Thermal power plants | Hard coal steam turbine, lignite steam turbine, natural gas combined cycle gas turbine, natural gas gas turbine | Hydrogen underground caverns | Large BEVs |

Technical assumptions that are constant for all model regions for scenario S1 are shown in Table 4. Battery capacity assumptions are compared to historic values, ranges given in the IEA EV Outlook 2018, and to literature assumptions on prospective values in Figure A2.

Table 4. Technology assumptions for EVs for scenario S1 and respective degree of harmonization with scenario S2 input assumptions. Battery capacity values are assumed based on a comparison of historic battery sizes and literature projections from [18, 20, 29, 43, 44].

| Name                             | Unit   | Value | Degree of Harmonization |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------|
| Battery capacity (gross)         | BEV-S  | kWh   | 40                       | harmonized |
|                                  | BEV-M  | kWh   | 70                       | harmonized |
|                                  | BEV-L  | kWh   | 100                      | harmonized |
| Charging capacity                | BEV-S  | kW    | 3.7                      | Not harmonized |
|                                  | BEV-M  | kW    | 7.4                      | Not harmonized |
|                                  | BEV-L  | kW    | 22                       | Not harmonized |
| Electric demand                  | BEV-S  | kWh/km| 0.15                     | harmonized  |
|                                  | BEV-M  | kWh/km| 0.20                     | harmonized  |
|                                  | BEV-L  | kWh/km| 0.25                     | harmonized  |
| Share of controlled charging     | %      | 67    | Not harmonized           |
| Efficiency of vehicle charging (plug to battery) | % | 95 | harmonized |
| Variable operation and maintenance costs of controlled charging | €/MWh | 5 | harmonized |

We assume that two-thirds of the vehicles can be charged by controlled charging following an upper-bound assumption from [9], limiting the flexible charging demand to approximately 18 TWh/a. A REMix-endogenous model decision regarding the investment enabling controlled BEV charging is not considered as we are foremost interested in intra-annual implications of user behavior and increased detail of representing infrastructure. A harmonization of BEV fleet shifting capabilities will be presented in a sensitivity analysis.

Table 5 presents VECTOR21 results for the BEV vehicle fleet aggregated to REMix model nodes for 2030. For matching geographical boundaries data from [45] was used. With a cumulated BEV fleet of 8.8 million vehicles in 2030, we assume a stronger BEV adoption than the one given in the scenarios for the European 10-year network development plan of 2.6–5.4 million EVs for Germany [46].

In scenario S1, we assume two-thirds of the BEV fleet as flexible fleet battery that can be mostly charged controlled top-down by the power system needs within the given SOC min and SOC max profiles as described in Section 2.3. In S2, we describe the charging patterns and behavior-related decisions of representative agents and thus the BEV fleet only provides a load shifting potential at times where the parking duration exceeds the charging duration.
Table 5. EV fleet spatially dependent parameters as aggregated results from VECTOR21 scenario

| Model node       | Vehicle size | Number of vehicles in units of 1000 vehicles | Annual electric demand in TWh/a |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Northern Germany | BEV-S        | 414                                         | 1.31                            |
|                  | BEV-M        | 3365                                        | 10.68                           |
|                  | BEV-L        | 215                                         | 0.68                            |
| Southern Germany | BEV-S        | 492                                         | 1.52                            |
|                  | BEV-M        | 4078                                        | 12.61                           |
|                  | BEV-L        | 213                                         | 0.66                            |
| Sum              | -            | 8777                                        | 27.47                           |

Charging connection power of size specific BEV fleets and the share of controllable charging procedures of the fleets are not harmonized between scenarios S1 and S2. Since CURRENT simulates both infrastructure availability and user preference to connect a respective vehicle to the grid at a given location, plug power, and the controlled charging share are both determined endogenously and resulting hourly week-profiles are cloned to the annual timescale and formatted taking into account weekday specificities for adjustment of BEV profiles to other sectors’ electricity demand profiles.

2.3. Analytical Methods

We analyze the effects of differing BEV charging representation on annual energy system modeling results, on detailed sub-annual BEV charging characteristics and shed light on the changing role of the BEV fleet throughout the year by analyzing the marginal values of model equations and variables. Since energy system optimization modeling results are sensitive to GHG ambitions, the underlying weather and demand data and techno-economic assumptions, we then calculate the same model setup with three additional degrees of GHG ambitions, six additional weather and electric demand years between 2006 and 2012, and two other sets of capital expenditures for fluctuating RES technologies. With this, we test the robustness of shifted energy and annual energy system results. In this section, we describe our methodological approach to analyze REMix model results.

REMix model results are partly transformed in its post-calculation phase, yielding .gdx files. These are again aggregated using a Python script, writing pivot-table data to excel files. For analysis, multiple result files are then combined in an analysis file giving tabular data with filtering, aggregation and different visualization methods. These files are used for the analysis of REMix results on an annual basis. Peak load and information about imports and exports are extracted individually from the .gdx files.

A separate evaluation framework is set up for the analysis of sub-annual BEV fleet charging characteristics. The calculation of shifted load is carried out in this framework since the shifted load is calculated slightly different in S1 and S2. In S1, the shifted power is calculated as shown in powerShiftVP

\[
\text{shifted power (S1)} = \sum_{t=1}^{8760} R(t) - \Psi_{CC}(t)
\]

with \(R(t)\) being the cumulative charged energy of the vehicle fleet in each hour in the case of uncontrolled charging and \(\Psi_{CC}(t)\) being the real electric vehicle fleet charging energy. In S2, shifted power is calculated taking into account two of the BEV flexibility profiles, uncontrolled charging, and the maximum battery SOC

\[
\text{shifted power (S2)} = \sum_{t=1}^{8760} \left[ (C_{unc}(t) + L_{max}(t) - L_{max}(t-1)) - \Psi_{CC}(t) \right]
\]

with:
- \(C_{unc}\): Uncontrolled charging (battery inflow) of BEV fleet;
- \(\Psi_{CC}/\Psi_{V2G}\): Controlled charging of BEV fleet battery in the case of only controlled charging (CC) or with the option to feed electricity back to the grid (V2G);
**Φ_{v2c}:** Electricity fed-back to the grid from the fleet battery;

**P_{hore}:** Exogenously given electricity demand for driving in each hour;

**Λ(t):** Battery level in hour t.

In linear optimization, results comprise not only the value of variables at the optimal solution, but also the value of marginal changes of variables and constraints. These values are referred to as marginal values of variables and marginal values of equations (equalities and inequalities). Generally, the marginal value of an inequality is only unequal 0 if the formulated constraint is bounded, for example if the SOC is at its maximum level. Equalities are transformed to two inequalities, thus equalities are always bounded.

Marginal values of variables and equations are shortly described using the battery level balance equation in REMix where Latin letters describe exogenous parameters and Greek letters optimization variables. For clarity, the parameters' and variables' dependency on the model region and the vehicle segment are ignored. The equation **batLevBal** is:

\[ c_{unc}(t) + \Psi_{CC}(t) + \Psi_{V2C}(t) - \Phi_{V2C}(t) - P_{drive}(t) = \Lambda(t) - \Lambda(t - 1) \quad \text{batLevBal} \]

The battery level constraints limiting the SOC of the BEV fleet are given by the equations **maxBatLev** and **minBatLev**:

\[ \Lambda(t) \leq L_{max}(t) \quad \text{maxBatLev} \]

\[ \Lambda(t) \geq L_{min}(t) \quad \text{minBatLev} \]

Finally, controlled charging must not be higher than the currently connected charging power of the EV fleet given by the equation **maxCC**:

\[ \frac{\Psi_{CC}(t)}{\eta_{GeV}} \leq P_{charge avail}(t) \quad \text{maxCC} \]

with **η_{GeV}:** Charging efficiency between the grid and the vehicle battery.

Each equation has a marginal value in the solution for each hour corresponding to the increase of total system cost if the sum of all non-variable terms is increased by 1 unit in the respective unit of the equation. For the **maxBatLev** equation this implies increasing **L_{max}(t)** by 1 GWh and for **batLevBal** increasing **P_{drive}(t) - c_{unc}(t)** by 1 GW, respectively.

Since there are only two variables for each hour, namely the battery level and the amount of controlled charging, the marginal values of the equations are tightly coupled to each other. When the EV fleet battery SOC is not bounded, the marginal of the battery level balance equation has the value of the last time that it was constrained minus the marginal value of either the **maxBatLev** or the **minBatLev** equation if it was at upper or lower bound respectively. Since **maxBatLev** marginal are always negative and **minBatLev** marginal always negative, the marginal value of the **batLevBal** equation increases by the negative value of the marginal of **maxBatLev** and continues on this level until the SOC reaches another constraint.

### 3. Results and Discussion

We now present the scenario study results as per Figure 1 and described in the previous sections. We start with an introductory quantitative and qualitative description of the differences between scenarios S1 and S2 (Section 3.1). Specifically, we examine the amplitudes and temporal distributions of the five EV flexibility profiles introduced and described in Sections 2.1.2. and 2.1.3. We exemplify the profiles and identify three major and three minor differences in the two approaches of representing EV charging dynamics and constraints. Building on this, we describe the results of the scenario study on an annual scale compared to benchmark scenarios (Section 3.2.1) and differences in intra-annual EV charging characteristics between S1 and S2 (Section 3.2.2). We then present an analysis of the marginal values of the main equations and variables of the BEV module in REMix, providing deeper explanatory insights into the specific importance of different model details. Section
3.3 assesses the sensitivity of the insights with regard to GHG reduction ambitions, historic weather and load years, and assumed techno-economic parameters of power-plant technologies.

3.1. Comparison of BEV Flexibility Profiles (Intermediary Results)

As a basis for comparison, scenario S0 calculates benchmarking values without additional power demand and load-shifting flexibility from BEVs. The consecutive scenarios S1 and S2 assume a penetration of 8.8 million BEVs in Germany, implying an additional annual power demand of around 29 TWh including 5% electricity losses during charging procedures increasing the electricity demand given in Table 5.

Table 6 provides an overview on quantitative implications of the two different methods of modeling BEV charging characteristics aggregated for Northern Germany and Southern Germany, as well as for all vehicle sizes. The hourly load shifting potential range describes the difference between the minimum and maximum BEV fleet SOCs in a specific hour. It is significantly reduced in S2. Explicitly modeling a non-choice and a fast-charging option leads to a reduction of the fleet connection share of the BEV fleet from a range between 33–59 GW in S1 to 3–8 GW in S2. The share of uncontrolled charging is an exogenous assumption in scenario S1, while it is a result of CURRENT’s microsimulation in scenario S2.

The following Table 7 systematizes the above described structural differences in BEV charging modeling.

Table 6. Summary of fleet power demand flexibility characteristics in the three scenarios considered (S0, S1, and S2). Cumulative power demand includes losses during charging. SOC range gives the minimum and maximum difference between SOC max and SOC min. Fleet connection share includes uncontrollably charging BEVs. For SOC and fleet connection ranges, VencoPy daily minimum and maximum hours, for CURRENT weekly minimum and maximum hours are used.

| EV charging model (Scenario) | Cumulative power demand from BEV fleet in TWh/a | SOC range available to power system load-shifting in GWh | Fleet connection share range in GW | Share of uncontrolled charging in % |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - (S0)                      | 0                                             | 0                                                   | 0                                 | -                                 |
| VencoPy (S1)                | 29                                            | 272–419                                             | 33–59                             | 33%                               |
| CURRENT (S2)                | 29                                            | 5–10                                                | 3–8                               | 70%                               |

The following Table 7 systematizes the above described structural differences in BEV charging modeling.

Table 7. Structural differences in BEV charging representation between VencoPy and CURRENT. Shown are structural differences in the models VencoPy and CURRENT.

| Number | Representation detail                                                                 | Quantitative effect on BEV flexibility profiles                           |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Weekly boundary conditions for BEV fleet SOC                                            | Reducing available aggregated BEV fleet battery capacity for load shifting from minimum 272 GWh to maximum 10 GWh |
| 2      | Taking into account users’ sufficiency-oriented charge connection                        | Reducing grid connection of BEVs from 33 GW min to 8 GW max                |
| 3      | Including fast-charging                                                                  | Reduction of controllable charging by 16.2 TWh/a                           |
| 4      | Possibility to charge at other locations than home                                       | Shifts charging availability from night to daytimes                        |
| 5      | Accounting for non-availability of private home charging infrastructure                 | Reduction of total charging availability and shifting charging to daytime   |
| 6      | Accounting for weekday-specific travel patterns                                         | Effects on all profiles (see text)                                        |

Including fast charging in CURRENT in comparison to VencoPy leads to an increase in uncontrolled charging since charging time is always as long as parking time for fast charging. The additional degrees of detail that were added to the simulation in CURRENT are other charging
locations such as work and shopping, more realistic probabilities of availability of home charging infrastructure, as well as a differentiation between weekday-specific travel patterns. The expansion of time horizon from one model day in VencoPy to a week in CURRENT affects all profiles. Uncontrolled charging and grid connection are shifted to later times in the day during weekends. BEV owners drive more during the day and less during the morning and evening, which shifts electric demand to daytime hours. Load shifting potential increases during daytime hours on the weekend due to more BEVs being parked at home and available for load-shifting. EV flexibility profiles are depicted in Figure 4 for S1 and S2.

![Figure 4](image)

**Figure 4.** EV profiles for the case of a power system-oriented charging approach (VencoPy, green lines) and a user-behavior-oriented charging approach (CURRENT, turquoise lines) for the case of medium-sized BEV in Northern Germany. Arrows and numbers illustrate the effects of structural differences given in Table 7. CURRENT profiles are given for a working day (TU: Tuesday, light turquoise) and a weekend day (SA: Saturday, darker turquoise). (A) SOC min and max profiles. Dashed lines give maximum SOC and solid lines minimum SOC. (B) Uncontrolled charging profiles. Legend relates to plots B–D. (C) Fleet connection share profiles. (D) Profiles for the electricity demand for driving.

Constraining BEV fleet SOC profiles are shown in Figure 4A. There is a significant reduction in BEV fleet battery capacity available to the power system for load shifting from 270–420 GWh in S1 to 5–10 GWh in S2. This reduction is mainly explained by the first major effect of different boundary condition enforcement and aggregation procedures in VencoPy and CURRENT (see Section 2.1.2. and Table 7).

In Figure 4B, the influence of effects 3, 4, and 5 can be seen. Uncontrolled charging is shifted to daytime hours through fast charging and other charging locations and a probability that no charging option is available at home. Additionally, the influence of working day and weekend transportation demand is shown in the CURRENT profiles resulting in a 2:00 p.m. peak on Saturdays while...
uncontrolled charging reaches a slightly-decreasing plateau between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on working days.

The difference in charge connection profiles shown in Figure 4C originates from two causes. VencoPy assumes, that only home charging is allowed, but that BEV users connect their vehicles as soon as they arrive home with the rated connection capacities given in Table 4. This leads to a high fleet charge availability during night hours and an approximately 50% fleet charge availability from ~10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. when users start returning home. In CURRENT on the other hand, BEV users only connect their vehicle when it is required by their respective trip purposes, thus adjusting their grid connection to their respective mobility needs. This explains the overall lower fleet connection share. The reversed course of the graphs in Figure 4C is due to a more detailed non-vehicle-size-dependent infrastructure modeling in CURRENT. Fast charging is taken into account which amounts to 59% of the total charged electricity and thus significantly shifts vehicle connection from nighttime to daytime hours. Additionally, probability distributions are assumed for the charge connection availability at the places home, work, shopping, and other activities.

Electric driving demand profiles are found to be similar as shown in Figure 4D. Slight differences evolve from CURRENT’s differentiation in weekdays as well as the consideration of weights of representativeness that are given in the dataset both of which are neglected in VencoPy aggregation procedures from individual profiles to BEV fleet aggregates.

The analyses of the two methods (power system-oriented approach versus user-behavior-oriented approach) have some limitations. First, the results rely on conventional travel patterns. We assume that electric vehicle users do not alter their travel patterns. This assumption is supported by the literature, but we are also limited by the lack of data on detailed travel information of electric vehicle users [30,31]. Second, electricity demand from BEVs is temperature and seasonally dependent, which was not considered in this model experiments but suggested, e.g., in [4]. Third, assumptions for user-preferences are based on a specific study from Australia [47]. Fourth, capacity limits of medium and low voltage distribution grids connections are not taken into account. Fifth, CURRENT makes very conservative assumptions on grid connections, which are only taken from the driver’s perspective and when charging is needed.

Future work should focus on isolating each effect given in Table 7, thus giving the chance of decisively quantifying the implications of integrating each aspect into BEV charging modeling. Additionally, empirically measured charging behavior of BEV users could be taken into account to gain insights on real BEV users’ behavior. Additional inter-seasonal effects such as electricity demand by vehicle heating and cooling [4,7] as well as travel behavior due to holidays [37] should be evaluated on their respective importance to load shifting potential of future BEV fleets.

3.2. Implications of Structural Differences in Representing BEV Fleets

In this section, we give three key implications of the different model approaches on annual energy system model results, intra-annual BEV charging, and on intra-annual importance of the respective equations. Each main insight is given at the beginning of each section and then described and discussed in the following for easier readability. All results are available as .gdx files in the data appendix.

3.2.1. Energy System Implications on an Annual Basis

In the following, we describe the results of three scenarios (S0, S1, and S2) and thus the implications of the different modeling approaches on energy system modeling results. We find that fast charging and the reduced BEV fleet battery capacities have the strongest influence on energy system results, significantly reducing BEV fleet flexibility provision from 24 TWh in S1 to 8 TWh in S2 shifted load. Other flexibility options such as curtailment (+31% curtailed energy) and gas power plants (+5% in capacity additions) compensate for lower BEV fleet load shifting potential.

Table 8 shows the results of the scenarios S0, S1, and S2 including two intermediary benchmarking scenarios S1a and S2a, where additional BEV electricity demand occurs without any
Table 8. Overview on scenario definitions and main annual results of the four main scenarios under analysis. Total system costs are given for the complete system boundary while all other values are shown under numbers. Difference in total system costs between S2a and S2 is more than an order below numbers. Source: Own calculations.

| Scenario | Annual electricity demand from BEV fleet in TWh | Controllable share in % | Total system costs in bn. € | Shifted load by German BEV fleets in TWh | Peak load in GW | Installed capacities of power plant park in GW | Installed fluctuating RES capacities in GW | Fluctuating RES capacity additions in GW | Gas power plant capacity additions in GW | Annual power generation in TWh | Annual fluctuating RES power generation in TWh | VRE share in total power generation in % | Annual VRE curtailment in TWh | Imports to Germany in TWh | Exports from northern G to southern G in TWh |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| S0       | 0                                             | 68.4                     | 0                           | 83.9                                   | 214            | 153                                          | 46.2                                      | 31.3                                     | 501                                      | 279                               | 55.7                                          | 2.9                                         | 45.9                                        | 64.7                              |
| S1a      | 27                                            | 71.7                     | 0                           | 91.1                                   | 224            | 156                                          | 49.0                                      | 39.0                                     | 525                                      | 284                               | 54.1                                          | 3.6                                         | 50.3                                        | 62.9                              |
| S1       | 27                                            | 71.7                     | 66                          | 72.2                                   | 222            | 156                                          | 51.5                                      | 35.5                                     | 526                                      | 291                               | 55.3                                          | 2.6                                         | 51.3                                        | 65.1                              |
| S2a      | 27                                            | 71.7                     | 0                           | 93.5                                   | 222            | 156                                          | 48.8                                      | 37.9                                     | 524                                      | 284                               | 54.2                                          | 3.5                                         | 51.6                                        | 62.4                              |
| S2       | 27                                            | 71.7                     | 30                          | 8.4                                    | 222            | 156                                          | 48.8                                      | 37.2                                     | 524                                      | 284                               | 54.2                                          | 3.4                                         | 51.6                                        | 62.2                              |

Total system costs increase by approximately 5% induced by an additional electricity demand from German BEV fleets. This increase can be reduced to 4% by controllable BEV charging with high control through the power system. Total system cost values for uncontrolled and user-behavior constrained charging are similar. In S1, additional load is compensated by both gas turbine and onshore wind power capacity expansions that can be well balanced by the fleet shifting potential. A higher peak demand occurs when introducing BEV electricity demand. Complete inflexibility increases peak demand by 7.2 GW or 9.6 GW in S1a and S2a respectively. Assuming BEV fleets’ controlled charging decreases the peak load by 4.8 GW (S1) and 5.9 GW (S2).

Due to lower flexibility especially on an 3–4-day timescale, in S2 5% lower onshore wind capacity expansions (~2.7 GW) have to be compensated by increased gas turbine expansions of 5% (+1.7 GW) reducing the RES share in power generation slightly from 55% to 54%. Gas turbine additions are around twice as high in northern Germany. Reducing the BEV fleets’ flexibility further increases gas power plant needs by 0.7 GW in Southern Germany and around 1 GW in Northern Germany. At the same time, curtailment is increased from 2.6 TWh in S1 to 3.4 TWh in S2 indicating that despite 2 TWh lower wind power feed-in, the decreased charging controllability leads to a significant amount of hours in the year where wind oversupply cannot be stored in the BEV fleet.

Import levels are comparable in S1 and S2 and lie around 12% above the benchmark values. Main importers of electricity to Germany are France, Sweden, Switzerland, and Norway. Germany exports electricity to Poland and the Czech Republic. Inner-German electricity transport is high at above 60 TWh from Northern Germany to Southern Germany in all scenarios. It is higher in S1 due to lower power generation from conventional power plants in the south (~4 TWh) but also in the north (~2 TWh).

Especially the decreased BEV fleet battery capacity available for load shifting leads to a significant reduction in quantity and quality of flexibility provision of BEV charging. Load in S2 can only be shifted diurnally within a day thus diminishing the BEV fleet’s potential to balance wind power feed-in. This effect of future BEV fleets as a complementary PV balancing option has already been described by [4,48]. Coal power plant generation is slightly increased in Northern Germany by
1.3% and 1% for coal and lignite plants respectively and reduced by 2% for coal power plants in Southern Germany.

Curtailment reductions found in [17] are lower even in S1 when high flexibility is assumed. Peak load reductions are higher which can be explained by the assumptions of very high BEV penetration rates, considering their 40 kWh BEV battery as the smallest size with the majority being at 70 kWh. The different assumptions in charging power of our 3.7, 7.4, and 22 and fast-charging is supposedly not very relevant because of the unimportance of the charge connection constraint (see next section).

Future work should take into account BEV fleets in neighboring countries, empirical indications of BEV users’ adoption of controlled charging and respective economic incentives as well as feedback of power generation costs to the users to assess to what degree BEV users could be incentivized to system-friendly charging by price signals.

3.2.2. Energy System Implications on Charging Dynamics

Charging dynamics vary significantly between S1 and S2 as well as Northern Germany and Southern Germany as shown in the following. Reduced BEV fleet battery capacity has the strongest influence on charging profiles resulting in a significantly reduced variability. Including fast charging, the non-choice option and other daytime charging options lead to higher daytime charging peaks. Accounting for differences in weekday travel patterns lead to increased weekend daytime hour charging in Northern Germany (+40%) and Southern Germany (+12%) and to a sharper peak at 1 p.m.

For the power system, three main implications result from BEV usage. First, the mileage of an electric fleet imposes an increased electric demand in each hour for the energy system. Secondly, BEV charging events and the respective fleet grid connection power available are subject to temporal dynamics. Thirdly, controlled charging may occur when the time that a vehicle is connected to the grid is longer than the time required for a complete charging process and thus, the beginning of a charging event can be shifted to a later point in time.

As CURRENT differentiates each day of a week, the BEV electricity demand differs in particular from working days and weekend. For example on Sunday only 54% of the vehicles are used, while during the week the share of vehicles with a minimum distance driven is 70%. Not only the number of vehicles used is different for each day of a week, also travel pattern and time of travelling, which results in different time and location a charging event occurs.

Figure 5 shows the daily charging patterns for all working days of the year differentiated in charging in Southern Germany and Northern Germany for a cost-optimal charging with high controllability by the power system (S1) on the left and lower flexibility (S2) on the right-hand side.
Even though uncontrolled charging input profiles are very different, a few similarities can be observed. Generally, electricity demand is shifted from morning and evening hours to midday and nighttime hours. In S2, the reduced BEV fleet battery capacity leads to a sharply reduced variability of controlled charging power from up to 14 GW (beyond y-axis cutout of S1) to around 4.5 GW.

Between 6:00 and 9:00 a.m. the median of controlled charging is at its minimum in both scenarios. For even hours, this is true for the timeframe between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. for the high fleet flexibility since the evening load peak occurs in the same time interval (compare Figure 4). For scenario S2 the median is not as sharp at the bottom, which is due to varying weekday-dependent travel patterns but generally up to 1 GW below uncontrolled charging. From midnight on, charging occurs to a higher degree than in the uncontrolled charging case although uncontrolled charging reaches its minimum around 4:00 a.m.

The controlled charging median is much higher in S2 (1.1 GW in Northern Germany and 1.4 GW in Southern Germany) compared to 0.2 GW in S1 due to many working day nights in S1 where charging is not needed at all, even though electricity load is low. A strong alignment of controlled charging to PV feed-in can be observed in Southern Germany versus Northern Germany for S1. For S2, this effect is also observable, yet not as strong and complimented by generally broader charging behavior during daytime in Southern Germany compared to Northern Germany.

The results indicate the increasing importance of controlled charging at midday in sunny regions with high shares of solar energy. More charging at nighttime is seen in the north, especially if higher fleet capacities are available. This valley-filling effect has already been observed by other authors, e.g., [49]. In S1 where home charging is available to all BEV users and the whole fleet capacity is available to the power system, the variability of nighttime controlled charging procedures is higher with the median of controlled charging being at no charging power. This shows that controlled charging balances wind feed-in when available in S1, while in S2 nighttime hours are utilized in more than 90% of working days. Both aspects motivate stronger home charging infrastructure expansion in Northern Germany compared to Southern Germany.
Weekend and working day charging differences are described comparing Figure 5 and the same depiction for weekends, Figure A8. In S1, there is a general trend to more charging on the weekends across all hours increasingly making use of lower electricity demand from other sectors and showing increased load shifting times compared to S2. This effect is much stronger in Southern Germany where total BEV charging load is higher than uncontrolled charging in the vast majority of the hours except for the time between 4:00 and 11:00 p.m. where load peaks occur in the general electricity demand. In northern Germany, the charging median follows the uncontrolled charging profile except for between 4:00 and 11:00 p.m. with two frequently occurring charging peaks between 1:00 and 7:00 a.m. as well as between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. On weekend days in S2, nighttime hour charging peaks are diminished and in Southern Germany shifted to 9:00 to 11:00 p.m. where mean charging amounts to 1.4 GW. In northern Germany, no nighttime charging peaks occur on the weekends. Weekend daytime hour charging peak is increased from 2.5 GW at working days to 3.5 GW in Southern Germany and 2.8 GW in Northern Germany on weekends and occur more sharply at 1:00 p.m. in both model regions.

Of the driving factors, mentioned in Table 7, setting a boundary condition on the fleet level rather than the single profile level has the strongest effect on cost-optimal charging characteristics, diminishing wind power balancing potential and limiting EV fleets’ load shifting to diurnal load-shifting. An additional fast charging option in S2 reduces the evening peak in uncontrolled charging shifting it to midday. Differentiating between weekend and working days does have a strong impact on BEV fleet charging as described above.

Results from [17] showing a season-dependent concentration of BEV fleet charging is reproduced by our analysis as can be seen in Appendix, Figures A5–7. However, Southern Germany shows a daytime peak in winter as well in S1. When BEV user preferences are taken into account, this concentration effect cannot be shown, thus providing insights to what degree the “technical potential” estimate in [17] will supposedly be limited by BEV users’ decisions.

After having presented the most important differences between S1 and S2 in a descriptive way we will now explain the quantitative reasons for differences and draw more abstract conclusions for representing transportation demand in power system models.

To what degree charging connections limit load shifting in both scenarios will be discussed in the next section. The higher degree of modeling charging infrastructure availability depending on different types of locations has a strong effect on the profiles shown in Section 3.1. Its respective impact on energy system models can be estimated by the marginal value of the charge connection constraint equation.

### 3.2.3. Linear Optimization Marginality Analysis

Based on the description of marginal values of equations and variables in Section 2.3, we compare the marginal values of the relevant REMix equations that model a partly flexible power demand of BEV charging in the following section. From a comparison of absolute marginal values and temporal dynamics within the power plant dispatch, we provide explanatory insights on the importance of different components of BEV modeling and their respective implications for energy system optimization modeling. Here, we present the key insights of the marginality analysis; the detailed analysis is laid out in the respective section of Appendix B.

In scenario S2, an increase of electricity demand for driving generally leads to a more direct pass through of power generation costs. BEV fleet batteries expand the availability of otherwise curtailed fluctuating RES to hours (and in scenario S1 to days) before and after low residual load situations occur. This can be observed in scenario S1, in which a load increase or charging decrease does not always lead to power system cost increases due to possible shifting of fluctuating RES feed-in as shown in the period between mid-November and mid-December in Figure A10. However, in these periods, controlled charging has a pivotal role for expanding periods of low residual load.

The number of hours in which the marginal value of an equation is above a fixed threshold makes it possible to compare the importance of that constraint for total power system cost in each scenario S1 and S2 as well as between the two model regions. Table 9 gives the numbers of hours for
which the marginal value of the grid connection constraint maxCC of the medium-sized BEV fleet is above the thresholds given in the first column. Two cutoff values are compared in order to reflect the presence of peak marginal values. Their value corresponds to the increase of the total system costs that originate from an increase in electricity for driving or a decrease of uncontrolled charging (or a mixture of both) by 1 GW. For S2 compared to S1, the constraint gets more important in northern and less important in Southern Germany. Increases in Northern Germany occur due to higher peaks in S2 and narrower SOC bands, necessitating steeper charging at times of low residual load at decreased BEV fleet charge connection compared to S1. Decreasing number of hours in S2 in Southern Germany occur due to increased utilization of other flexibility options such as gas power plants and imports. The effect of extending low cost electricity availability can be observed in the third row of Table 9 showing the number of hours in which the marginal value of the battery balance equation batLevBal is low. While this effect does not occur in Southern Germany due to low wind availability, in Northern Germany the constraint is below the threshold in twice as many hours in S1 compared to S2.

Table 9. Number of hours in which the marginal value of the constraints maxCC (BEV fleet charging connection) and batLevBal (battery balance) is higher or lower than the cutoff-values given in the second column. All numbers are only given for the fleet of medium-sized BEVs.

| Constraint   | Cutoff marginal value | S1 GER-N | S1 GER-S | S2 GER-N | S2 GER-S |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| maxCC        | >1000€                | 6        | 88       | 90       | 63       |
| batLevBal    | >1€                   | 34       | 227      | 185      | 126      |

3.3. Sensitivity Analysis

In order to test the robustness of the results, a sensitivity analysis has been carried out varying the GHG reduction ambitions, the weather years for load and fluctuating RES feed-in profiles as well as capital expenditure assumptions of wind and PV power plant technologies. Weather and electricity demand data for the years 2006–2012 are based on the analysis in [38]. Specific capital expenditure is varied based on two independent sets of values given by [50] and [51]. Tables A8, A10 and A11 present annual energy system model results of all carried out sensitivity scenario calculations. In scenarios b–d, the German greenhouse gas emission limits have been reduced to 80, 50 and 0 Mt per year. In scenarios e–j, weather and electric demand data years have been varied taking into account data from 2006 to 2012. Scenarios k and l correspond to two deviating specific fluctuating RES technology investment costs sets. Scenario m reduces the load shifting potential in S1 to 30% of flexible charging as in S2.

Sensitivity run results are shown as difference between a model result e.g., system cost between S1x–S2x in a sensitivity scenario x e.g. b compared to the baseline difference S1–S2. Equation sens shows the definition.

$$sensitivity_{Result} = \frac{Result_{S1x} - Result_{S2x}}{Result_{S1} - Result_{S2}}$$

Figure 6 shows the resulting sensitivities. The four input sensitivity types are clustered via color. Differences in BEV fleet load shifting between S1 and S2 are robust to all tested sensitivities except for scenario run S1m, in which a reduction of the share of controlled charging from 66% to 30% is exogenously given. However, despite the reduction of the charge control by more than half, the load shifting only drops by 20%. Differences of total system cost are quite robust. The peak load reduction achieved by shifted BEV charging is notably affected by almost all input parameters variations, which can be explained by the changes in the fluctuating RES capacities and power generation as well as load profiles heavily affecting the balancing requirements. Differences in power plant installations are increased in all sensitivity scenarios except for k where lower costs lead to increased PV installations in Southern Germany reducing the importance of the BEV fleets for wind power balancing. Differences in RES capacity additions are generally increased except for scenario d, the 0 t
CO₂ emission limit. Here, more needed expensive flexibility options such as battery storage reduces the importance of the BEV fleet as a balancing option. Differences in gas power plant capacity additions are inverted for sensitivity scenario m, where the share of uncontrolled charging is harmonized. Thus, in S1m more gas power plant capacities are needed than in S2, which can be explained partly by better alignment of charging to PV feed-in in S2 due to available daytime and fast charging infrastructure. Annual fluctuating RES power production is increased by 7 TWh in the baseline. In most sensitivity scenarios, this is not the case and S2 model runs have between 7 and 12 TWh more RES production due to significantly increased inner-German transmission, imports from neighboring countries, and lower curtailments. The specific capital expenditure sensitivity runs drastically change the fluctuating RES portfolio. This explains that while fluctuating RES shares are 1.1% higher in S1 in the baseline runs, they are around 3% lower in sensitivity scenario k utilizing global cost assumptions. This is due to 10 GW more PV and 5 GW more onshore wind power plant capacities in S2k compared to S1k also implying increased battery capacities in S2k.

Annual curtailment of fluctuating RES is strongly sensitive to all tested input variations. Especially for varying specific capital expenditures this is due to changes in the power plant portfolio that can be observed between the baseline scenarios S1 and S2 on the one hand and the sensitivity runs k and l, introducing increased shares of PV. These effects also imply changes in transmitted power from Northern Germany to Southern Germany. While these are highly sensitive to weather and demand year variations, imports to Southern Germany are less but still sensitive to GHG limitations with a maximum of 44% increase in the 0 t CO₂ scenario.

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**Figure 6.** Sensitivity of the difference of REMix model results (categories) between S1 and S2 on German GHG ambitions (b–d, blue), different underlying weather and electric demand data (e–j, green), CAPEX assumptions (k–l, yellow) and controlled charging in S1 (m, red). Values between 0 and 100% indicate decrease in difference, values above 100% indicate increased difference, and values below 0 indicate an inversion.
These analyses show the robustness of BEV fleet as a load-shifting option in different model setups. Also, fluctuating RES and gas power plant capacity additions, fluctuating RES shares and annual curtailment of solar and wind power feed-in have the same effect direction as in the baseline scenarios S1 and S2. At the same time, in some sensitivity scenario calculations, energy system model results are inverted within similar sensitivity scenario calculations motivating further analyses of underlying intra-annual profile data as well as specific capital expenditure assumptions.

4. Conclusion and Outlook

Strengthening the bridge between energy systems modeling and transport research, we compare the load shifting potential of power-system controlled battery electric vehicle charging modeling with a user-preference oriented charging modeling approach. In a scenario study for Germany, implications of both approaches on cost-optimizing power system investment and dispatch modeling are presented.

The first major finding of the paper is that taking a user centric view and more charging options especially fast charging into account significantly reduces the load shifting potential of electric vehicles compared to a simplified approach to charging flexibility. Main drivers affecting electric vehicle load shifting characteristics are including fast charging, the consideration of efficiency-oriented charging decisions, and boundary constraint enforcements for electric vehicle fleet state of charge to be equal at beginning and end of the transport model time horizon. Minor factors are weekday-specific travel patterns. By considering these drivers, the hourly electric vehicle fleet battery capacity availability to the power system is reduced by roughly 98%. Similarly, the hourly fleet connection power is reduced by about 90% which does not have a significant effect on electric vehicles’ load shifting capabilities for the power system.

The second major finding of the paper is that load shifting patterns relate to the prevailing weather patterns of fluctuating renewable energy grid feed-in. More shifting towards night hours occurs in northern Germany, where wind energy is the dominating fluctuating renewable energy source. In more solar-energy dominated Southern Germany, there is a shift of electric vehicle fleet charging towards midday when solar energy is strongest. This effect is driven by flexibility provision in a power-system oriented charging modeling while it is mainly driven by inflexible fast-charging in a more user-oriented charging modeling.

The third major finding of the paper is that wind integration capabilities are significantly affected by the way of modeling electric vehicle fleet charging. While wind power curtailments are reduced by 10% in a power-system controlled electric vehicle fleet, curtailment is increased by 17% in the case of user-oriented charging modeling compared to the benchmark scenario that assumes neither additional load nor load shifting from electric vehicles. In the first case, larger electric vehicle fleet batteries are capable of shifting wind feed-in across multiple days, day-by-day releasing its energy to the electricity demand for driving. On the other hand, electric vehicle load-shifting reduces peak load in both scenarios significantly compared to benchmark runs since multi-day flexibility is less important for decreasing peak load. Compared to inflexible additional electric vehicle electricity demand, necessary gas power plant additions can be reduced by up to 9%.

Load shifting reductions from a power system centered to a user-preferences oriented electric vehicle fleet charging are highly robust across all sensitivity runs. Also, the way a changed electric vehicle charging modeling affects the required power plant capacities, fluctuating RES share in total power generation and curtailments is shown to be quite robust. However, charging modeling induced changes in annual RES power generation and electricity transmission to and within Germany is found to be sensitive to changes in emission limits, underlying weather years and specific capital expenditure assumptions.

One limitation of the paper is that we use today’s driving patterns for the analysis, not taking into account that travel behavior may change in the future to reduce the overall traffic of individual cars. Similarly, analyzing the effect of ridesharing or gig economies may become increasingly important, depending on the geographical scope of the analysis. We use simplified assumptions on the charging behavior, as users always connect their car when they reach their home in one case or
only when they need charging in the other. The use of periodic boundary conditions for the state of charge limits long-term balancing of wind feed-in in the case of user-oriented charging modeling.

Further research needs to systematically isolate factors, reducing the load shifting potential in both types of charging modeling. Identifying driving factors to increase the willingness of electric vehicle users to participate in power system-friendly charging is deemed important to support the integration of renewable energy sources even if there is no urgent need to charge the car. Also, vehicle user preference modeling needs to be expanded beyond a week to allow for longer load balancing of wind feed-in, which tends to have longer weather dependent cycles.

The model coupling setup provides promising analytical opportunities. Electric vehicle user preferences for power prices are already implemented but not yet time-dependent, thus charging sensitivity to power system price feedbacks are yet to be addressed. Also, the potential of feeding electricity back to the grid has been shown to significantly impact energy modeling results. Since the energy system model used does not assess electricity distribution below a voltage level of 220 kV, a plausibility of model results on a single vehicle profile basis by disaggregation would further validate the modeling approach. Furthermore, assessing dynamic vehicle adoption pathways through a stronger incorporation of VECTOR21 into the proposed model framework seems promising for assessing the interrelations of charger availability at a household level and its respective implications for electric vehicle adoptions.

The combination of a central planner energy system model with a user-oriented electric vehicle charging model shows a significantly reduced potential for load shifting of electric vehicles for the energy system. However, impacts depend on specific temporal dynamics and are specific to the model parametrization. Marginal values of equations and variables are rarely explicitly analyzed in energy system analysis studies but offer the opportunity to assess temporal dependencies especially in relevant RES fluctuation dynamics in detail and can be interpreted as an indicator for sensitivity of the model setup. We call for thorough investigations of the dependency between different availabilities of electric vehicle fleet battery capacity for power systems on the one hand and historic weather and electric demand patterns on the other side. Expanding the marginality analysis to all equations and variables to identify specific constraints and variables that are most important may yield deeper insights. It also seems promising to look at characteristic residual load developments across different temporal ranges and identify respective flexibility demands. We took the first steps in this direction.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Appendix A—Assumptions, Scenario Study, and Results

Model Description and Parametrization

Regarding the model set-up and scope, the main characteristics are summarized in Table A1 below.
Table A1. Model characteristics of REMix as used in this case study

| Optimization type                  | Target year optimization |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Optimization method                | Linear programming       |
| Objective function                 | Total cost including CAPEX of all endogenously added capacities, OPEX of all capacities, and penalty costs for unsupplied load |
| Temporal resolution                | Hourly (8760 timesteps)  |
| Geographical horizon and resolution| 13 nodes: Germany in two nodes plus neighbors |
| Optimization variables             | Investment in power plant capacities and flexibilities as well as technology dispatch |
| Energy demand sectors              | Power, transport         |
| Transport mode                     | Private passenger road transport |
| Transport technology resolution     | 3 battery electric vehicle (BEV) fleets (S, M, L) |
| Variation of wind and PV power     | 2006–2012 yearly         |
| Variation of load patterns         | 2006–2012 yearly         |

Scenario Study Assumptions

Overarching assumptions regard the following points:

- Power demand stays the same in quantity and in its hourly variability as in the underlying data years (2011 for baseline runs and 2006–2012 for sensitivity scenarios e–j)
- Weather patterns stay the same as in the historic years considered
- Socio-economic development: The populations in Germany and its neighboring countries develop according to assumptions in the ENTSO-E TYNDP [40]
- For REMix: The flexibility options are chosen solely based on a (total) cost basis, disregarding power grid phenomena occurring at sub-minute time-scale, import dependency, acceptance of grid- or power plant expansion, etc.

Assumptions regarding technical transfer capacities between all model nodes considered in the case study are based on the German “Netzentwicklungsplan” (NEP) [41] (p. 110), the ENTSO-E TYNDP [40] (p. 30), and older data. The capacities are assumed to be equal to the given capacities as “before 2035”. Except for the connection from Germany to Sweden these are equivalent to the capacities given in the NEP.

The largest differences in export and import capacities are for the links between Belgium and France, Belgium and Luxembourg, Denmark and Sweden, France and Switzerland, Germany and Poland as well as Germany and Switzerland.

Assumptions had to be made on the model link length between Northern Germany and Southern Germany, which is assumed to be 150 km and the link length between Belgium and Luxembourg which is assumed to be 100 km. Other link lengths are averaged over given data in the TYNDP.

Power Demand

Power demand for Germany and its neighboring countries are based on the “Sustainable Transition” scenario of the TYNDP 2018. It includes power demand from heat and transport sector. Power demand of a 2030 EV fleet was approximated based on data given in [40] and subtracted for Germany in order to avoid double counting. The German power demand is disaggregated based on population census data from 2011 [45] yielding disaggregation factors of 53% for Northern Germany and 47% for Southern Germany. Historic development of power demand as well as projections are shown below in Figure A1.
Figure A1. Historic power demand, TYNDP best estimates for 2020 and 2025 as well as scenario values for the scenario “Sustainable Transition” for 2030. The three markers in 2030 present the variety of two TYNDP scenarios, “Sustainable Transition” and “Distributed Generation” as well as an EUCO scenario. Green and orange crosses show the here assumed values from the scenario “Sustainable Transition” corrected by an approximated power demand of the 2030 PEV fleet.

Power Plant Park

The existing power plant park is used based on REMix-parametrization from the INTEEVER project [38]. There, a base run for 2030 was carried out to quantify a base power plant, grid and storage park in a first step as a quantitative basis for the next step of optimizing the expansion of different flexibility options. INTEEVER model results that are assumed for this study are shown in Table A2 and contrasted with the TYNDP 2030ST scenario assumptions.

Table A2. Quantitative assumptions for the existing power supply capacities as an input for the scenario study runs, aggregated for Germany and its neighboring countries. Pumped hydro power is not shown. All values in GW.

| Parameter                     | TYNDP 2030ST [38] | Own assumptions |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                               | Germany           | German neighbors | Germany | German neighbors |
| Conventional thermal power plants* | 66                | 141             | 61      | 134             |
| Fluctuating renewable energies |                   |                 |         |                 |
| PV                            | 66                | 69              | 47      | 26              |
| Wind onshore                  | 59                | 82              | 50      | 36              |
| Wind offshore                 | 15                | 26              | 6       | 12              |
| Hydro run-of-river            | 4                 | 24              | 4       | 27              |
| Controllable renewable energies |                 |                 |         |                 |
| Biomass power**               | 0                 | 2               | 0       | 0               |
| Hydro reservoir               | 11                | 95              | 1       | 70              |

Flexibility Options

One strength of REMix is the modeling of different competing flexibility options to balance fluctuating renewable energy power generation. REMix optimizes the investment in and the operation of different flexibility options, e.g., power plants or energy storage. We consider the following flexibility options:

- Gas power plants (CCGT and OCGT);
- Curtailment of wind and PV power generation;
• Controllable renewable energies;
• Import and exports;
• Battery storage and hydrogen caverns;
• BEV fleet controlled charging;

The need for balancing renewable energy feed-in is mainly determined by the power balance constrained in a few hours of the lowest fluctuating renewable energy power feed-in. These hours differ from model node to model node and depend on the respective residual load curve.

Similar to power plant capacities, we apply a brownfield approach implying that certain flexibility capacities are already installed in the power system before optimization. Flexibility options’ expansion restrictions are shown in Table A3 and are only set for PV, wind and hydro power plant capacities as well as for hydro power technologies and hydrogen caverns. The expansion of BEVs is not modelled REMix-endogenously but fleet values are taken from the more specialized stock and flow model VECTOR21. Thus, investments in the fleet are not possible but only the utilization of the vehicle fleet battery is optimized subject to annual constraints such as state-of-charge (SOC) limitations, charging infrastructure availability, and electric power outflow from the battery due to driving (see main document for more details).

Table A3. Quantitative and qualitative flexibility options’ restrictions. Sources given in last column.

| Flexibility option                  | Technology      | Unit     | Expansion constraint | Operational constraint | Source       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
|                                     |                 |          | Northern Germany     | Southern Germany       |             |
| Thermal power plants                | CCGT, GT        | GW       | -                    | -                      | -           |
| Surplus VRE and curtailment         | PV              | GW       | 1316                 | 505                    | Hourly feed-in timeseries |
|                                     | Wind power      | GW       | 1172                 | 452                    | Hourly feed-in timeseries |
|                                     | offshore onshore|          |                      |                        |             |
|                                     | Wind power      | GW       | 210                  | 0                      | Hourly feed-in timeseries |
|                                     | offshore        |          |                      |                        |             |
|                                     | Hydro run-off   | MW       | 1044                 | 388                    | Daily feed-in timeseries |
|                                     | river           |          |                      |                        |             |
| Controllable RE                     | Biomass         | MW       | -                    | -                      | -           |
|                                     | Hydro reservoir | TWh      | 0.043                | 0.488                  | -           |
| Power storage                       | Pumped hydro    | GWh      | 24                   | 14                     | -           |
|                                     | Lithium ion     |          |                      |                        |             |
|                                     | batteries       |          |                      |                        |             |
|                                     | Hydrogen        | GWh      | 113639               | 1395                   | -           |
|                                     | caverns         |          |                      |                        |             |
| EV fleet controlled charging        | BEV (S, M, L)   | -        | -                    | Hrourly flexibility profiles (see below) | [20]        |

Table A4. Net transfer capacities from and to Germany

| Node                                | Technology | Value  | Source |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Northern Germany to neighbors       | HVAC 380 kV| 23.3 GW| [40]   |
|                                     | DC         | 4.7 GW | [40]   |
| Southern Germany to neighbors       | HVAC 380 kV| 15.23 GW| [40] |
|                                     | DC         | 0 GW   | [40]   |
| Northern Germany to Southern Germany| HVAC 380 kV| 14.3 GW| [41]   |
|                                     | DC         | 10 GW  | [41]   |

Techno-Economic Assumptions on BEVs

Historic battery electric vehicle battery capacities as well as literature projection and our own scenario assumptions are shown below in Figure A2.
**Figure A2.** Historic development, prospective values from literature and own assumptions of BEV battery capacity values in kWh. Historic values are given in light red and differentiated between small (S), medium (M) and large (L) BEV models. Historic values are not weighted by sales or stocks. Ranges given in the IEA EV Outlook for 2018 as well as average fleet ranges for 2030 are given in green. Literature projections for 2030 and 2050 are given in light blue as indications. Own assumptions for the REMix model runs 0 and 1 are given as dark red crosses. Sources: Own composition based on [18,20,29,43,44].

**Fluctuating RE and Electricity Demand Profiles**

Dispatch optimization in REMix is carried out taking into account hourly profiles for the target year for each node for power demand and VRE feed-in (four separate profiles). In Figure A3, we show the load duration curves of the here utilized 2011 load series as well as simulated feed-in of the four fluctuating RE technologies for Northern Germany, Southern Germany, and the German neighbors.
Figure A3. Duration curves of power demand and feed-in series of the four fluctuating RE power plant technologies. Hydro run-of-river profiles are given in 24-hour resolution. Fluctuating RE profiles are given based on the respective rated capacity. Power demand was normalized with the respective peak load in the model node. Source: Own composition based on [24,33,42].

Emission Targets

Emission targets used are based on an 80% GHG reduction target for Germany up to 2050 compared with 1990. In the three sensitivity scenarios b–d, these will be varied between this moderate political target and a 0 t CO2 emission power system (d). CO2 costs of 60 €/t CO2 are assumed. All assumptions are shown below in Table A5.

Table A5. Emission targets for Germany and its neighboring countries as well as CO2 costs

| Emission reduction targets                                      | Node                          | Unit        | Value                          | Source                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                                                 | Germany                       | MT CO2      | 123 + sensitivity scenarios    |                             |
|                                                                 | Cumulated emission target of  | Mt CO2      | (b–d)                          |                             |
|                                                                 | neighboring countries         |             | 193                            |                             |
| CO2 costs                                                       | all                           | €/t CO2 emitted | 60                             |                             |

Overview Table of All Model Runs Carried out in the Scenario Study

Table A6. Overview on model runs and respective scenario acronyms

| Scenario acronym | Varied value and unit                              | Amount of variation                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| S0               | Electricity demand from BEV fleet in TWh          | To 0                                    |
| S1, S2, a, b, c  | Maximum share of controlled charging in %         | To 0                                    |
| d                | Max climate targets in Germany in Mt              | Changed from 122 Mt to 80 Mt            |
| e, f              | Varied underlying weather and electricity demand data years | Changed from 122 Mt to 0 Mt | 2006 |
|                  |                                                  |                                         | 2007 |
Transparency Checklist—List of Secondary Data Sources

| Dataset                                                                 | Source                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Annual power demand of non-transport sectors                           | Assumption based on [40]                                                |
| Power demand, wind and PV time series                                  | [24,33,42]                                                             |
| Disaggregation base: Census data                                        | [45]                                                                  |
| Power plant park                                                        | [38]                                                                  |
| Net transfer capacities                                                 | [40,41]                                                               |
| Techno-economic assumptions of power plant technologies                 | Data sheets Leitstudie 2010                                            |
|                                                                         | https://elib.dlr.de/69139/1/Leitstudie_2010.pdf                        |
| Techno-economic assumptions of storage                                 | Data sheets Leitstudie 2010                                            |
| CO2 emission targets                                                    | https://elib.dlr.de/69139/1/Leitstudie_2010.pdf                        |
| CO2 costs                                                               | assumption                                                             |
| Techno-economic assumptions of BEVs                                     | Battery size, consumption, Own assumptions based on [18,20,29,43,44] |
| BEV electricity demand in 2030                                          | [40]                                                                  |

Appendix B—Results of Scenario Study Modeling Runs

Annual Distributions of Daily Charging Dynamics

Full year

Figure A4. Daily probability distributions for total charging (controlled and uncontrolled) of medium and small sized BEV fleets in Northern Germany (top row) and Southern Germany (bottom row). The first and the third column show S1 results and the second and third column show S2 results. A case of completely uncontrolled charging is shown as red line.
Summer hours

Figure A5. Daily probability distributions for total charging (controlled and uncontrolled) of medium and small sized BEV fleets in Northern Germany (top row) and Southern Germany (bottom row) in summer hours (3600–5760). The first and the third column show S1 results and the second and third column show S2 results. A case of completely uncontrolled charging is shown as red line.

Winter hours

Figure A6. Daily probability distributions for total charging (controlled and uncontrolled) of medium and small sized BEV fleets in Northern Germany (top row) and Southern Germany (bottom row) in winter hours (1–2160 and 7920–8760). The first and the third column show S1 results and the second and third column show S2 results. A case of completely uncontrolled charging is shown as red line.
Intermediary season hours

Figure A7. Daily probability distributions for total charging (controlled and uncontrolled) of medium and small sized BEV fleets in Northern Germany (top row) and Southern Germany (bottom row) in winter hours (1440–3600 and 5760–7920). The first and the third column show S1 results and the second and third column show S2 results. A case of completely uncontrolled charging is shown as red line.

Weekend

Figure A8. Daily probability distributions for total charging (controlled and uncontrolled) of medium and small sized BEV fleets in Northern Germany (top row) and Southern Germany (bottom row) on weekends. The first and the third column show S1 results and the second and third column show S2 results. A case of completely uncontrolled charging is shown as red line.

Marginality Analysis

For our case of controlled charging without feeding electricity back to the grid, $\Psi_{V2G} = 0$ and $\Phi_{V2G} = 0$ hold true and bringing all variables to the left-hand and all parameters to the right hand side of the \textit{batLevBal} equation (see Section 2.3 for all equations), yields

$$\Psi_{CC}(t) - \Lambda(t) + \Lambda(t - 1) = P_{\text{drive}}(t) - C_{\text{unc}}(t)$$

The marginal value of this equation corresponds to the increase of the total system costs that originate from an increase of the right-hand side of the battery level balance equation by 1. Since the equation is formulated in units of GW, in this case, we can interpret the marginal value of the equation by either an increase of electricity for driving or a decrease of uncontrolled charging (or a mixture) by 1 GW. The three other relevant equations are the battery level constraints for minimum
(minBatLev) and maximum (maxBatLev) SOC as well as the equation limiting controlled charging by the fleet connection power to the grid (maxCC). Additionally, the marginal value of power generation is shown since it presents the cost of an additional unit (GWh) of electric demand for the German power system.

The analysis will be carried out on two different timescales to show effects on a weekly and a monthly timescale. The marginal values of the equations for the full year are given in Figure A9 and Figure A10. Two time intervals were chosen for a more in-depth analysis of the marginal values since they provide an interesting array of load and feed-in situations. Figure A9 shows BEV fleet battery operation and marginal for the first 15 days while Figure A10 shows the same quantities for the last 42 days of the year.

**Figure A9.** Marginality analysis of first 15 days (360 h) in the scenario for 2030 comparing scenario S1 (VencoPy input) (left) and scenario S2 (CURRENT input) (right) for Northern Germany. In the first row, EV fleet SOC constraints (turquoise) and levels (black) are depicted. The second-row plots show the marginal values of the equations of the REMix module and the power generation marginal for Northern Germany. The third row shows the marginal value of the controlled charging variable. The fourth row shows the power plant dispatch in Germany with fossil power plant dispatch in grey, renewables in shaded green, and curtailment in shaded red, imports in yellow. Uncontrolled charging is in dark turquoise while controlled charging is in light turquoise. The demand line comprises both electricity demand by households, industry, and service sector as well as EV charging demand. Duration curves of all marginal are shown in Figure A12–A14.

SOC constraints (model input parameters), levels (model solutions), marginal values of equations and variables as well as the power plant dispatch are given in Figure 6 for the first 15 days of the model year for scenarios S1 (left) and S2 (right).

The SOC plots on the top of Figure A9 show the implications of the reduced BEV fleet battery potential. In S1, the fleet battery is always discharged during daytime and charged every 3–7 days at
times of low residual load. This can be observed on the dispatch plot on the bottom left. This concentrating effect of charging has been shown for the concentration from a relatively continuous charging power to hours of night and partly of daytime [17]. In scenario S2, the difference between the SOC min and SOC max constraints is significantly decreased to 5–10 GWh. Since the axes of the SOC plots have a different scaling, the effect is even larger than visualized (compare Figure 4). Especially on weekday evening hours, the load shifting potential is almost completely diminished. In the dispatch plot for S2, both increased uncontrolled charging occurring on a daily pattern basis and the diurnal characteristic of controlled charging is depicted. Adjustment to high fluctuating RE feed-in still occurs but to a significantly lower degree.

Turning to the marginal values of BEV charging constraint equations, Figure A9 reveals a correlation between the marginal of the battery balance equation (in violet) with the power generation marginal. This correlation is higher for the case of lower flexibility indicating a more direct pass through of an increased electric driving demand or decrease of uncontrolled charging to total system costs at the respective cost of hourly power generation. BEV fleet batteries expand the availability of otherwise curtailed fluctuating RE to hours (and in S1 days) before and after low residual load situations occur. This can be seen in scenario S1, in which a load increase or charging decrease does not always lead to power system cost increases due to possible shifting of fluctuating RE feed-in as can be seen in the period between November 20 and December 14 in Figure A10. However, in these periods, controlled charging has a pivotal role in balancing wind feed-in as can be seen by the marginal value of the controlled charging variable in the same time frame.

![Figure A10. Marginality analysis for the last 42 days of the year.](image)

The marginal value of the battery balance equation increases by the negative value of the marginal value of the constraint equation \( \text{batLevMax} \) or \( \text{batLevMin} \) at the last point in time where charging or discharging was constrained by SOC constraints (compare Section 2.3). For S1, the marginal value of \( \text{batLevBal} \) shows a lower temporal dynamic and an overall lower absolute value which is exemplified in Figure A10, where over the course of three weeks, a RE fluctuation
characteristic occurs that lies in the range of the BEV fleet load shifting potential. Thus, in this time, increasing electric driving demand does not affect total system costs.

In some times in S2, the marginal value of the battery level equation becomes negative, indicating a potential reduction in total system cost if exogenous discharging increases. As can be seen in Figure A10 on November 19, this effect cannot be explained by either curtailment or the BEV fleet SOC being at its bounds. Supposedly, this is correlated with time intervals in which the relative BEV fleet SOC significantly increases, although this cannot be observed on November 20.

In general, the marginal value of controlled charging is drastically reduced in S2 in comparison with S1 indicating its decreased importance to overall system cost in S2. The higher importance to overall system cost can also be observed by the larger area under the duration curve of the marginal value of the controlled charging variable for S1 compared to the same area for S2 given in Figure A15.

Controlled charging has a more important role for the power system in the case of higher flexibility. This is due to a two-fold effect of reduced flexibility from BEV load-shifting. For one, BEV charging load occurs more often in peak load situations as can be seen by increased peak load demand in S2 compared to S1 (see Table A8). Secondly, general balancing is strongly limited to approximately a day thus diminishing the balancing effect of the BEV fleet battery for wind power feed-in. More costly flexibility options such as curtailment and increased gas power plant capacities are necessary in S2. Through the investment need in especially gas power plants and their respective availability, marginal value of controlled charging is reduced.

Upper and lower bounds of the BEV fleet battery state-of-charge are less often important in S1. The effect is shown in the duration curve of the marginal values of the two battery limitation constraints for the full year in Figure A13. The main determinants for the difference between the SOC min and max profiles in CURRENT are the difference between parking time and necessary charging time as well as the users’ option not to charge. This motivates increased charging powers resulting in shorter charging periods and incentivizing users to connect their cars to the grid over-sufficiently in order to increase connected parking periods.

Marginal values of the charging connection constraint (maxCC) are generally low and constraints occur in general not very often as shown in Table A8. In these hours, the full connected capacity is utilized for charging the BEV fleet, usually in hours of curtailment. In the case of a higher detail of modeling BEV users’ connection behavior with a sufficiency-oriented BEV connection, this constraint gets more important in Northern Germany and less important in Southern Germany. Increases in Northern Germany can be explained by higher peaks in S2 and narrower SOC bands, necessitating steeper charging at times of low residual load. Decreasing number of hours in S2 in Southern Germany occur because of increased utilization of other flexibility options such as gas power plants, imports, and curtailment.

![Figure A11. Marginal values of equations of the BEV modeling equations in REMix for the full year for scenario S1 (left) and S2 (right).](image-url)
**Figure A12.** Duration curve of the marginal value of the battery balance equation (violet) compared to the load duration curve of the power generation marginal (grey). Solid lines show scenario S1 results and dashed lines scenario S2 results. Values for Southern Germany are given in light violet.

**Figure A13.** Duration curves of marginals of constraint equations. Max-CC: Equation constraining the power of controlled charging because of grid connection of EV fleet. MinBatLev: SOC min constraint. MaxBatLev: SOC max constraint. Curves are given solid for scenario S1 and dashed for scenario S2. Results for Southern Germany are given in light colors.
**Sensitivity Analysis**

In the following, result tables of the annual energy system model results of the sensitivity scenarios b–m are given for GHG emission ambitions (scenarios b–d), weather and electric demand years (scenarios e–j), specific power plant technology investments (scenarios k and l) and controlled charging share (scenario m).

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**Figure A14.** Duration curves of the marginal value of controlled charging for medium-sized BEV in Germany-North and -South.
Table A8. Overview on scenario definitions and main annual results of the sensitivity analysis on the CO$_2$ emission limit and historic weather year used. Total system costs are given for the complete system boundary while all other values are given for Germany.

CAPEX Sensitivity

Capital expenditure sensitivities are carried out taking into account two alternative data sources. The first are the IRENA projections for 2025 [50] but assuming respective values for 2030 assuming slower but effective political dynamics needed to leverage cost reduction potentials for the production of PV and wind power technology. This yields the values given in Table 9 assuming an average exchange rate of 0.9 2015 €/2015 USD. It represents the global weighted average of an optimistic cost reduction for PV and wind power technologies. The second set is based on an analysis by the Danish Energy Agency and Energinet [51] and better reflects European projections. All values in Table 9 are given rounded to 10 €/kW.
Table A9. Specific CAPEX sensitivity assumptions based on [50,51]

| Scenario assumptions | PV | Wind onshore | Wind offshore |
|----------------------|----|--------------|--------------|
|                      | €/kW | 860 | 1100 | 1800 |
| CAPEX sensitivity set 1 [14] | USD/kW | 790 | 1370 | 3950 |
| CAPEX sensitivity set 2 [15] | €/kW | 710 | 1230 | 3560 |
|                      | €/kW | 660 | 1040 | 1800 |

1 PV specific installation costs assumed to be the average of small (870 €/kW), medium (800 €/kW) and large scale plants with large scale plants being made up half of tracking (310 €/kW) and half of non-tracking (300 €/kW) systems;
2 Offshore wind plants assumed to be half near shore (1660 €/kW) and half offshore (1930 €/kW).

Table A10. Overview on scenario definitions and main annual results of the sensitivity analysis on specific capital expenditure assumptions for fluctuating RE technologies. Total system costs are given for the complete system boundary while all other values are given for Germany.

S1m with 30% Load Flexibility

An additional model run tests the exogenous assumption of S1 of 66% of the electric demand being flexible. In scenario S1m, this share is reduced to CURRENT’s share of flexible charging of 30%.
Table A11. Sensitivity scenario results of scenario S1m in comparison with all reference and baseline scenarios S0–S2. Total system costs are given for the complete system boundary while all other values are given for Germany.

| Scenario | Annual electricity demand from BEV fleet in TWh | Controllable share in % | Controlable share in % | Total system cost in Bn. € | Shifted load by German BEV fleets in TWh | Peak load in GW | Shiftable capacities of power plant park in GW | Installed RE capacities in GW | Installed RE capacities in GW | Gas power capacity additions in GW | Gas power plant capacity additions in GW | Annual power generation in TWh | Annual RE power generation in TWh | Annual RE curtailment in TWh | Imports to Germany in TWh | Exports from northern G to southern G in TWh |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| S0       | 0                               | -               | 68.4            | 83.9                | 214             | 153     | 46.2                | 31.3                | 501                | 279                | 55.7                | 2.9                 | 45.9                | 64.7               |
| S1a      | 27                              | 0               | 71.7            | 91.1                | 224             | 156     | 49.0                | 39.0                | 525                | 284                | 54.1                | 3.6                 | 50.3                | 62.9               |
| S1       | 27                              | 66              | 71.2            | 24.2                | 223             | 159     | 51.5                | 35.5                | 526                | 291                | 55.3                | 2.6                 | 51.3                | 65.1               |
| S2a      | 27                              | 30              | 71.7            | 93.5                | 223             | 156     | 48.8                | 37.9                | 524                | 284                | 54.2                | 3.5                 | 51.6                | 62.4               |
| S2       | 27                              | 30              | 71.7            | 8.4                 | 222             | 156     | 48.8                | 37.2                | 524                | 284                | 54.2                | 3.4                 | 51.6                | 62.2               |
| S1m      | 27                              | 30              | 71.4            | 18.9                | 225             | 158     | 51.1                | 37.9                | 527                | 289                | 54.8                | 3.0                 | 48.4                | 63.4               |

Relative Sensitivity

![Relative Sensitivity](image)

Figure A15. Relative sensitivity of annual energy system model results analyzed in Section 3.2. Each result value (of S1x, S2x) is divided by result values of baseline (S1, S2) values respectively. Blue bars show the results for the model runs with lower CO2 limit, green those with different weather years, yellow those with different fluctuating RE specific investment assumptions and red that with lower BEV charge control availability.
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