# Benefits of spatial integration and deployment coordination Optimal allocation of wind capacity in Europe

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Wind power is on of the cheapest electricity generation technology...

... but it is variable





nature energy

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# Start-up costs of thermal power plants in markets with increasing shares of variable renewable generation

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The emerging literature on power markets with high shares of variable renewable energy sources suggests that the costs of more frequent start-ups of thermal power plants may become an increasing concern. Here we investigate how this develops in Germany, where the share of variable renewables is expected to grow from 14% in 2013 to 34% in 2030. We show that the overall number of start-ups grows by 81%, while respective costs increase by 119% in this period. Related to variable renewables' production, start-up costs increase by a mere  $\in$ 0.70 per additional megawatt hour. While the expansion of variable renewables alone would increase start-up costs, more flexible biomass power plants and additional power storage have counteracting effects. Yet changes in reserve provision and fuel prices increase start-up costs again. The relevance of start-up costs may grow further under continued renewable expansion, but could be mitigated by increasing system flexibility.



Spatial integration and deployment coordination

to optimize the capacity factor (CF) – variability (SD) trade-off

Optimal wind capacity *portfolio* 

(shares of installed capacity per country)

to achieve max. CF per unit of SD



Modern portfolio theory (Markovitz portfolio optimization)

$$min(\sigma_p) = min\left(\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 \sigma_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n x_i x_j p_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j}\right)$$

*s*.*t*.

 $x_i \in \mathbb{R} \geq 0$ 

 $\sum x_i = 1$ 



#### **Hourly CF**

30 countries 30 years n = 9.7M





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# Efficient frontiers and optimal portfolios



## CF pdf of different portfolios



# Optimal allocation of wind capacity in Europe



Benefits of SI&DC



## Benefits



#### Benefits



## Current v. (un)constrained long-term



#### Long-term

#### Constrained

Unconstrained







Spatial integration and deployment coordination provide significant benefits in terms of

- higher CFs
- lower variability

lower probability of lowgeneration events

# Thank you

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# Appendix

Constrained optimal

portfolio

