



CTU

CZECH TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE

TECHNOECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF HIGH TEMPERATURE CARNOT BATTERY RETROFIT INTO SEVERAL DISTRICT HEATING CHP PLANTS

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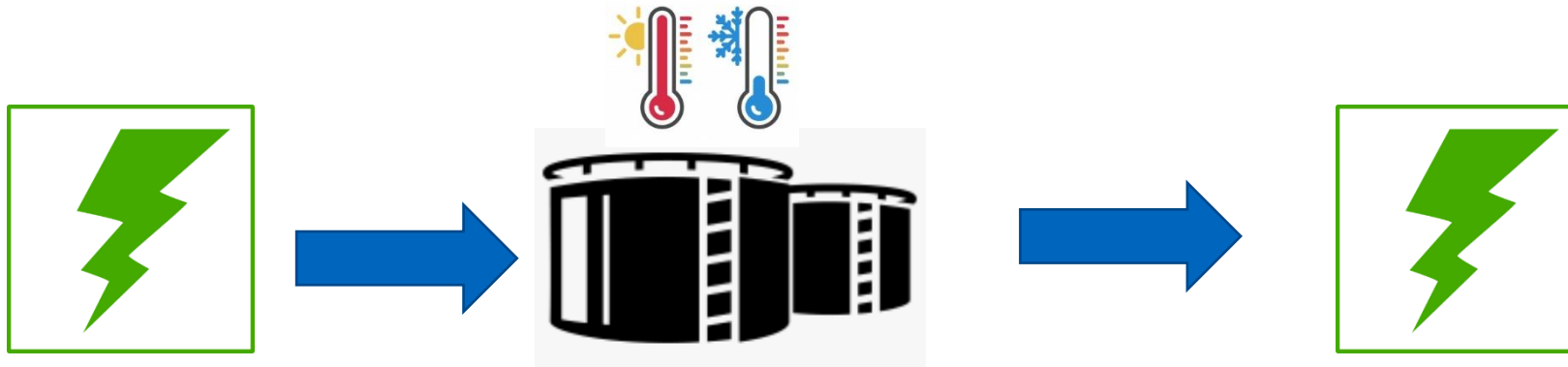
Czech Technical University in Prague

ISEC conference 2026



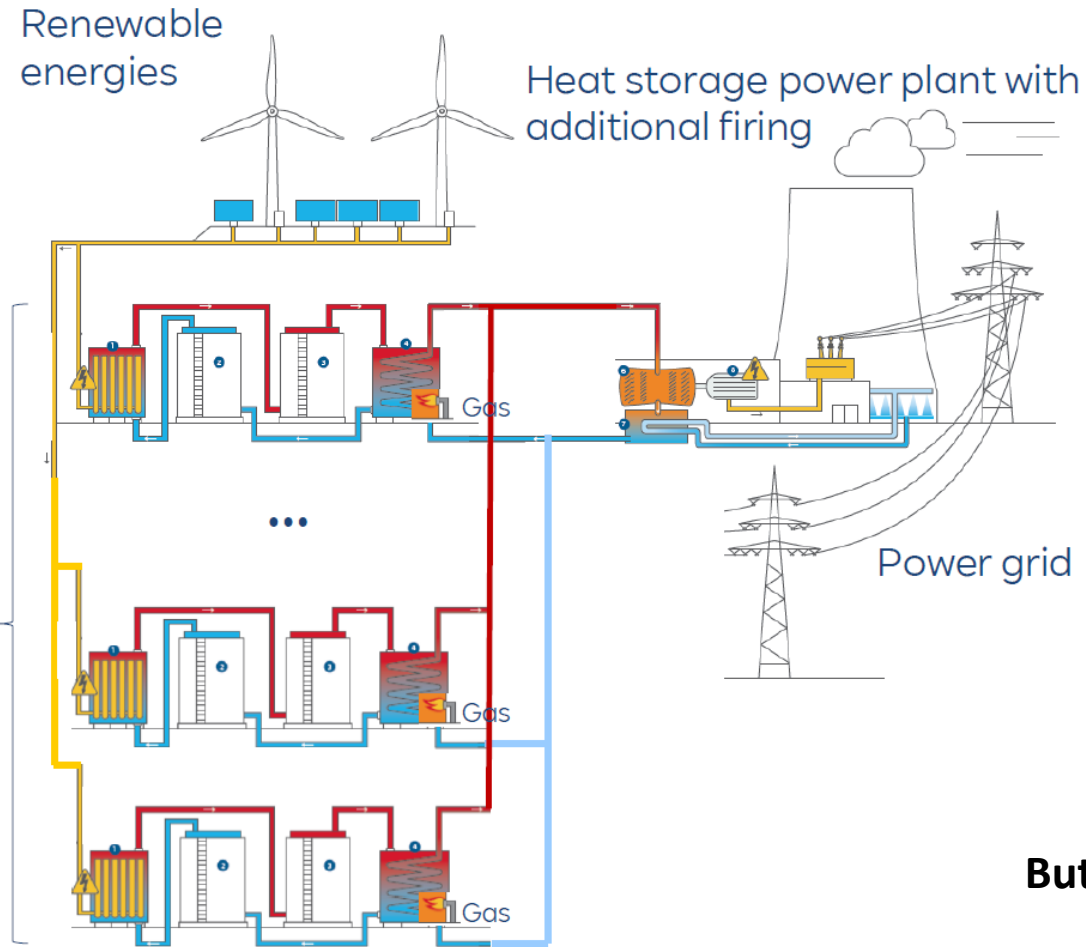
MOTIVATION & BACKGROUND

- Carnot battery via coal plant conversion
 - simple and cheap P2H2P solution





SECOND LIFE FOR COAL PLANTS



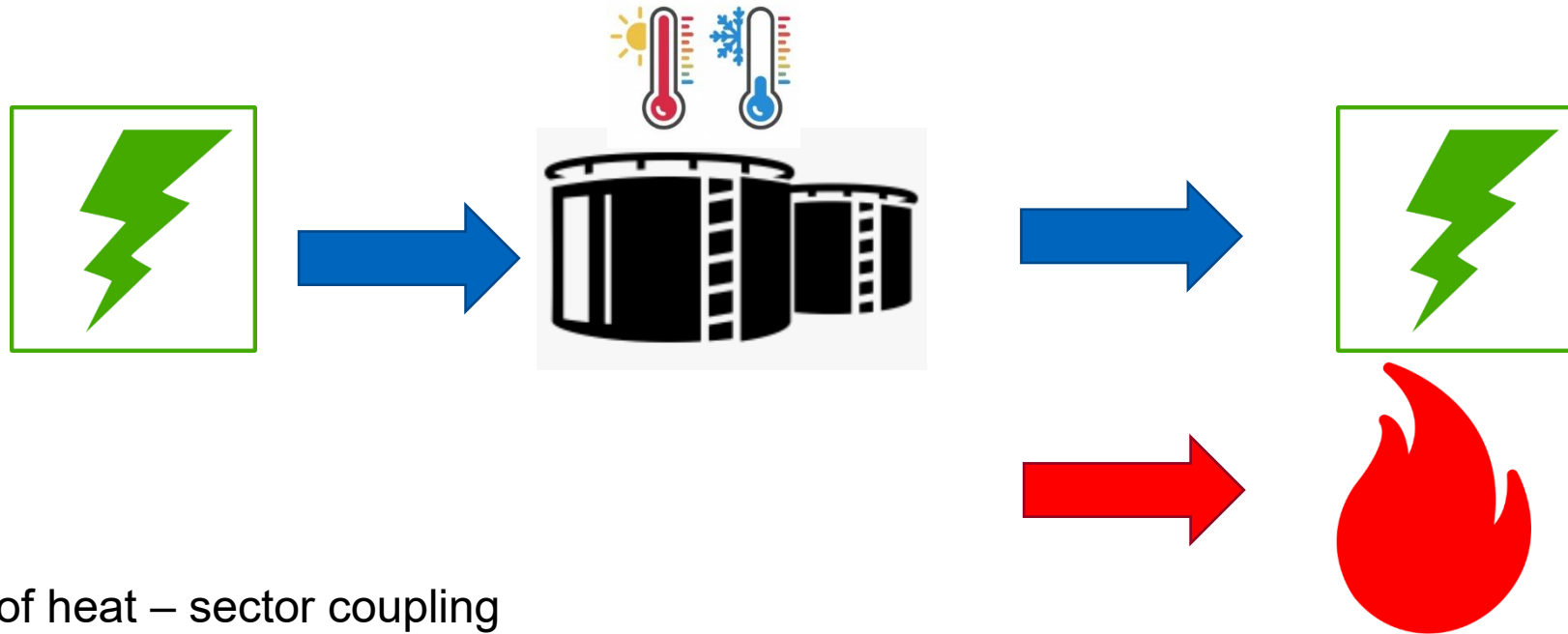
But offers still very low efficiency

(Arnold W., StoreToPower - Pilot plant for the development of a heat storage power plant, 15.09.2020, RWE)



MOTIVATION & BACKGROUND

- Coal plant conversion – simple P2H2P offers very low efficiency

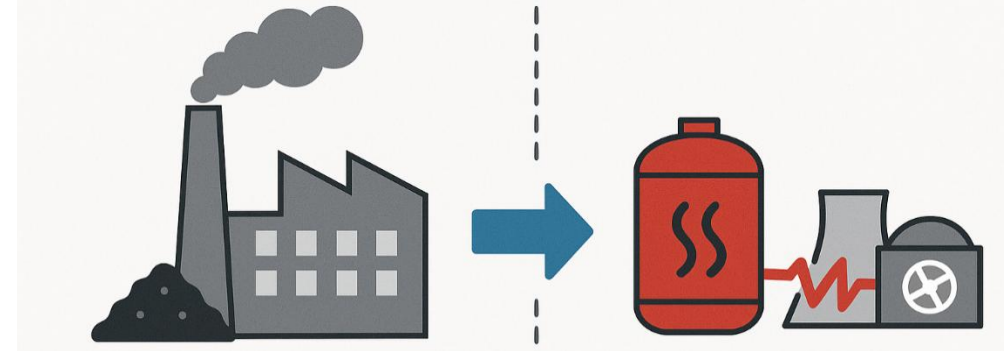


- Addition of heat – sector coupling
 - Can improve economic viability
 - Improves overall efficiency, possibly towards >90%



BACKGROUND & MOTIVATION FOR CB CHP PLANTS

- 40% of the CZ population uses district heating
- **Repurposing of fossil power plants**
 - Heat & power station **suitable for CB early adopter**
 - Demand for heat
 - Most of the technology already in place (for free)
 - Flexible steam system, existing connections to heat and power grid
 - Additions of heater and storage relatively small investment
 - Less costly materials than for modern coal plants
 - Available space on-site (especially since oversized in past)
 - Geographically distributed, smaller capacities (dozens MW)

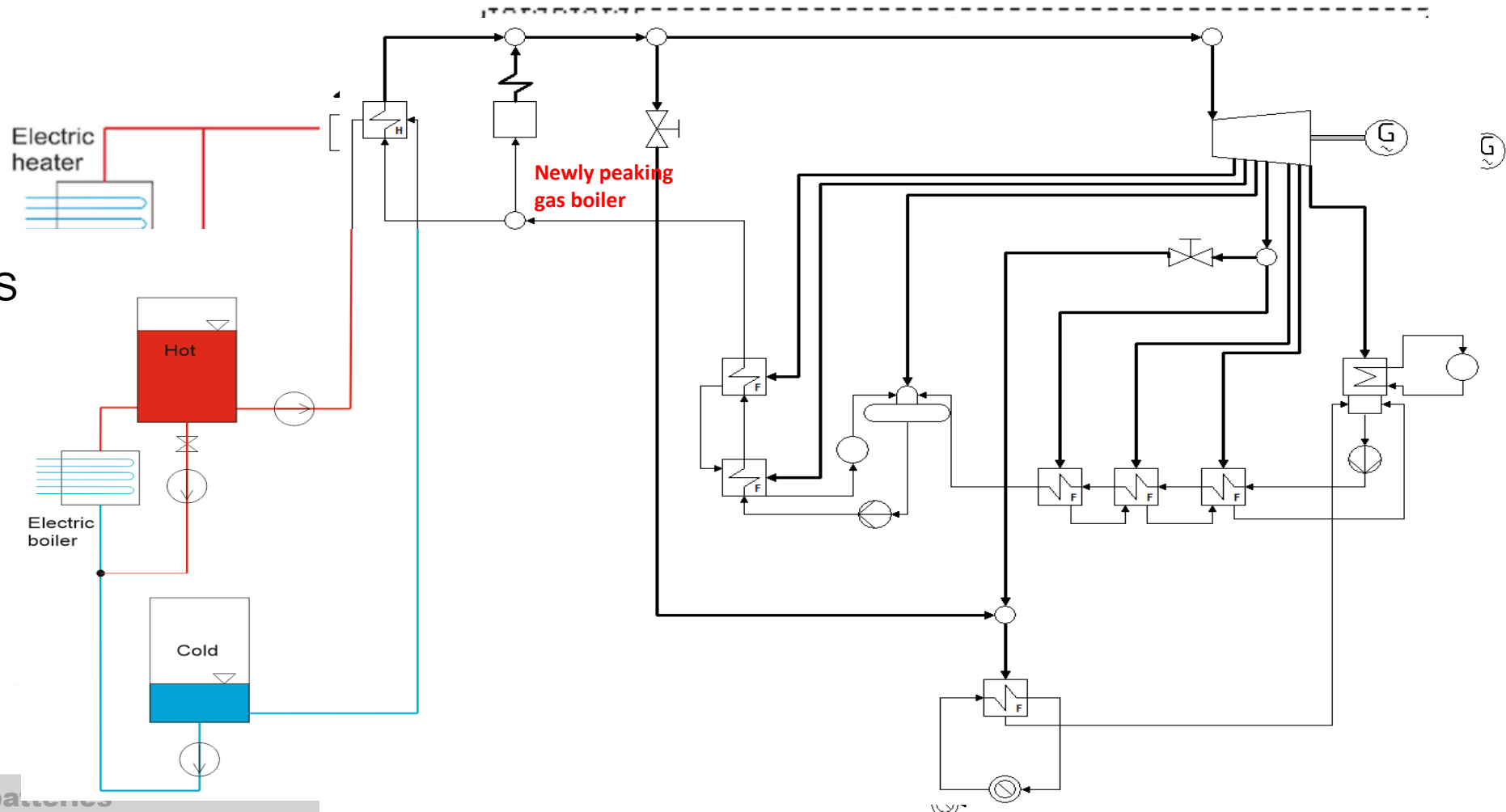




SYSTEM 1 – COAL CHP PLANT CONVERSION

- Conversion of CHP plant with one condensing and backpressure turbine

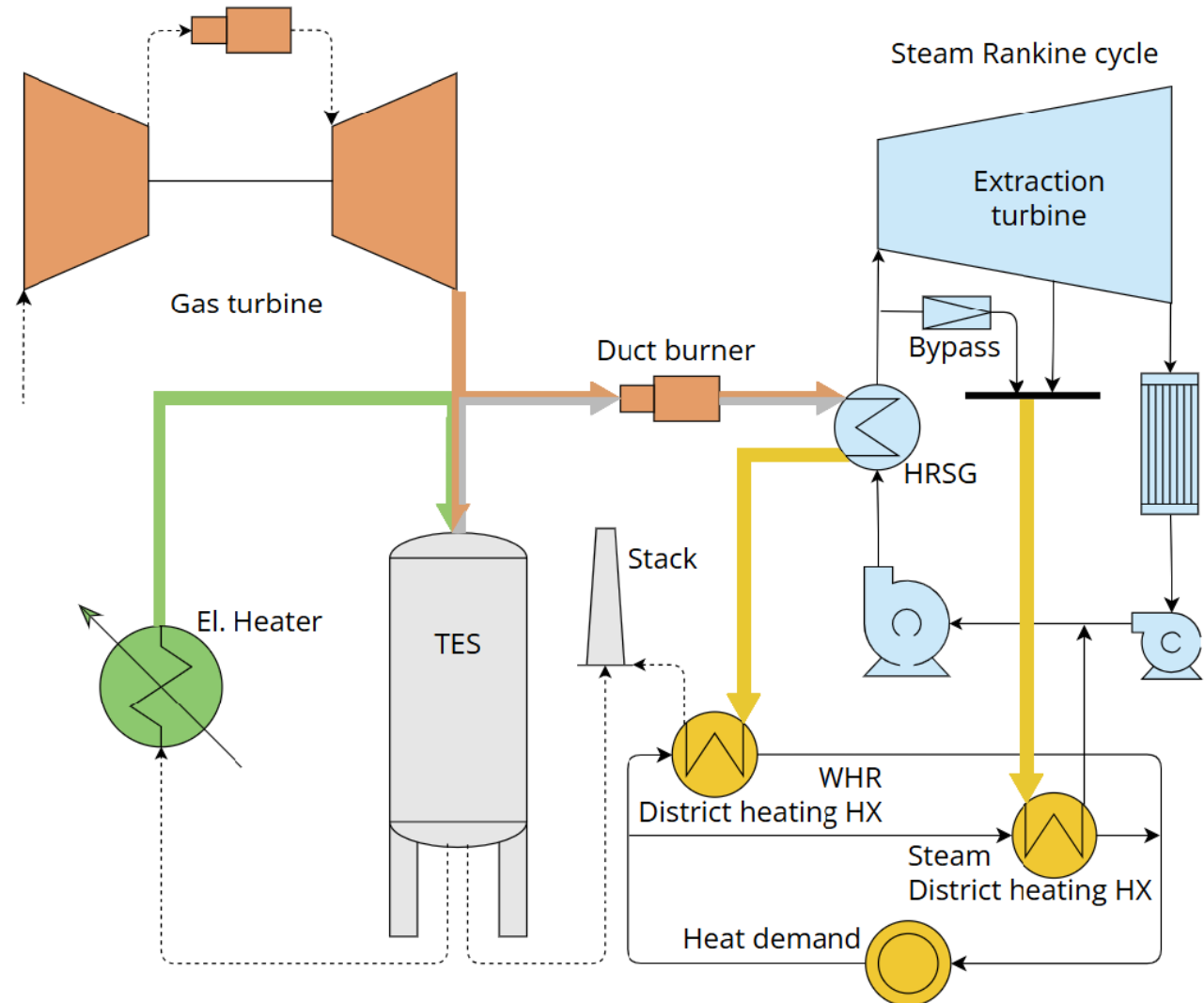
- Simplified model
- Addition of storage and el. heating
- Rock packed bed TES or
or
- Molten salt





SYSTEM 2 – CCGT CHP PLANT

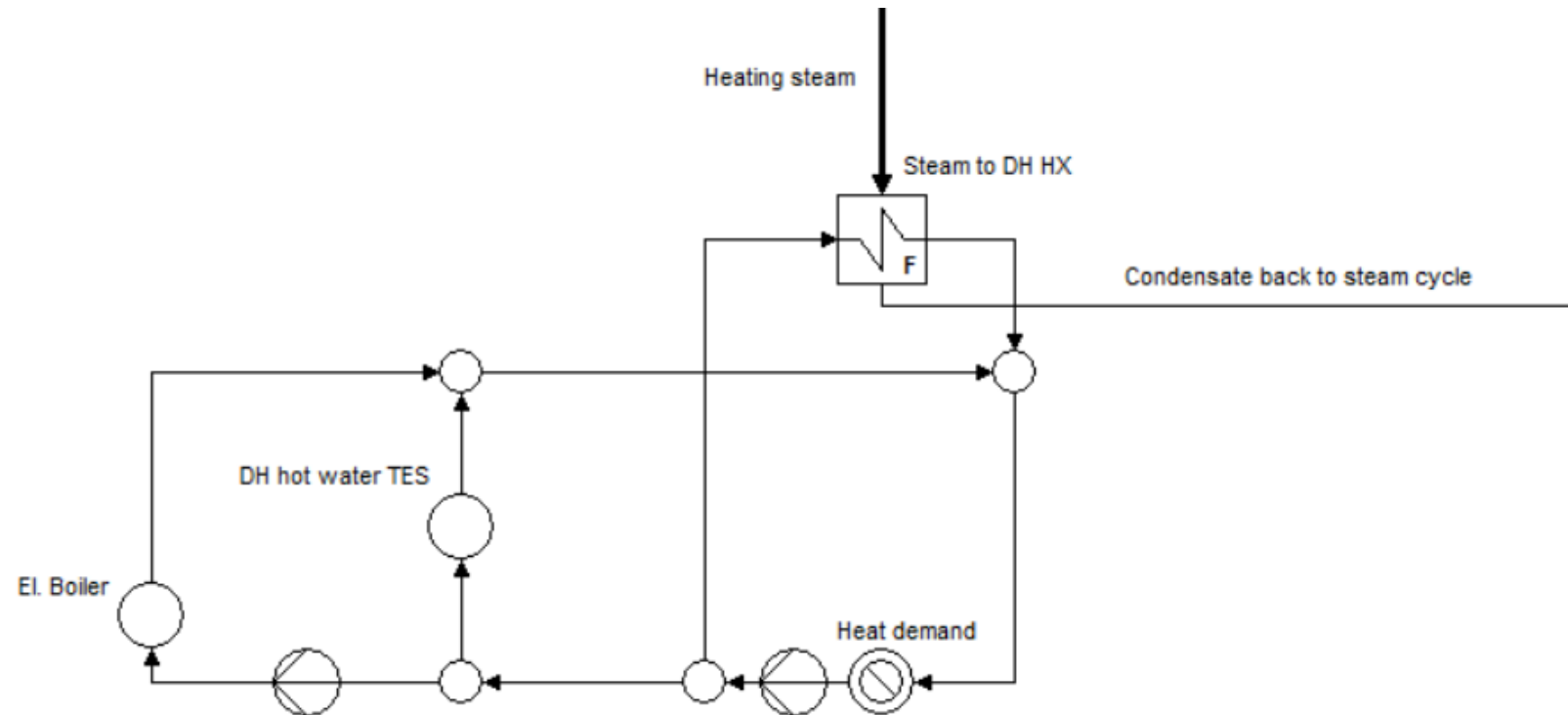
- Conversion of CCGT CHP plant
 - TES decoupling GT and bottoming RC
 - addition of el. heating loop
 - Only rock packed bed TES





SYSTEM 3,4 – ELECTRIC WATER HEATER + WATER TES

- Simple and state of the art
- Used as a benchmark system



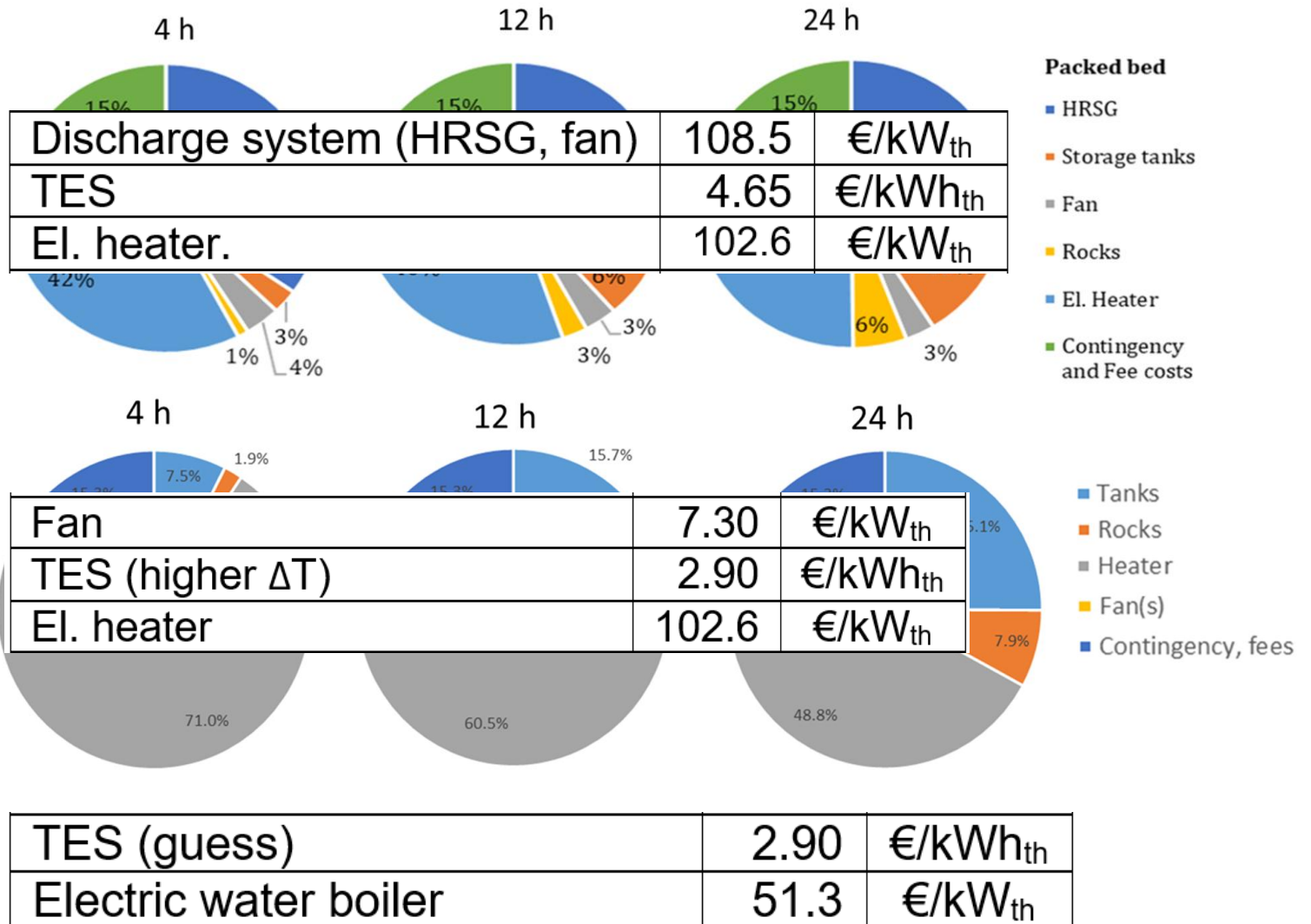


PRIOR WORK - SIZING & COSTING

- Coal CHP plant conversion
 - Here only PB TES

- CCGT plant conversion

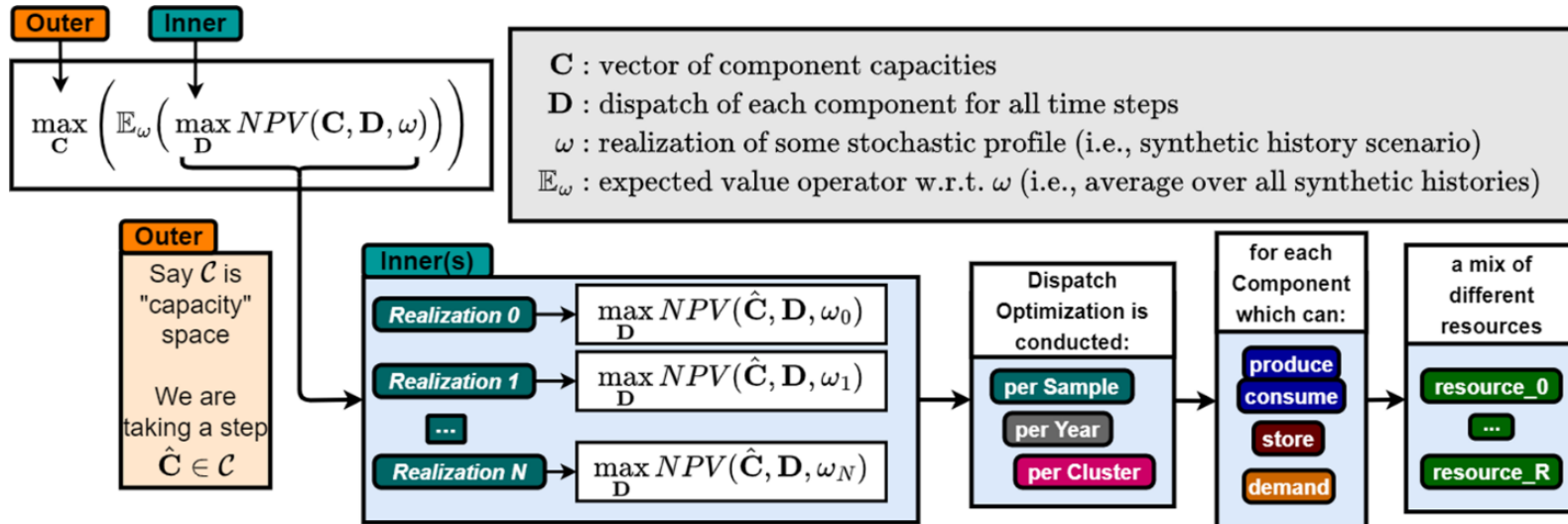
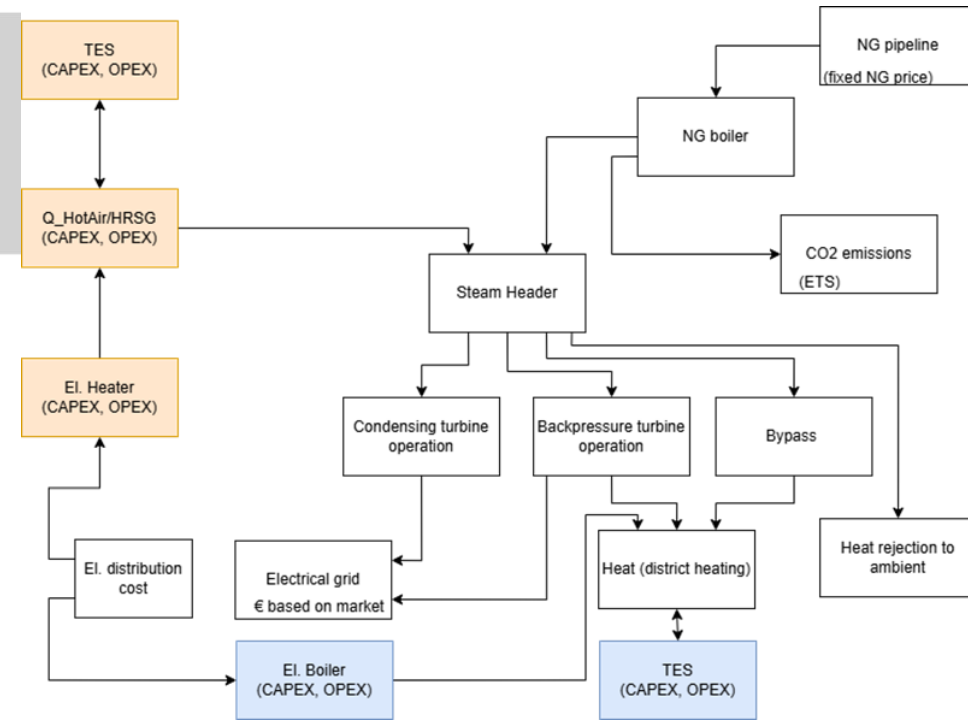
- Electric boiler + water TES





ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

- Model represented by “comodity” transfer functions between components and adjusted monetary values
- Dispatch optimization as a driver for capacity optimization

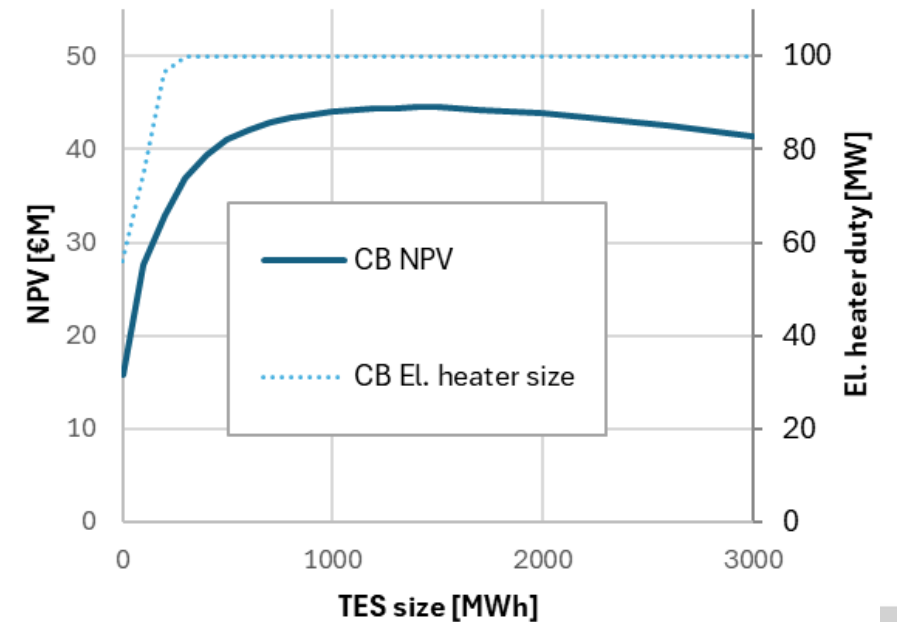
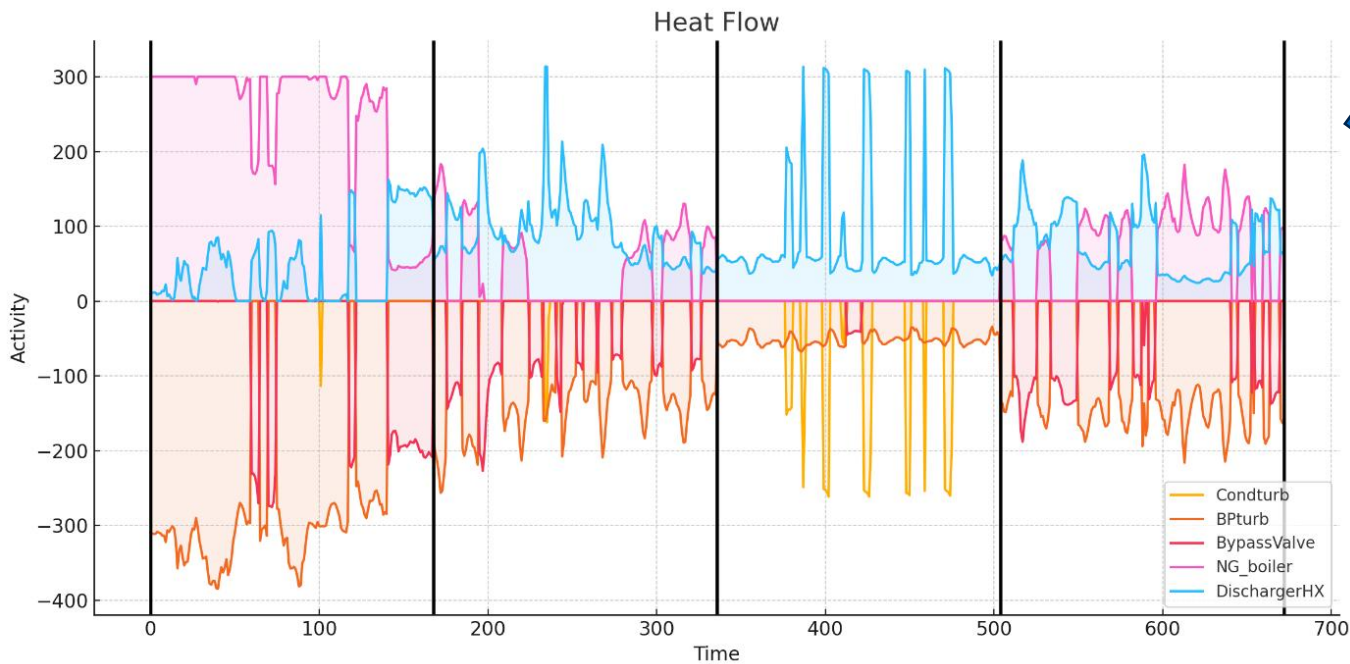
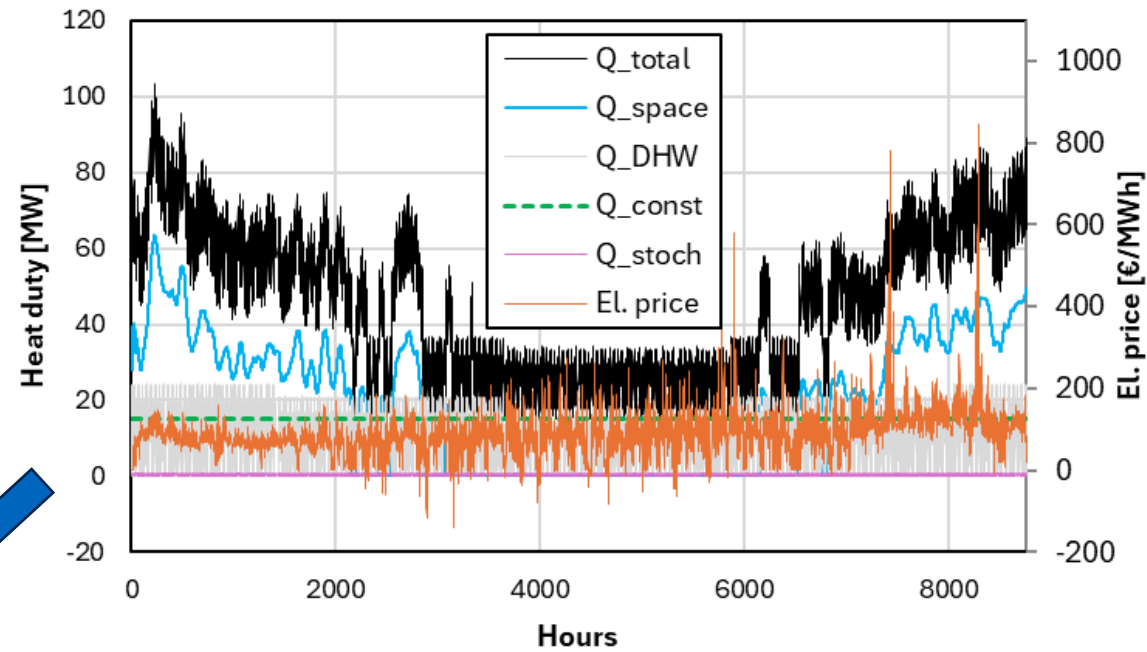


- Tool HERON, developed at INL
- Stochastic resource capacity optimization
- Dispatch optimization
→ Sizing optimization
- Automated stepping parameter sweep, where the code systematically explores different combinations of installed unit capacities or "portfolios,"
- Open source



ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

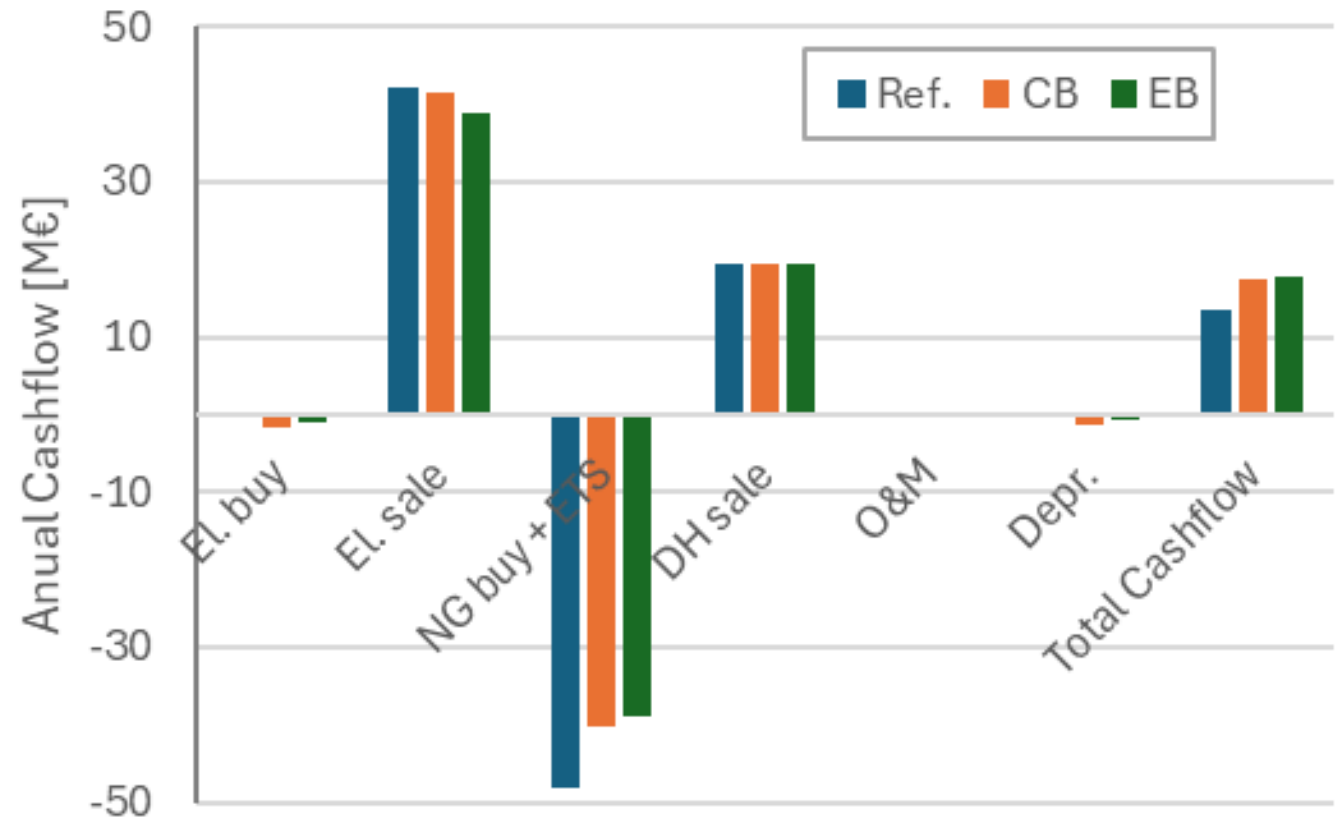
- Hourly resolution of dispatch optimization
- Benchmark system – LT water heating + TES





ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

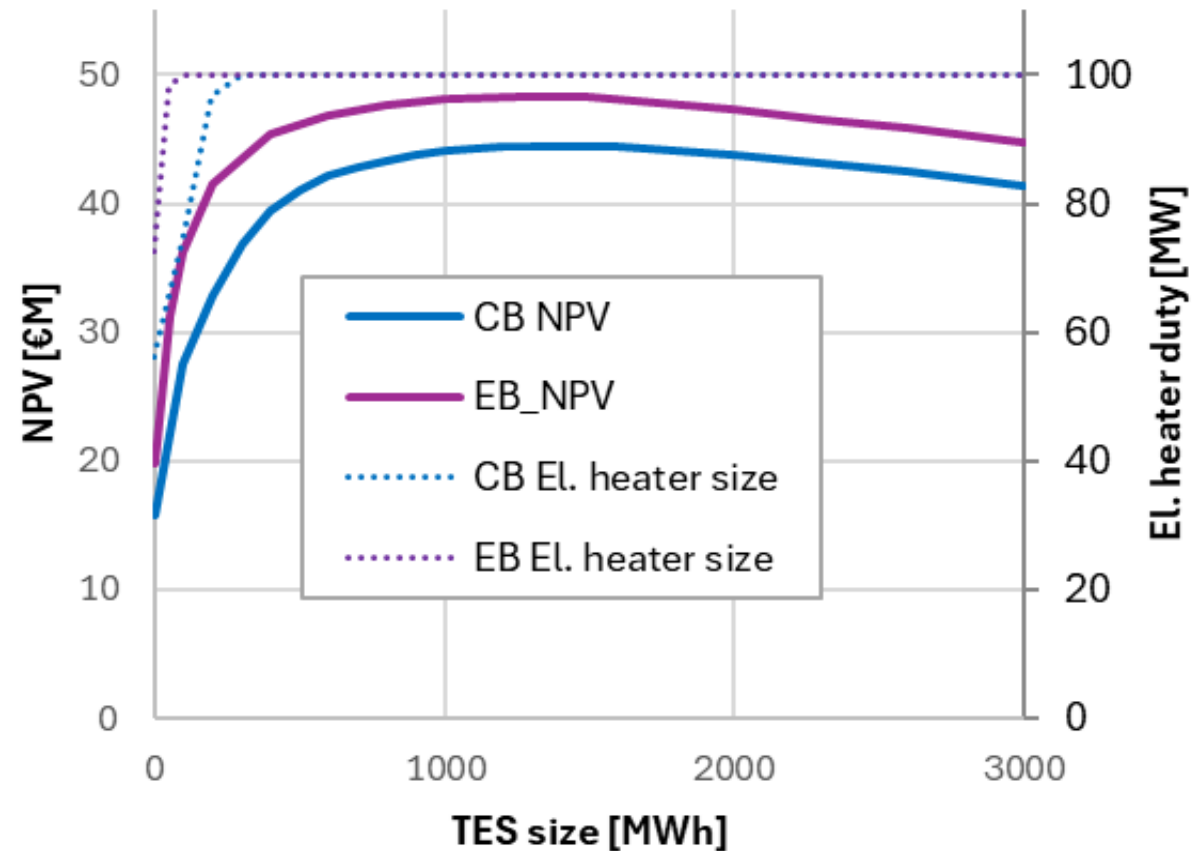
- Case of 50 + 30 MW CCGT
- Annual cash-flow, revenue sources





RESULTS

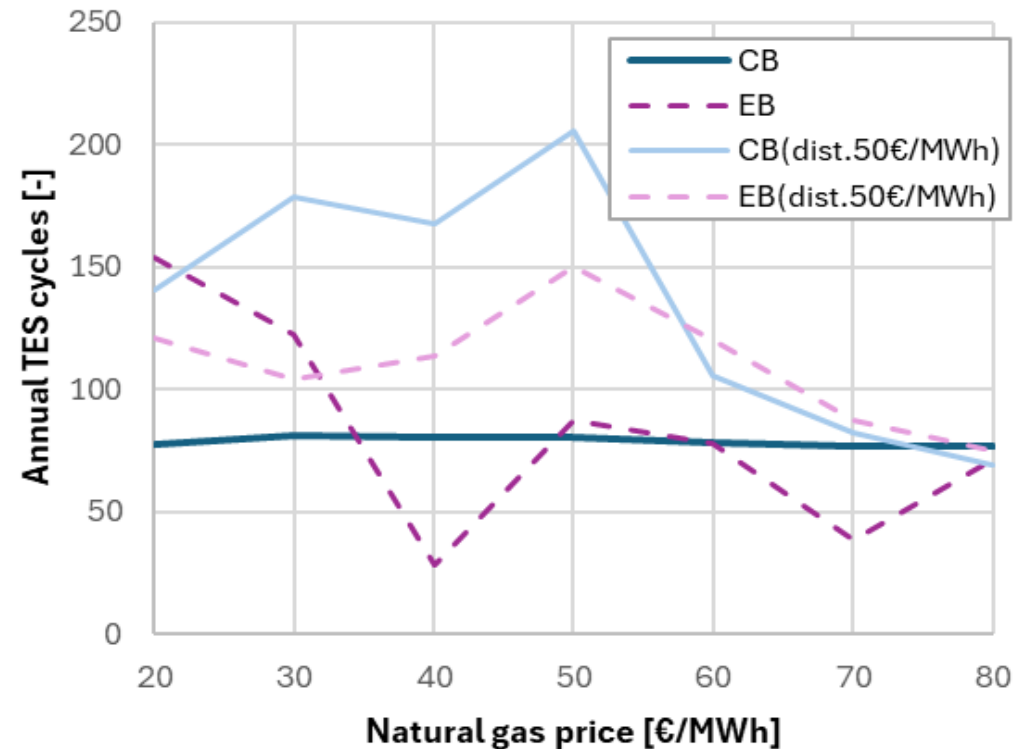
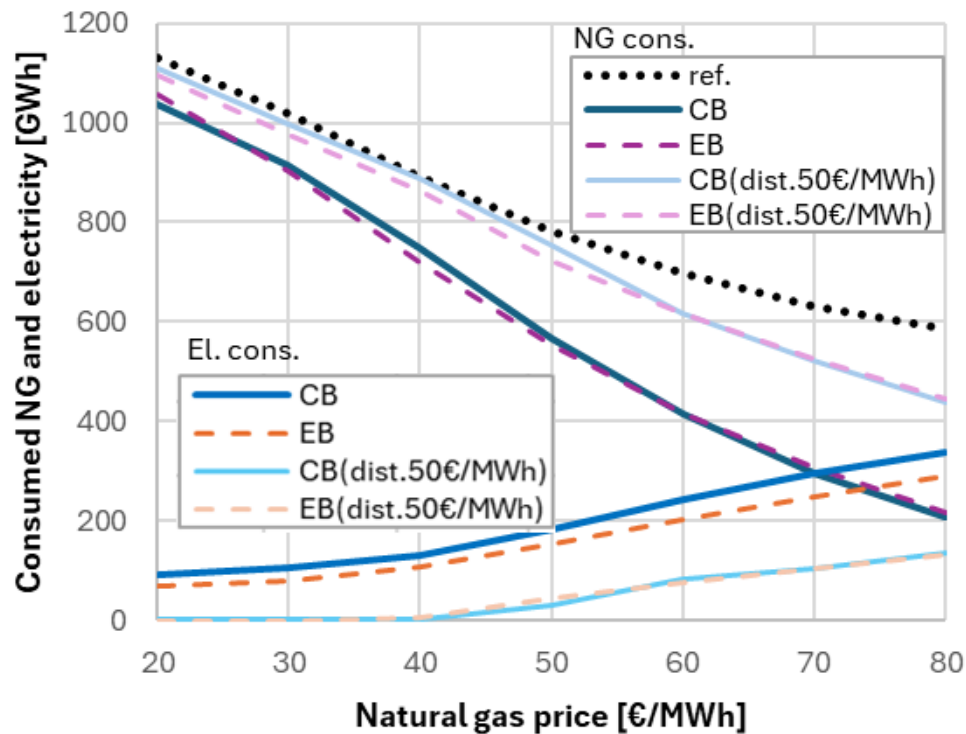
- Implementing P2H & generally CB returns positive effect across a range of boundary conditions
- Simple P2H without TES already beneficial
- Results similar between NGCC and steam CHP plant
- EB generally somewhat better (lower CAPEX, OPEX)





RESULTS

- Benefit rises with NG prices
- Grid distribution fees reduces benefit of CB more than of EB
- TES w/o P2H also provides positive effect
- Optimal sizing 1-3 cycles / week
- Relatively low sensitivity of NPV to size





SUMMARY

- CB by converting CHP plants is feasible (and much cheaper than lithium batteries (€/kWh))
- In CHP operation good overall efficiency
- Integration to CHP plants brings positive NPV from energy arbitrage
- Operation mainly heat demand - driven
 - Simple electric boilers and hot water TES can be a serious competition
 - Question of auxiliary services, future value of medium duration electricity vs. heat price