

Forum on Flexibility Options in the Electricity and Heat Markets

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# Electric vehicles: a game-changing flexibility option?

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## Overview

1. Introduction: grid-connected vehicles
2. Potential fields of application
3. Research-based insights
4. Important uncertainties
5. Personal conclusions

- Grid-connected (hybrid) electric vehicles
  - Not only benefits compared to internal combustion engines
  - But also potential synergies with the power system
- V2G concept: Kempton, Tomić (2005)
  - EV may provide storage and quick-response generation
- Differentiation: G2V vs. V2G
- Aggregation and control required
- EVs as grid resources: between power storage and DSM
- Batteries are there anyway – “free lunch”?



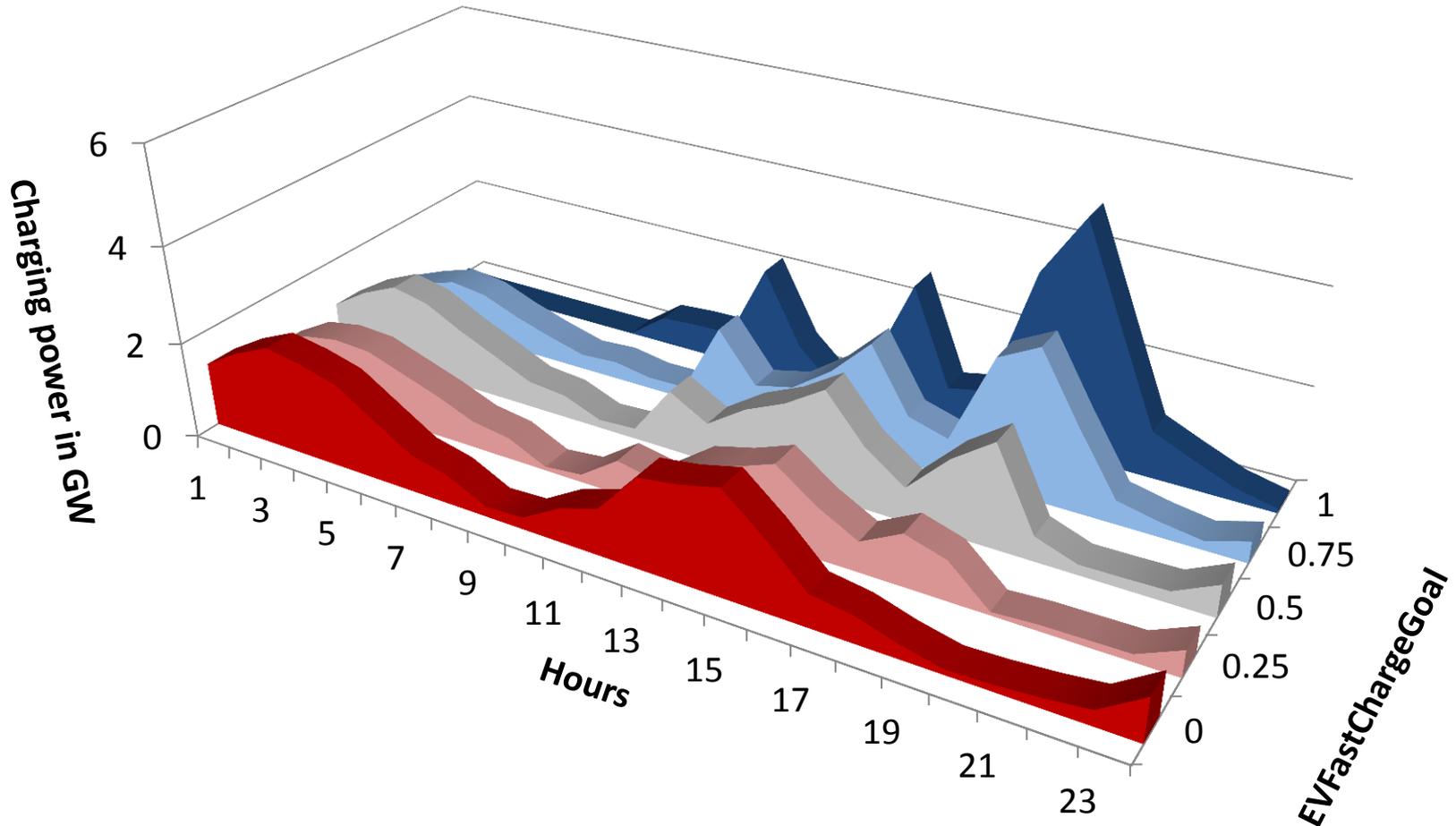
- Residual load smoothing
  - Load gradients
  - Daily fluctuations
  - Longer-term / seasonal fluctuations
- Integration of RES surplus generation
- Provision of peak generation capacity
- Reserves and other ancillary services
  
- In addition: decentralized / off-grid applications
  - E.g., combined with local PV

	G2V	V2G
Residual load gradients	(✓)	✓
Daily fluctuations	(✓)	✓
Seasonal fluctuations		?
RES surplus integration	✓	✓
Peak generation capacity		✓
Reserves	(✓)	✓

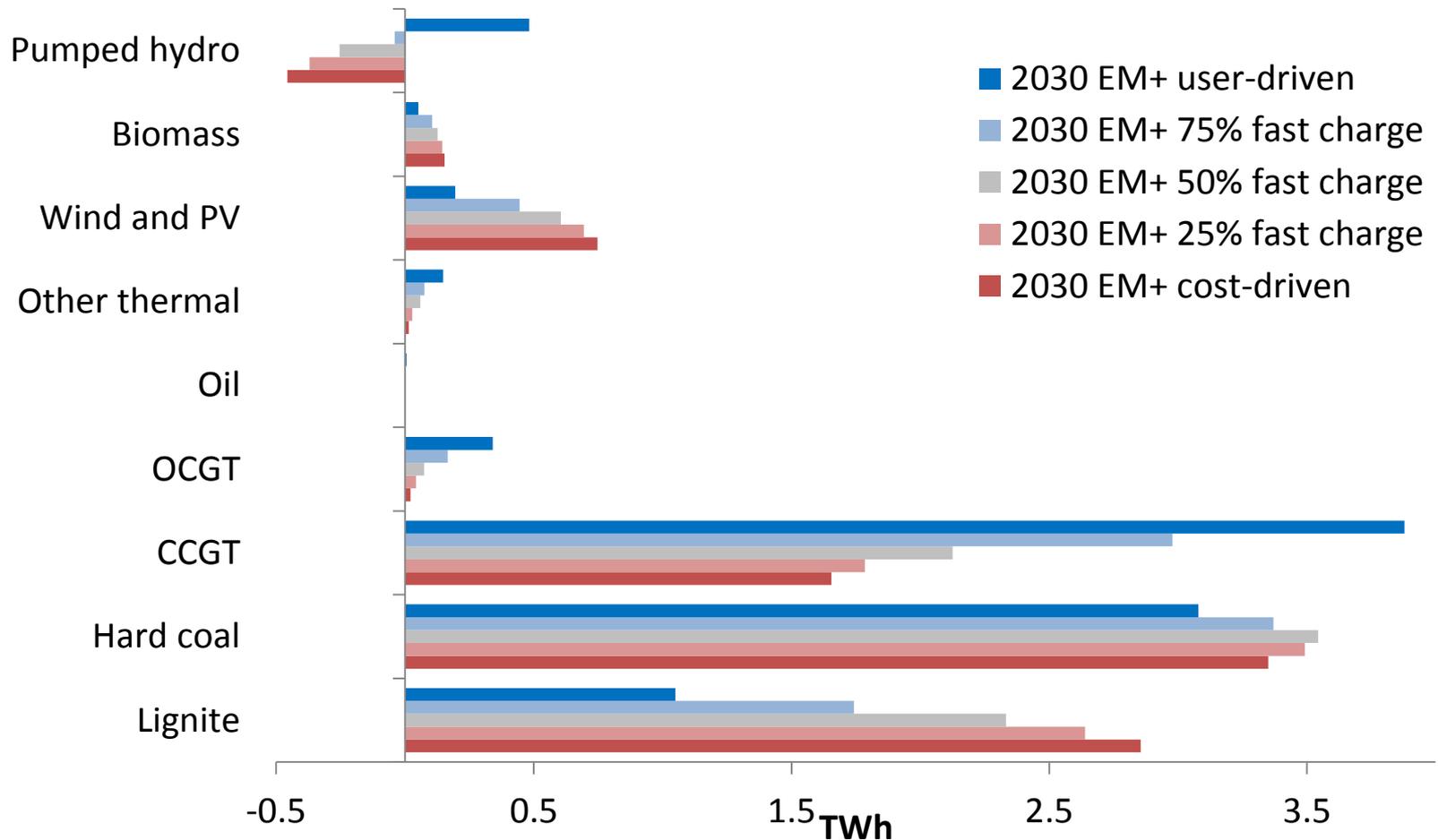
- Very broad literature in energy journals
- Broad spectrum of findings:
  - EVs as major game changer or as a non-issue
- Broad consensus:
  - Controlled charging is beneficial (if not indispensable)
- Many papers suggest that reserves are a promising field
  - Wholesale price differentials not high enough
  - Low energy capacity but high power rating
  - Yet a niche (and competition with many other options)
- If EVs are linked to additional RES, still open question:
  - Do EVs bring more flexibility to the power system than is required for integrating the additional RES?

- European research project (ERA-NET+)
- Power system impacts of EVs in Germany by 2030
  - Under different charging strategies
  - In a unit commitment framework
  - Only G2V, only wholesale
- Major outcomes:
  - Fully user-driven charging: peak load concerns
  - Fully cost-driven charging: increase of emission-intensive power generation
  - Intermediate charging mode may reconcile user preferences and system needs





→ Even under „G2V only“, substantial demand-side flexibility potential



→ Flexible EVs compete with power storage (and other flexibility options)

- Integration of EV module in open-source dispatch and investment model
  - Covering both reserves and V2G
  - First results:
    - EVs may have relevant shares in reserve provision
    - This is true even without V2G
    - Full system value of EVs only in optimized system
- Dispatch model analyses may underestimate EVs impacts

- Size of future EV fleets
- Driving patterns
  - Car sharing, fleets, autonomous vehicles?
- Charging infrastructure
- Distribution grid constraints
- Battery depreciation
- Willingness / incentives to participate
- Market design
  - Bid sizes, prequalification etc.

- EVs are likely to play an increasing role with respect to short-term flexibility
- Yet I would not expect EVs to become the dominant flexibility option
- Competition with many other short-term options
- But EV development could indirectly spur the development of stationary batteries

Thank you.

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