



# AI for Buildings and Cities

Marcus Voss

Climate Change AI Summer School

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023



# About the lecturer



AI Engineer &  
Intelligence Architect  
**Birds on Mars**



Member of the Board of Directors  
and Community Lead for Buildings  
and Transport  
**Climate Change AI**



**Before**



Research Assistant and Head of Working Group  
Smart Energy Systems at  
**DAI-Labor at TU Berlin**



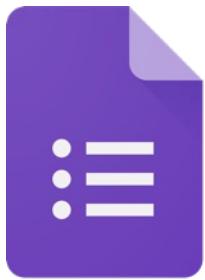
# AI in digital vegetation management to support glyphosate phase-out



See: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7011359355526651904/>



# Why are we talking about **buildings** today?



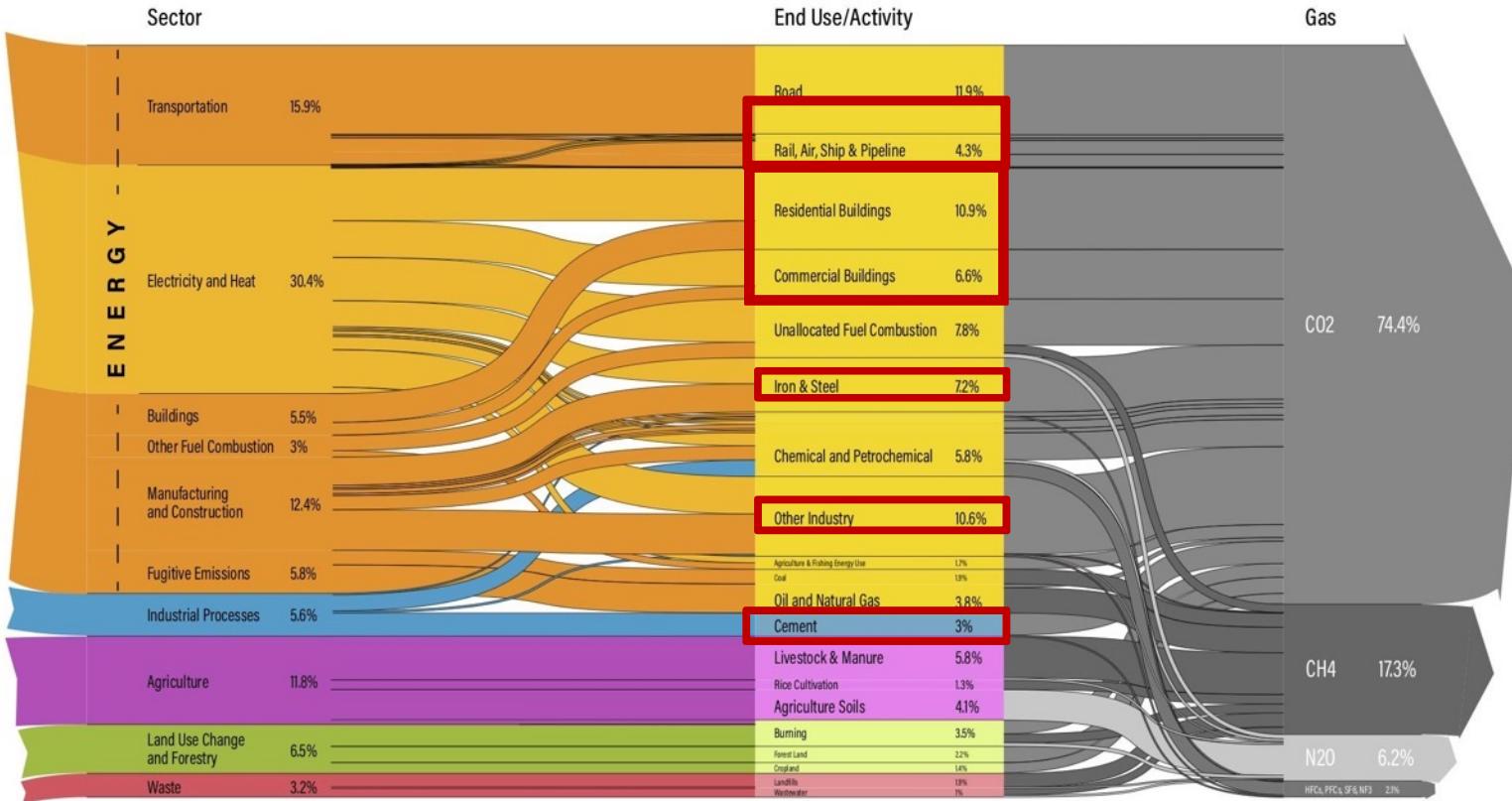
## **Answer in the Google Form**

Your initial thoughts: how do buildings affect climate change?



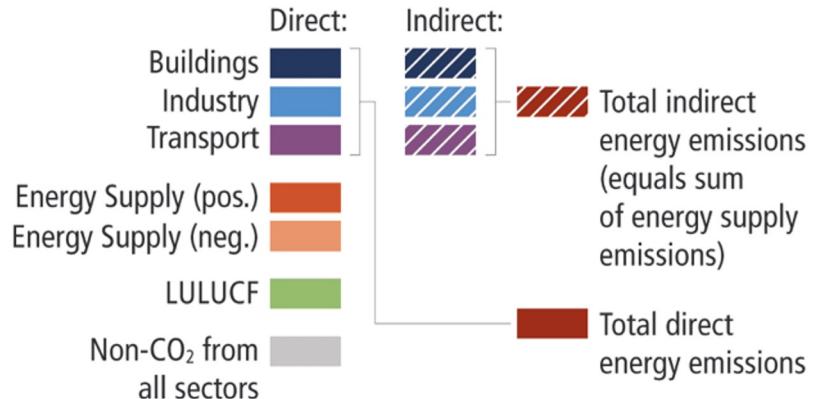
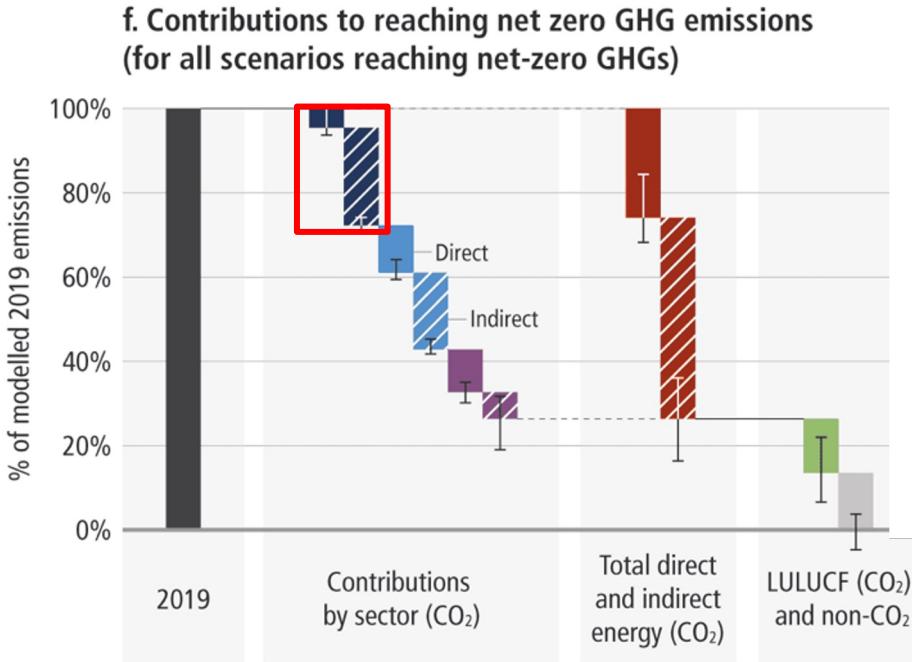
# World Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2016

Total: 49.4 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e



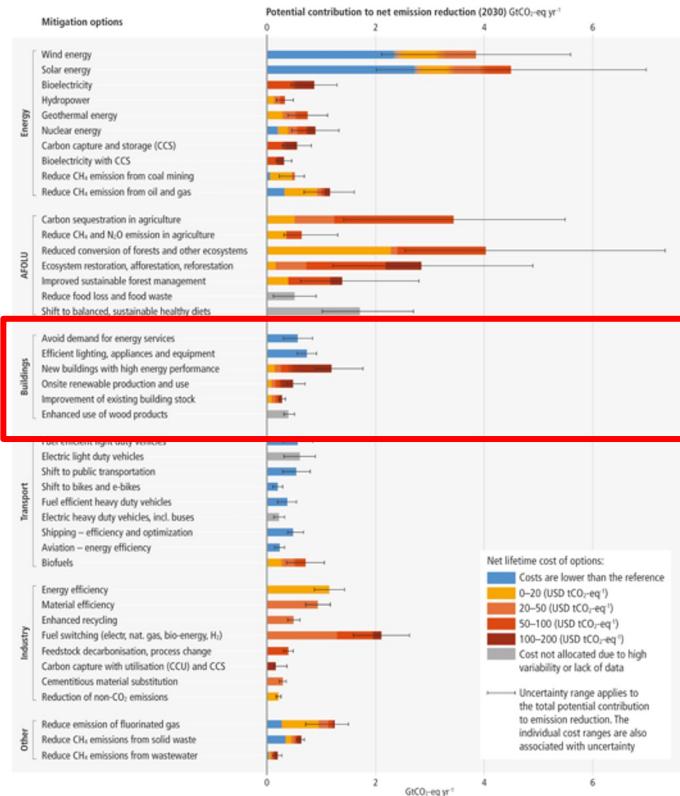


# Where do buildings play a role in climate change?





# IPPC comparison of mitigations impacts of different options

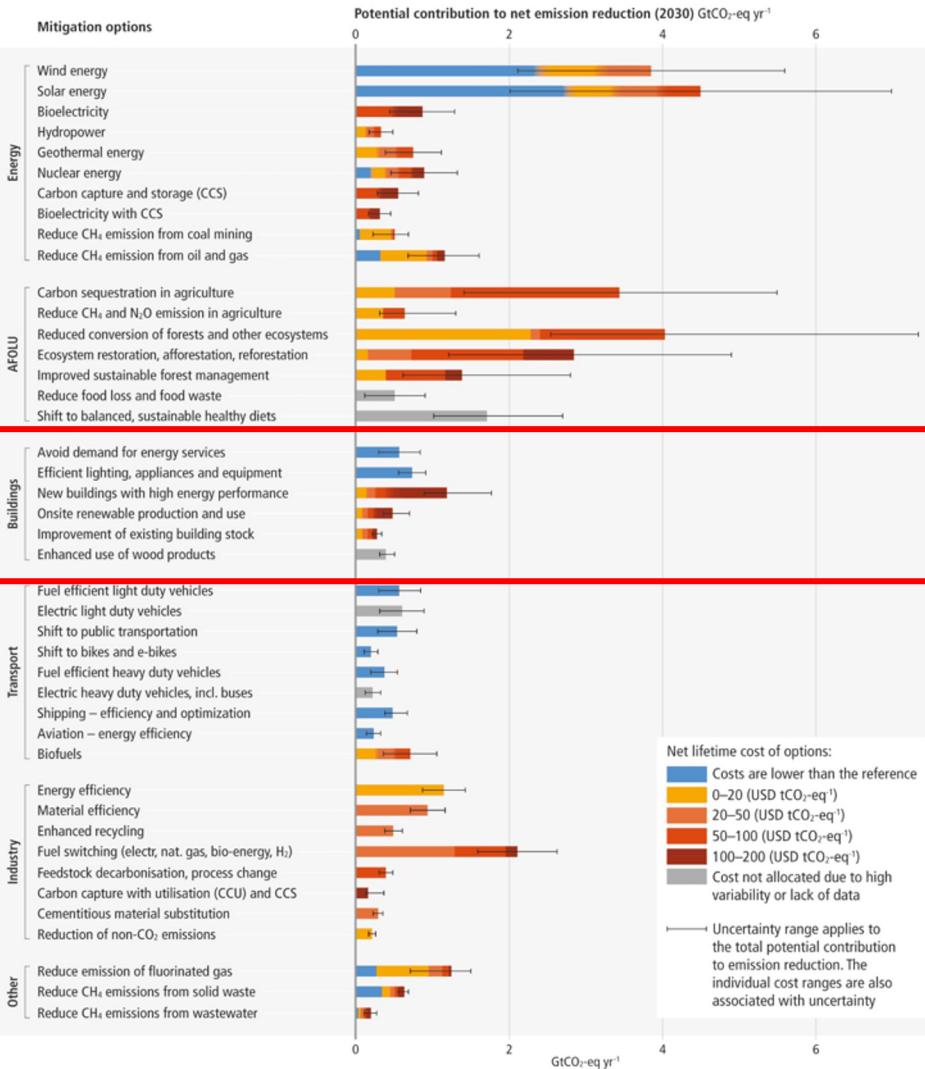


Source: IPCC WGIII (2022) AR6 Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Summary for Policymakers.



# IPPC comparison

ons



Source: IPCC WGIII (2022) AR6 C

# Outline of this lecture



- 1. Introduction and Motivation**
- 2. Building Control and Grid Interactive Buildings**
- 3. Applications of AI and Machine Learning**
- 4. Current Research Directions**
- 5. Concluding Remarks and Discussion**



# Buildings and Climate Change

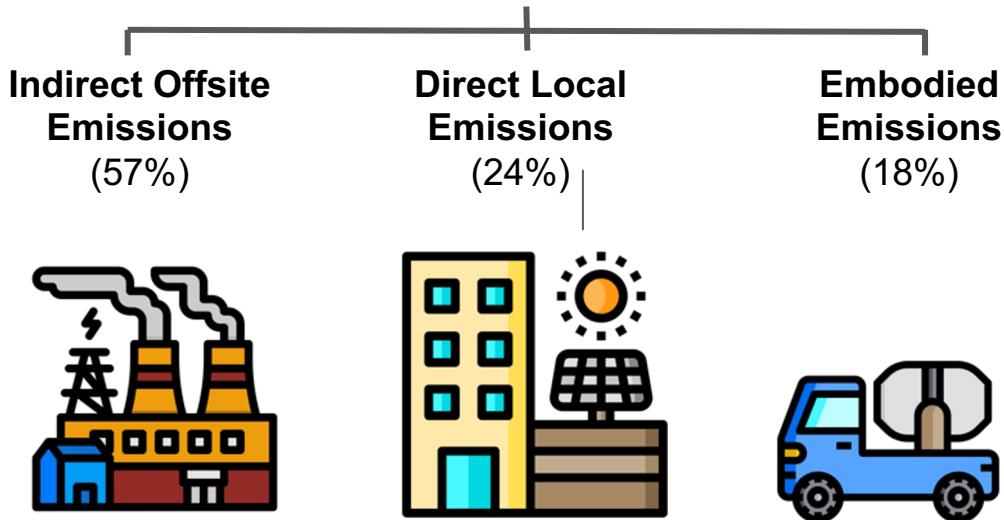
# Where do buildings play a role in climate change?



## Buildings in Mitigation:

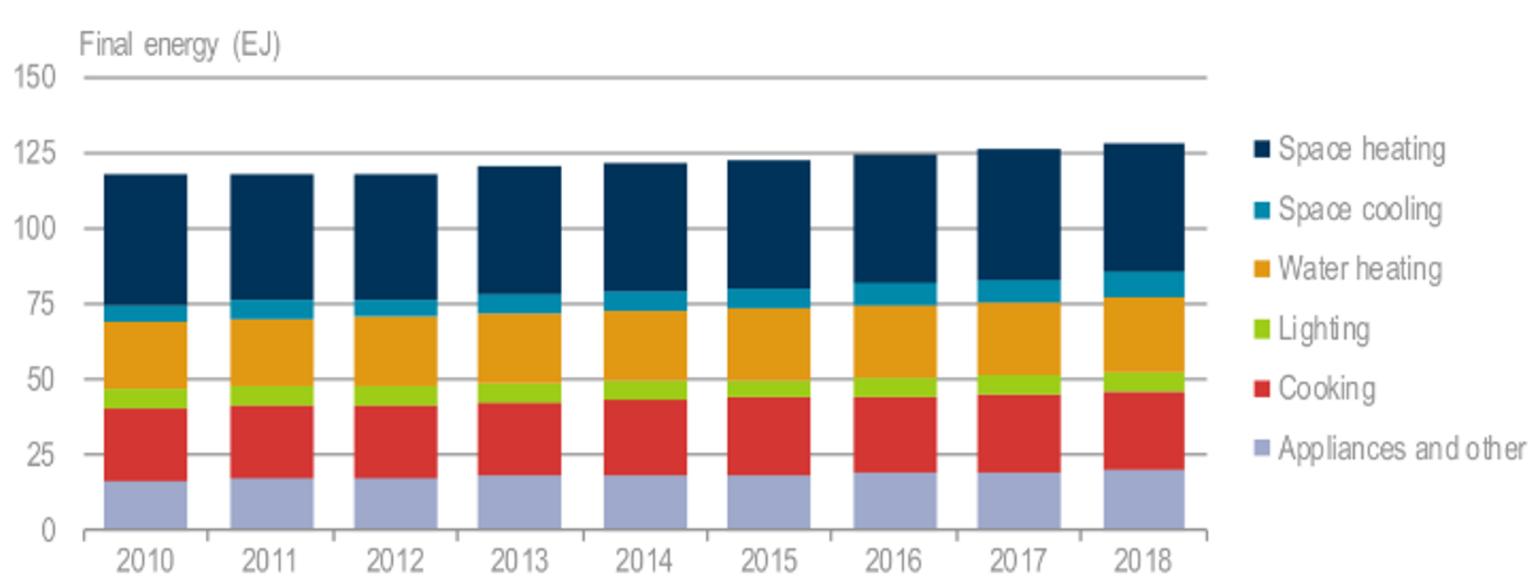
- buildings' **indirect emissions** from offsite generation of electricity and heat,
- **direct emissions** produced onsite and,
- **embodied emissions** from the production of cement and steel used in buildings.

Global GHG emissions from buildings were 12 GtCO<sub>2</sub>-eq in 2019, equivalent to **21% of global GHG emissions**.





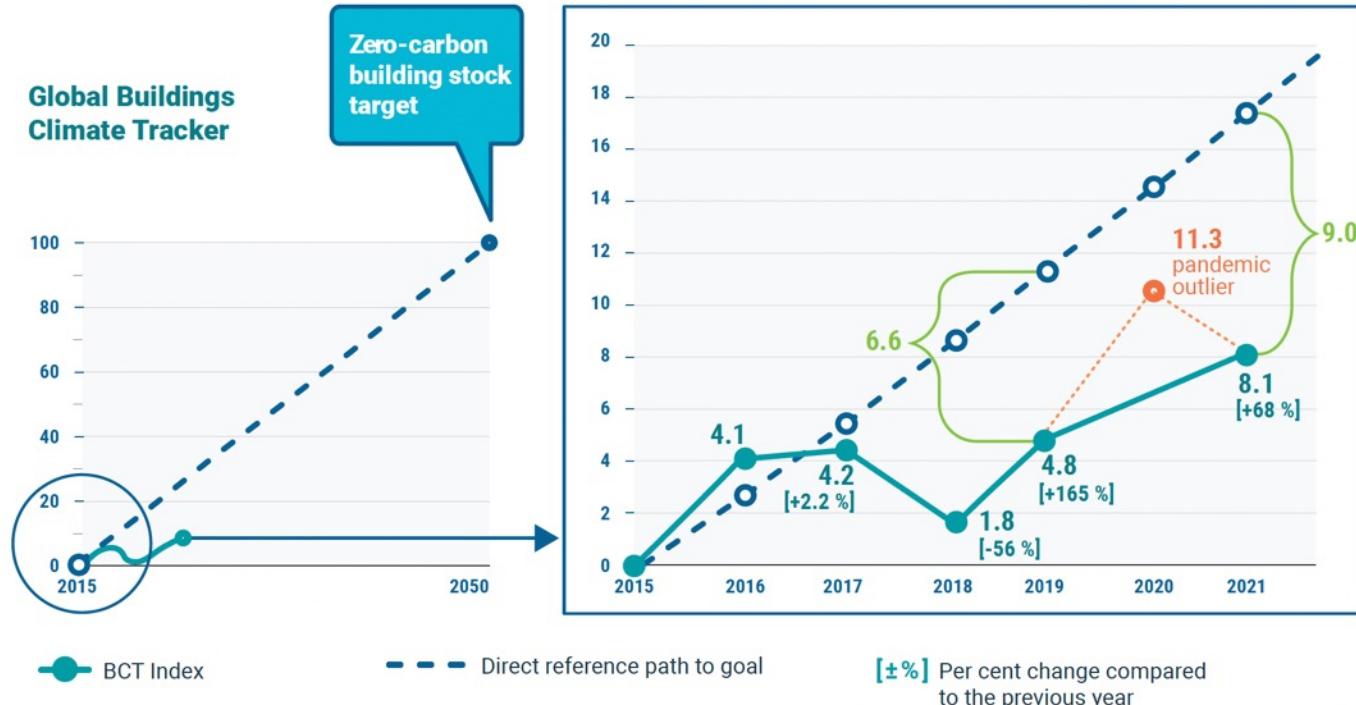
# Split of final energy consumption in buildings



Source: IEA, GlobalABC, and UN Environmental Programme. (2018)



# Comparing the observed building decarbonization to Paris agreement



Source: United Nations Environment Programme (2022) Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction

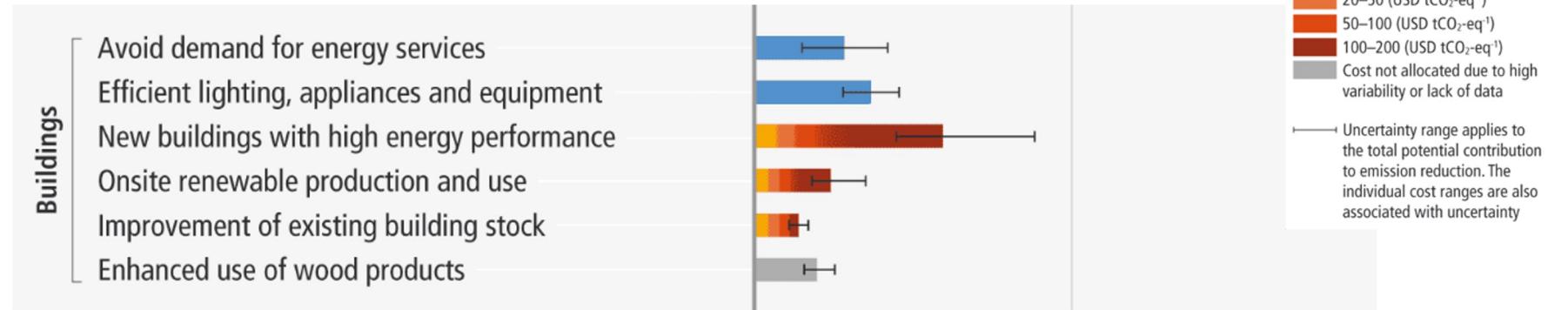


## Answer in the Google Form

What are effective strategies to mitigate the climate impact of buildings?



# Climate mitigations impacts and costs in buildings



**Intelligent building control** is an efficient measure to **avoid demand for energy services** and **increase buildings energy performance** (new and existing) as well as **increase use of renewable energy** (on- and offsite).

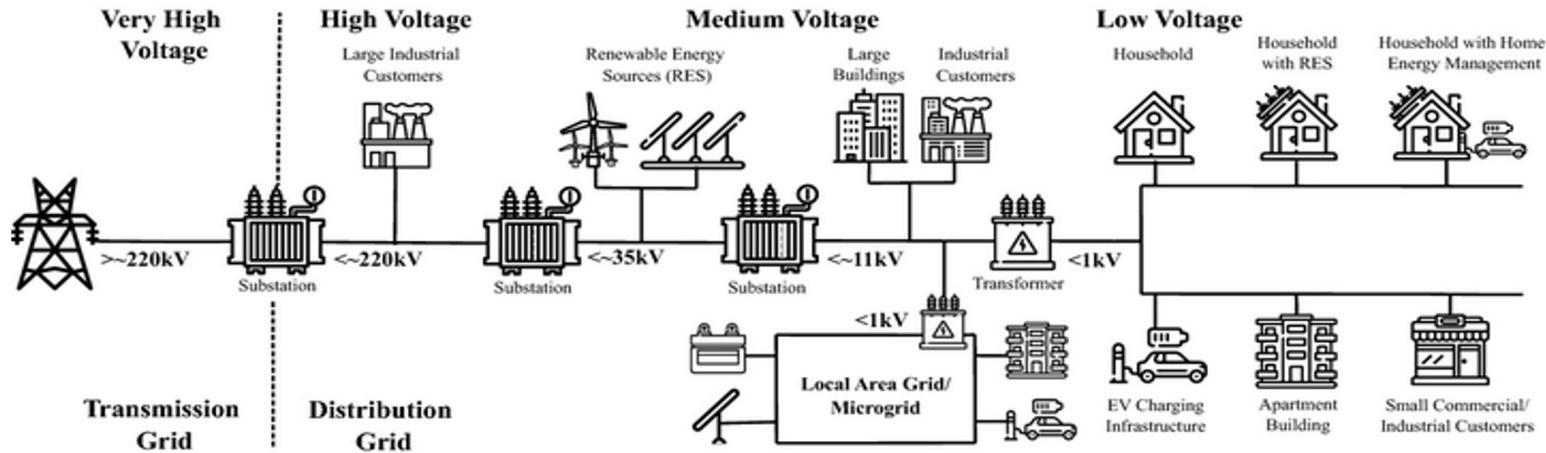


# Building Control and Grid Interactive Buildings



# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

The electrification of heating and transportation introduces a „coupling“ of the heating, electric energy supply, and transportation **sectors**.

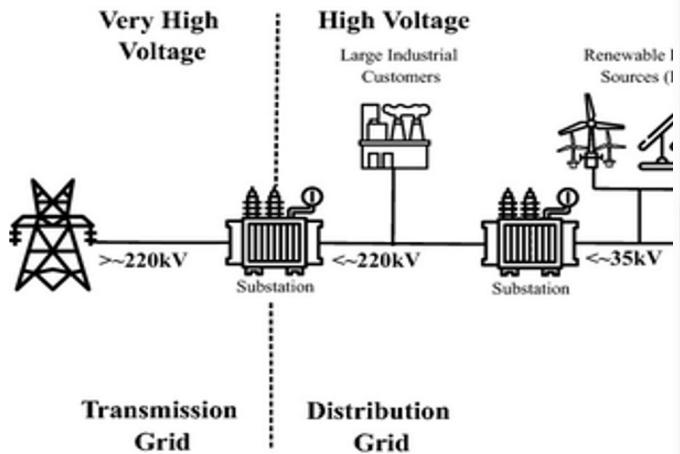




# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

Day 8 - AI for Energy Systems - July 14, 2023

The electrification of heating and transport energy supply, and transportation **sectors**.



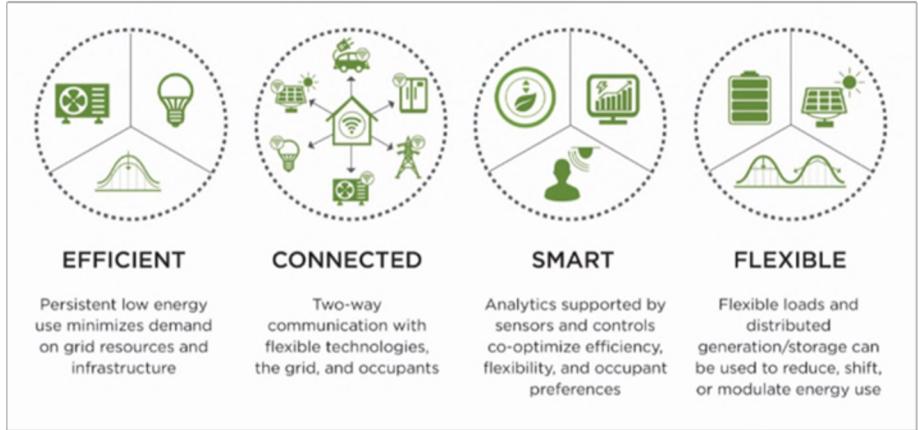
Time	Event
Lectures	
3-5 PM UTC	<p>AI for Power Systems</p> <p>▼ Details: (click to expand)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Priya Donti - CCAI, Cornell Tech, MIT</li><li>Nsutezo Simone Fobi - CCAI, Microsoft</li></ul>
Tutorials	
	<p>AI for Optimal Power Flow</p> <p>▼ Details: (click to expand)</p> <p>Tutorial Authors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Jorge Montalvo - CCAI, Centrica</li><li>Utkarsha Agwan - CCAI, University of California Berkeley</li><li>Panos Moutis - CCAI, Carnegie Mellon University</li></ul>



# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

Buildings are changing **from passive** consumers to **active, connected parts** of the future energy system, introducing decentralized energy resources and even providing flexibility to the electric energy system.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) introduces the term Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings (GEB):



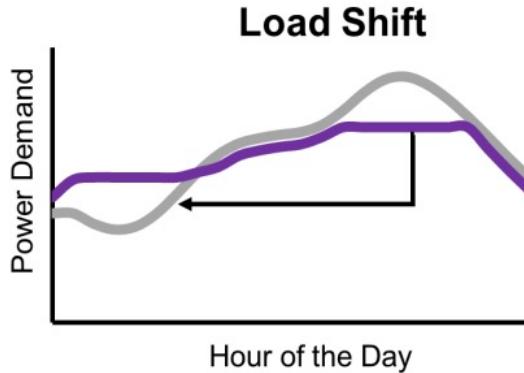
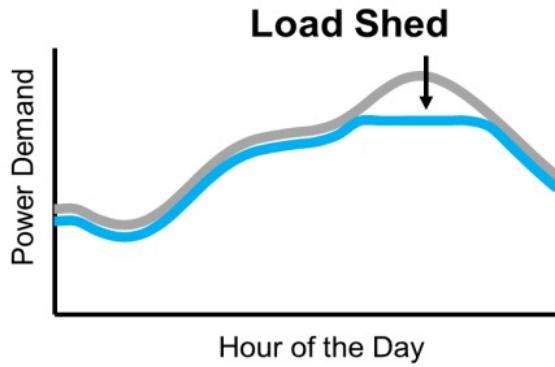
*„[...] an energy-efficient building that uses smart technologies and on-site DERs to provide demand flexibility while co-optimizing for energy cost, grid services, and occupant needs and preferences, in a continuous and integrated way.“*

Source: Neukomm, M., Nubbe, V., & Fares, R. (2019). Grid-interactive efficient buildings technical report series: Overview of research challenges and gaps.



# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

*Examples for demand side flexibility strategies (or demand-side management):*



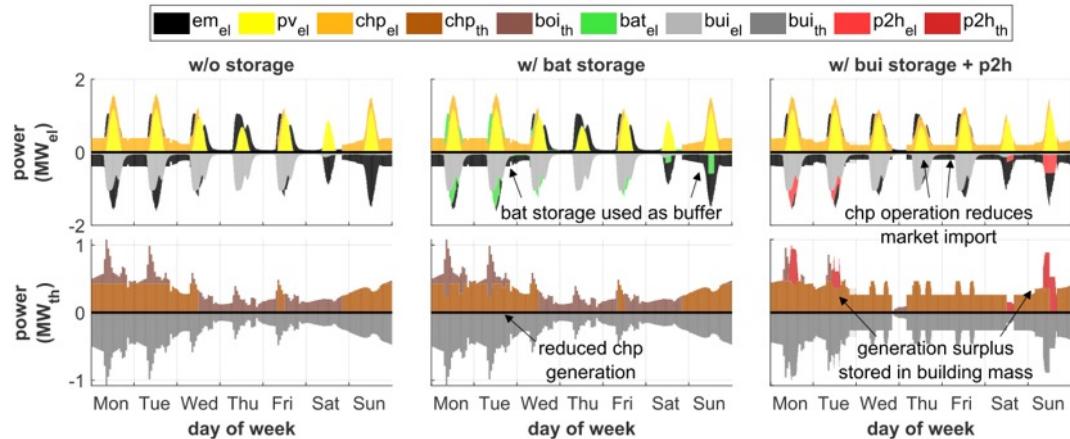
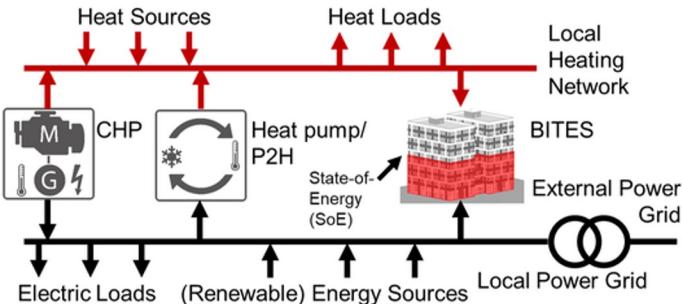
Source: Neukomm, M., Nubbe, V., & Fares, R. (2019). Grid-interactive efficient buildings technical report series: Overview of research challenges and gaps.



# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

By providing flexibility, buildings can essentially function as storage to balance renewables.

*Example: Using Generalized Additive Modeling (GAM) to model the Building Inherent Thermal Energy Storage (BITES) for use in linear optimization models.*

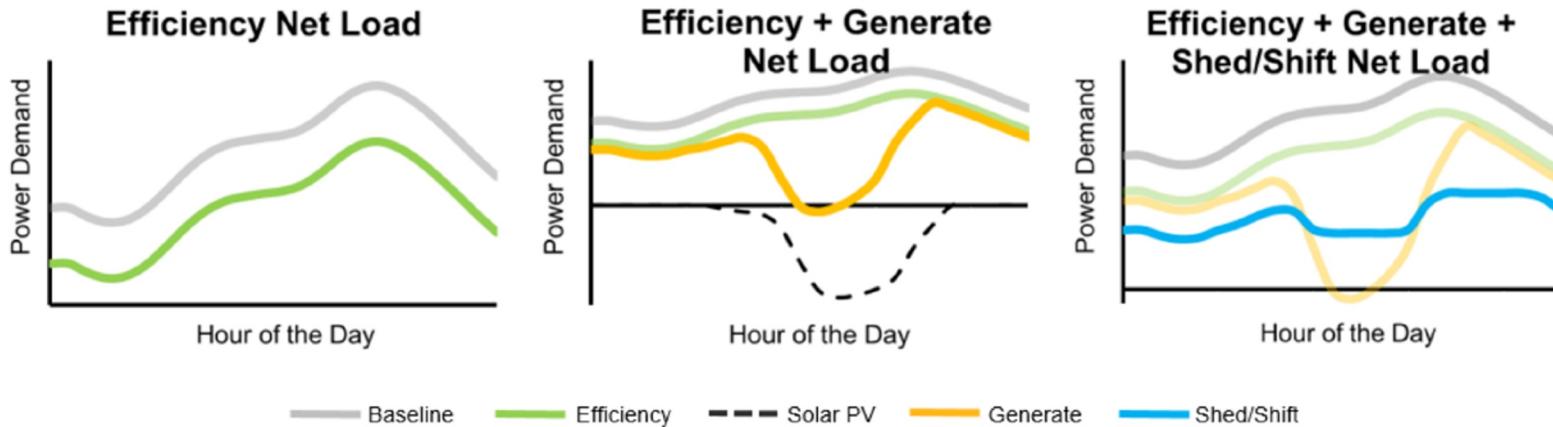


Source: M. Voss, J. F. Heinekamp, S. Krutzsch, F. Sick, S. Albayrak and K. Strunz, "Generalized Additive Modeling of Building Inertia Thermal Energy Storage for Integration Into Smart Grid Control," in IEEE Access, vol. 9, pp. 71699-71711, 2021, doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2021.3078802.



# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

*From energy efficient buildings to grid-interactive efficient buildings.*



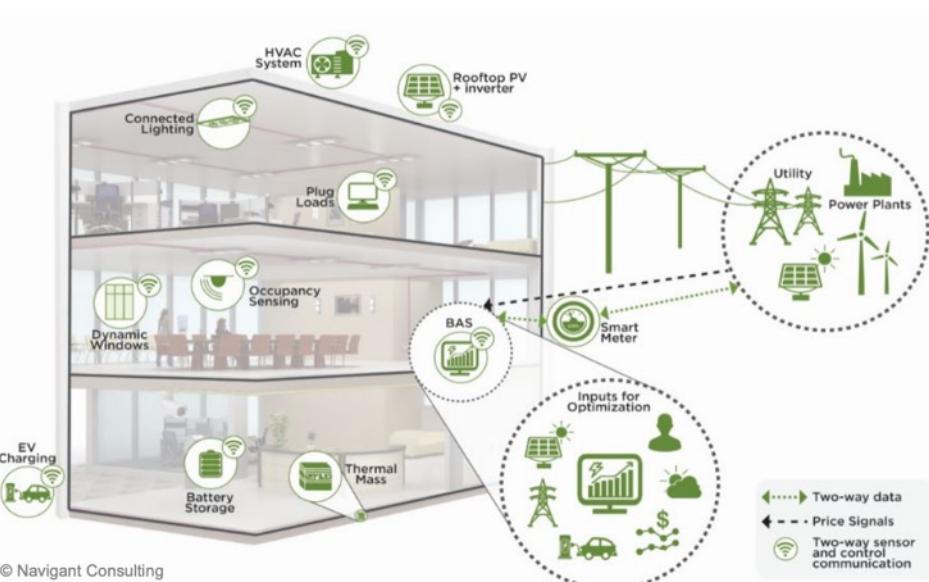
Increasing needs of advanced forecasting and optimization techniques for intelligent building control

Source: Neukomm, M., Nubbe, V., & Fares, R. (2019). Grid-interactive efficient buildings technical report series: Overview of research challenges and gaps.



# How can intelligent control support energy savings and increase renewable use?

Despite increasing number of actors and relevant disturbances, current operation of buildings is mostly based on simple but inefficient ***logic rules*** and ***PID controllers***.



*Simple reactive control*

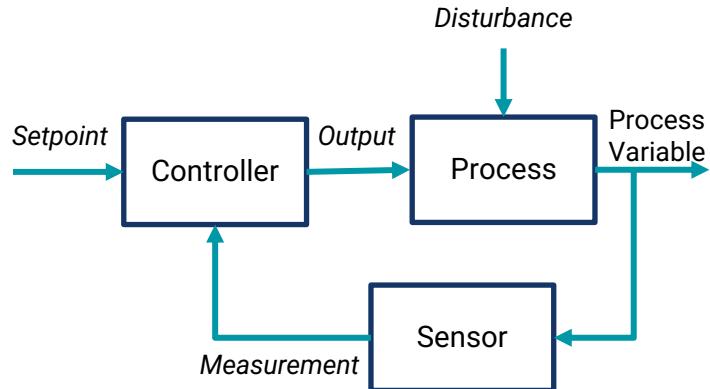


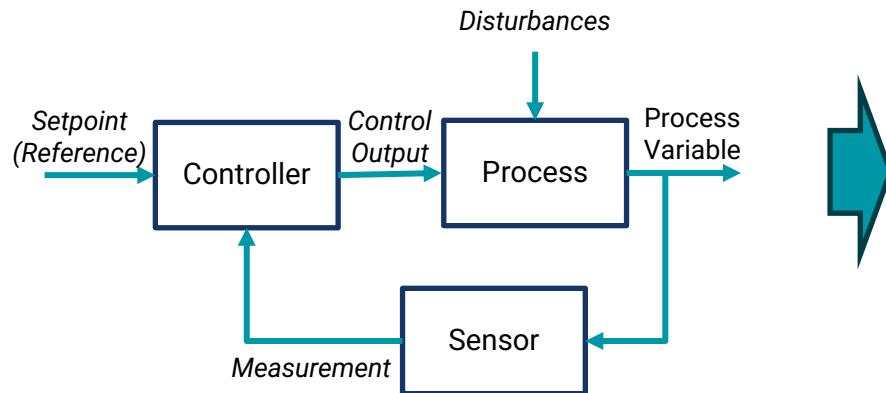
Image: Neukomm, M., Nubbe, V., & Fares, R. (2019). Grid-interactive efficient buildings technical report series: Overview of research challenges and gaps.



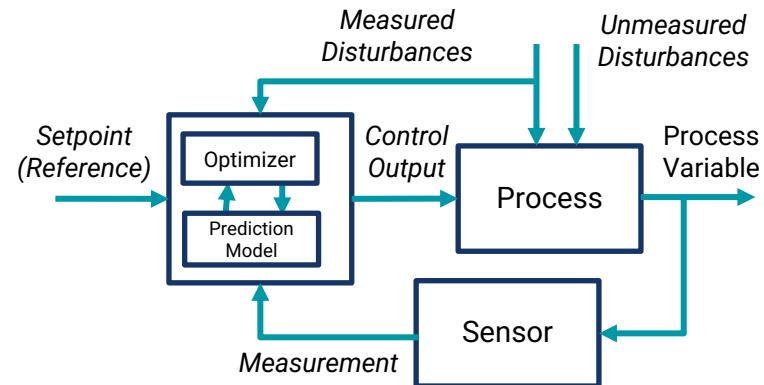
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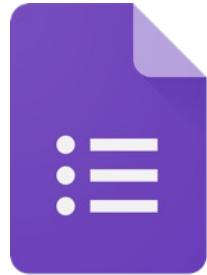
*Simple reactive control*



*Example: Model Predictive Control*



Requires accurate forecasts of disturbances!



## Answer in the Google Form

How does climate change affect buildings?

# How does climate change affect buildings and cities?



## Buildings in Adaptation:

Buildings and cities are already experiencing severe impacts from sea-level rise, floods and climate variability.

This leads to:

- Relocation and upgrades of buildings to avoid damages from sea-level rise and floods,
- Upgrading buildings and redesigning cities to meet increased cooling needs and ensure health of people.



Source: IPCC WGII (2022) AR6 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Technical Summary.

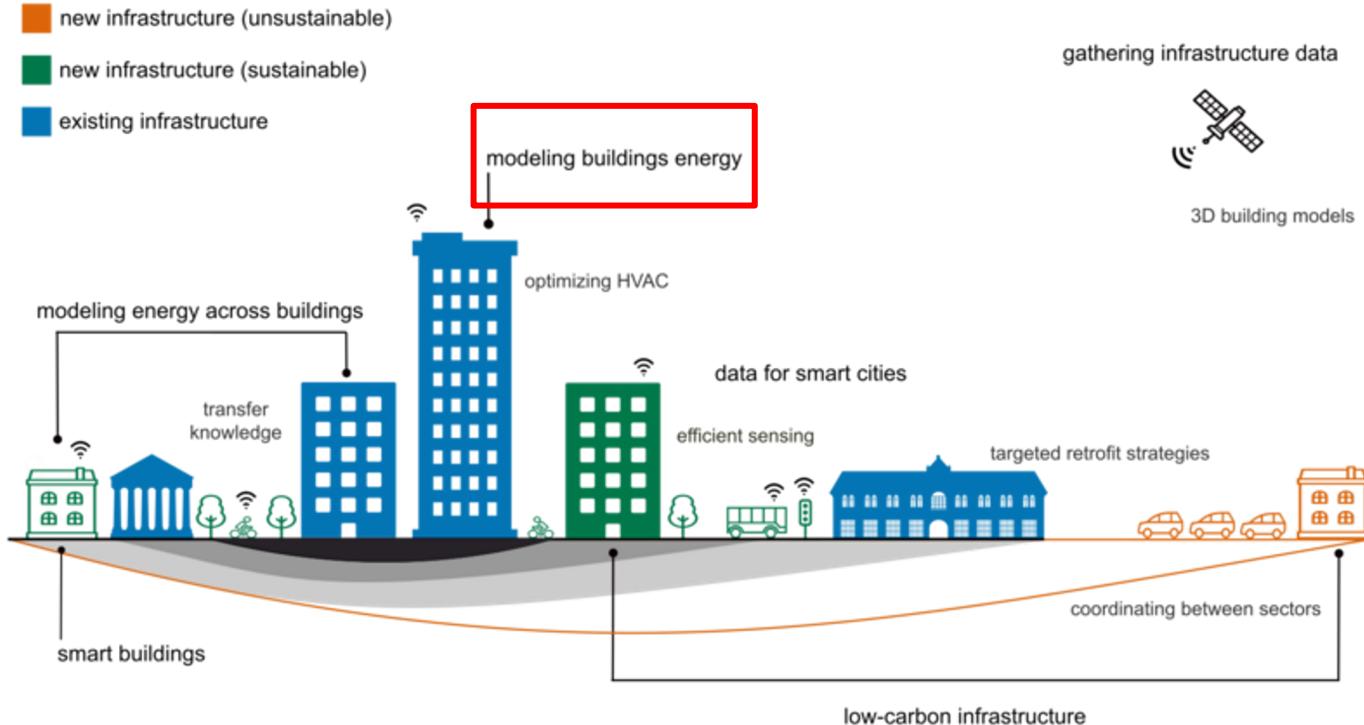
Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/andrewkesper/5350087559/>



# Machine Learning Application Areas



# Overview of machine learning applications areas for buildings



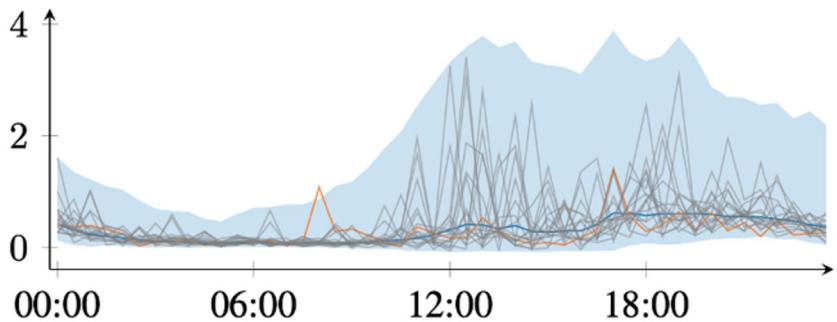
# Modeling Building Energy



ML-based time series models can be used to analyze, understand and predict the building's energy consumption at different time and spatial scales.

## Forecasting energy loads

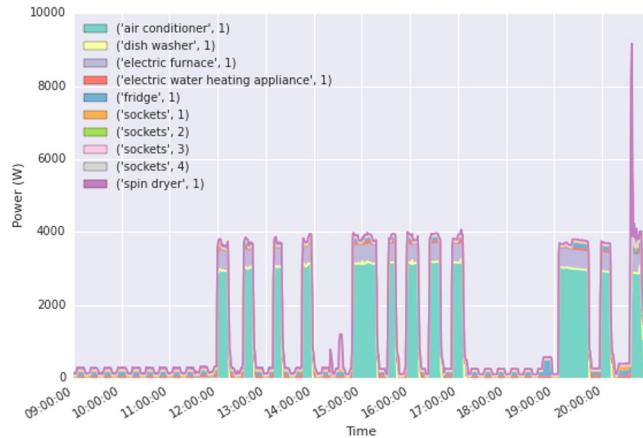
E.g., using Generative models to model marginal distributions and sample load scenarios.



Source: Arpogaus, M., Voss, M., Sick, B., Nigge-Uricher, M., & Dürr, O. (2023). Short-term density forecasting of low-voltage load using bernstein-polynomial normalizing flows. *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*.

## Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring (NILM)

E.g., using regression or classification models to disaggregate the load signal.



Source: <https://github.com/nilmtk/nilmtk>



# Tutorials on Modeling Building Energy with ML

## Tutorial on Load Forecasting



### Building Load Forecasting with Machine Learning



Marcus Voss, CCAI Summer School 2022

Accurate forecasts of energy demand and supply are essential to mitigate climate change. Discover how to train and evaluate building load forecasts using off-the-shelf ML models.

Buildings & Cities

Intermediate

Python

Time Series Analysis

Energy Management

## Office Hours

July 7, 2023, 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. UTC

## AMA

July 13, 2023, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. UTC



# Tutorials on Modeling Building Energy with ML

## Tutorial on (Tool Box for?) Smart Meter Data



**Smart Meter Data Analytics:  
Practical Use-Cases and Best  
Practices of Machine Learning  
Applications for Energy Data in the  
Residential Sector**



Tobias Brudermueller and Markus Kreft,  
ICLR 2023

A practical guide to current trends in smart meter data analytics with a focus on feature engineering and machine learning scenarios for energy data at 15-minute resolution. Gain insights into current trends and use cases in the energy field and get a sense of typical and atypical energy consumption in a residential building.

Electricity Systems   Introductory   Python   Time Series Analysis  
Building Energy Management   Energy Flexibility

## Office Hours

July 7, 2023, 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m. UTC

## AMA

July 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. UTC

### **3. Best practices for visualizing smart meter data**

1. [Time-series visualizations of energy data](#)
2. [Visualizing distributions of energy consumption](#)
3. [Multi-dimensional visualizations](#)
4. [Annotating visualizations with additional context information](#)
5. [Displaying aggregated demand](#)

### **4. Pre-processing smart meter data**

1. [Combining smart meter data with temperature data](#)
2. [Add additional information for filtering timestamps](#)
3. [Normalization methods](#)
4. [Interpolation methods and downsampling](#)
5. [Outlier detection with Hampel filter](#)
6. [Simple baseload estimation](#)
7. [Enhancing small activities](#)
8. [Detecting switching activities](#)
9. [Sliding window approaches](#)
10. [Feature extraction](#)
11. [Detecting peaks in distribution](#)
12. [Frequency-based methods for low-resolution data](#)

### **5. Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring (NILM) / Load Disaggregation**

1. [Using classification algorithms to detect appliance installations](#)
2. [Applying simple deep learning models for NILM](#)
3. [Applying Hidden Markov Models for NILM](#)
4. [Correctly evaluating NILM approaches](#)
5. [Rule-based heuristics for pattern isolations](#)

### **6. Flexibility Estimation**

1. [Estimating load shifting potential of disaggregated appliances](#)

### **7. Anomaly Detection**

1. [Introduction to online vs. offline change point detection](#)
2. [Finding state changes with offline change point detection](#)
3. [Finding anomalies with sliding window](#)
4. [Applying Symbolic Aggregate APPROXimation](#)
5. [Finding discords and motifs](#)

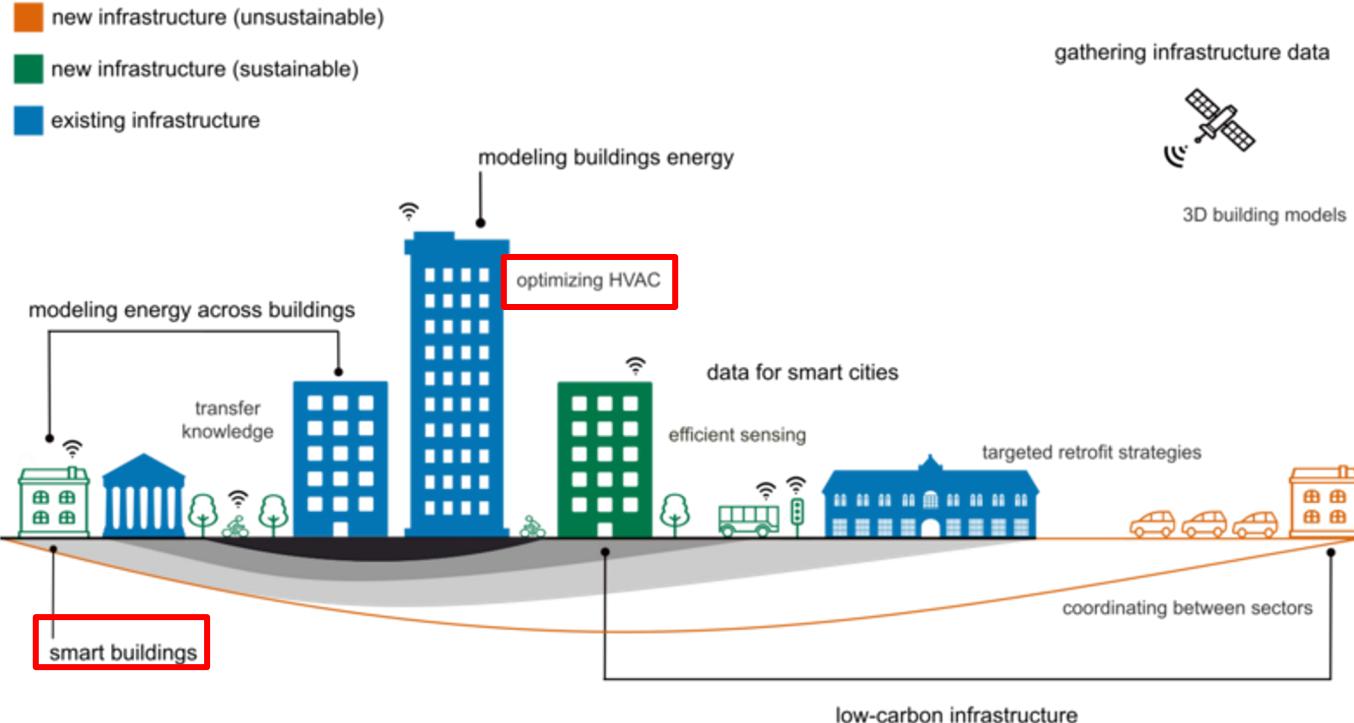
### **8. Customer segmentation**

1. [Extraction of energy signatures through regression](#)
2. [Extraction of average day profiles](#)
3. [Applying clustering algorithms](#)

See also after Summer School: <https://www.climatechange.ai/tutc>



# Overview of machine learning applications areas for buildings



Source: Rolnick, David, et al. "Tackling climate change with machine learning." ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR) 55.2 (2022): 1-96.

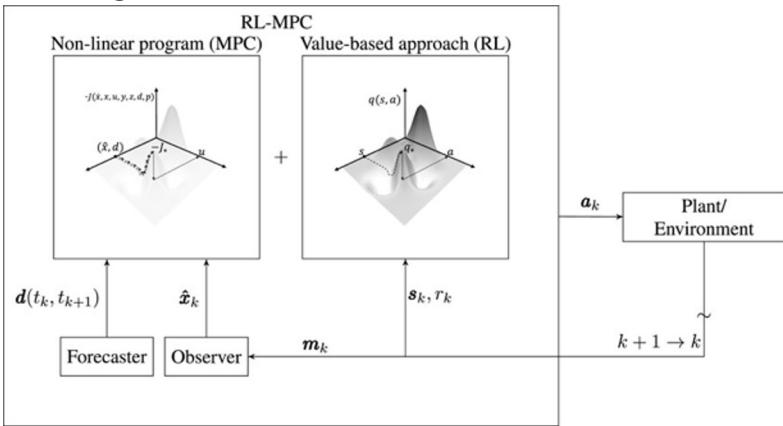


# Optimizing HVAC and Building Operations

Machine Learning can be used to inform operational systems (e.g. by forecasting) or directly optimize building operations.

## Controlling HVAC and lighting systems

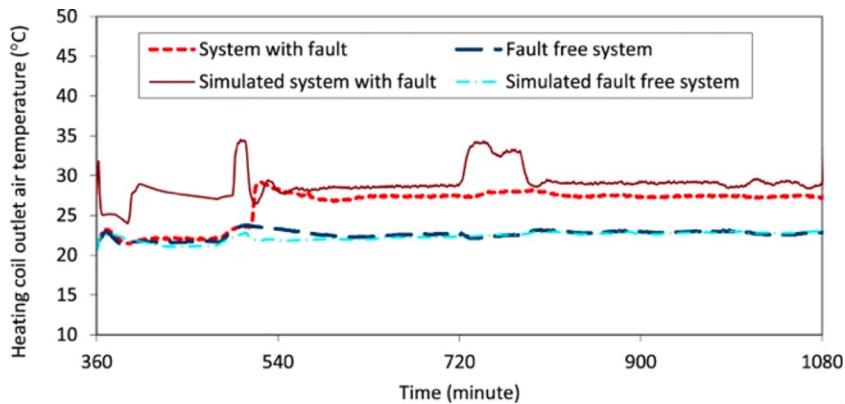
E.g., using RL to optimize Building Energy Management.



Arroyo, Javier, Fred Spiessens, and Lieve Helsen. "Comparison of Optimal Control Techniques for Building Energy Management." *Frontiers in Built Environment* 8. Artificial Intelligence Applications in Building's Thermal Management (2022).

## Fault detection and predictive maintenance in building systems

E.g., using ML to detect faults (data from<sup>11</sup>)



Granderson, Jessica, et al. "Building fault detection data to aid diagnostic algorithm creation and performance testing." *Scientific data* 7.1 (2020): 65.



# More on Buildings in this Summer School

## Tutorial on RL in Buildings



**CityLearn: Reinforcement Learning Control for Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings and Communities**



Kingsley Nweye, Allen Wu,  
Yara Almilaily, and Zoltan Nagy,  
ICLR 2023

Learn how to design simple and advanced control algorithms to provide energy flexibility, and acquire familiarity with the CityLearn environment and its datasets for extended use in projects. The tutorial provides a walk-through on how to set up and interact with the environment using a real-world dataset in three hands-on control experiments.

Electricity Systems    Introductory    Python  
Reinforcement Learning    Building Energy Management  
Energy Flexibility

## Office Hours

July 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. UTC

## AMA

July 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. UTC



# More on Buildings in this Summer School

## Tutorial on RL in Buildings



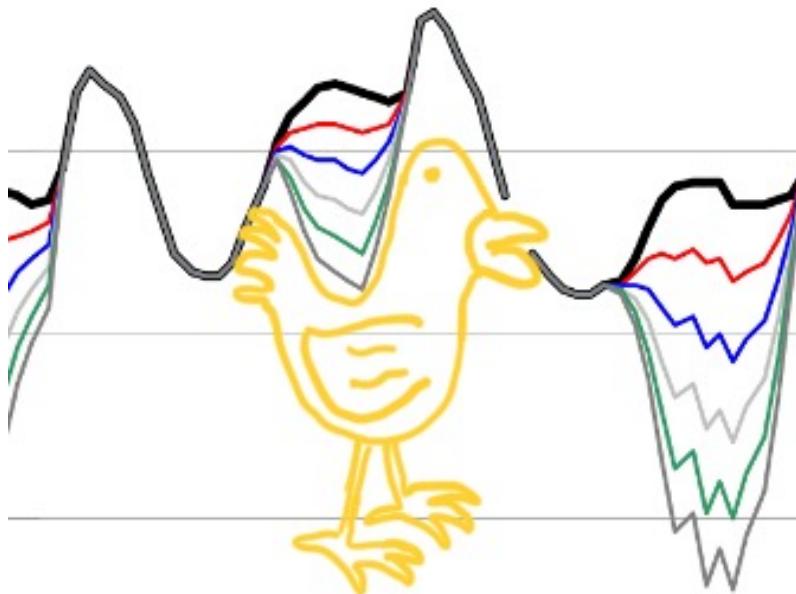
### CityLearn: Reinforcement Learning Control for Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings and Communities



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Electricity Systems    Introductory    Python  
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# More on Buildings in this Summer School

You can submit a learner to the CityLearn Challenge 2022 leader board to see where you would have scored in the last challenge (only in Post Challenge mode).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the CityLearn Challenge 2022. At the top, there are four green circular status indicators: "Phase I (Warm Up Round): Completed", "Phase II: Completed", "Phase III: Completed", and "Post Challenge (2023): Completed". Below these, the title "NeurIPS 2022 CityLearn Challenge" is displayed, followed by the subtitle "Using AI For Building's Energy Management". A large green button labeled "Participate" is prominent. To the right of the title is a 3D rendering of a green sphere with buildings and solar panels on it. Below the title, there are two sections: "15,000 USD Cash Prizes + 3 Travel Grants" and "Co-authorship in Competition Solutions Paper". The "Co-authorship" section includes a small icon of a person writing. Below these sections are social media metrics: 38k views, 701 participants, 111 discussions, 1810 submissions, and 33 likes. There is also a "Share" button. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a navigation bar with links to "Overview", "Leaderboard" (which is underlined in red), "Notebooks", "Discussion", "Insights", "Resources", and "Rules". Below this is another set of status indicators: "Phase I (Warm Up Round)", "Phase II", "Phase III", and "Post Challenge (2023)" (which is highlighted in red). Further down, there is a "Leaderboard filters" section with a dropdown menu and a table header row containing columns for "Δ", "# Participants", "Average Score", "Emission Cost", "Price Cost", "Grid Cost", "Successful Entries", "Last Submission", and "Submission Trend".

See also after Summer School: <https://www.climatechange.ai/tutorials>

# Tutorials on Optimizing Buildings with Reinforcement Learning



## Bonus: Another Tutorial on RL in Buildings (from last year's summer school!)



### Building Control with RL using BOPTEST



Javier Arroyo, David Blum, Kyle Benne,  
and Iago Figueroa,  
CCAI Summer School 2022

Apply reinforcement learning to a building emulator to  
intelligently control HVAC systems.

Check out the [recorded talk](#) for more information.

Buildings & Cities

Intermediate

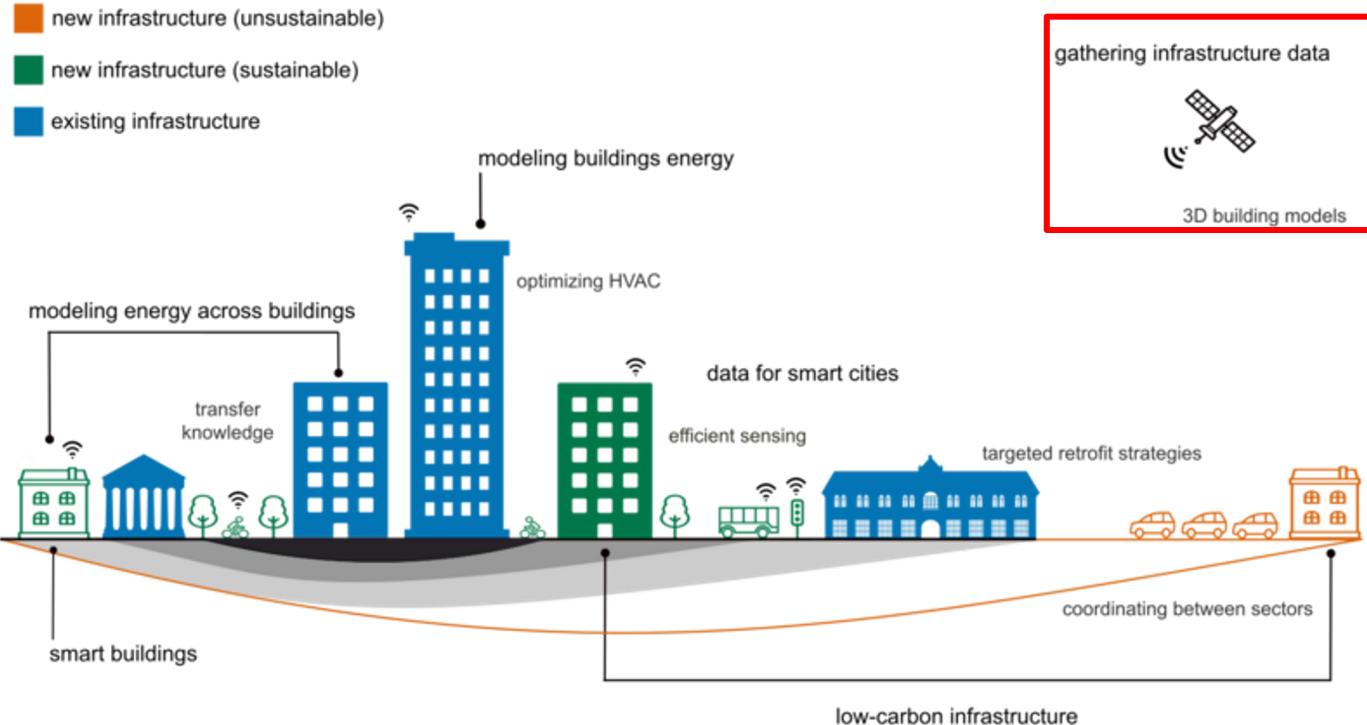
Python

Reinforcement Learning

Energy Management



# Overview of machine learning applications areas for buildings

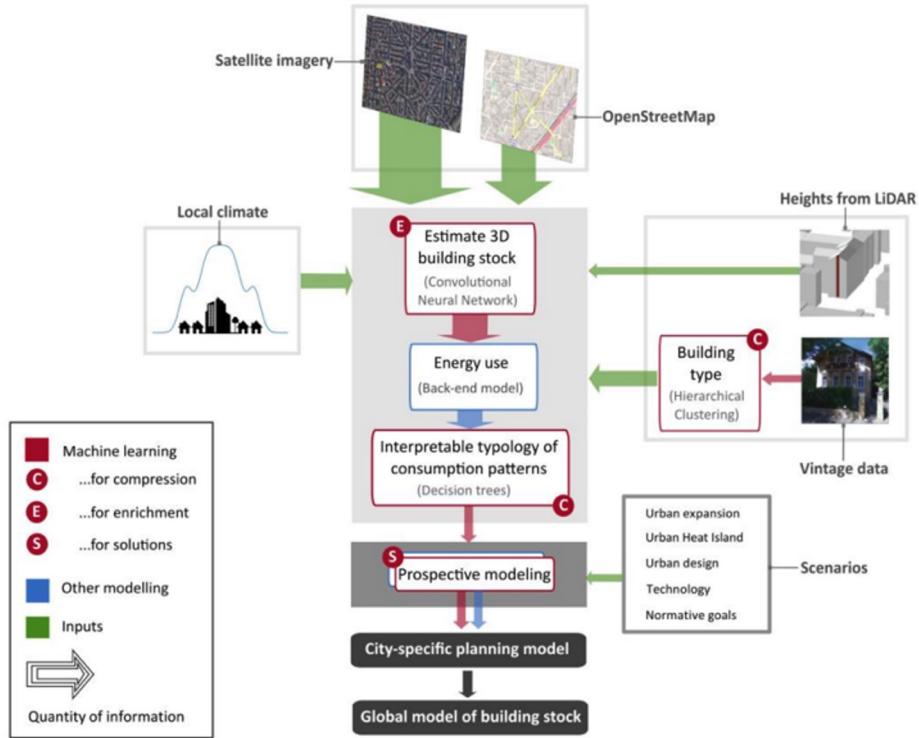


Source: Rolnick, David, et al. "Tackling climate change with machine learning." ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR) 55.2 (2022): 1-96.



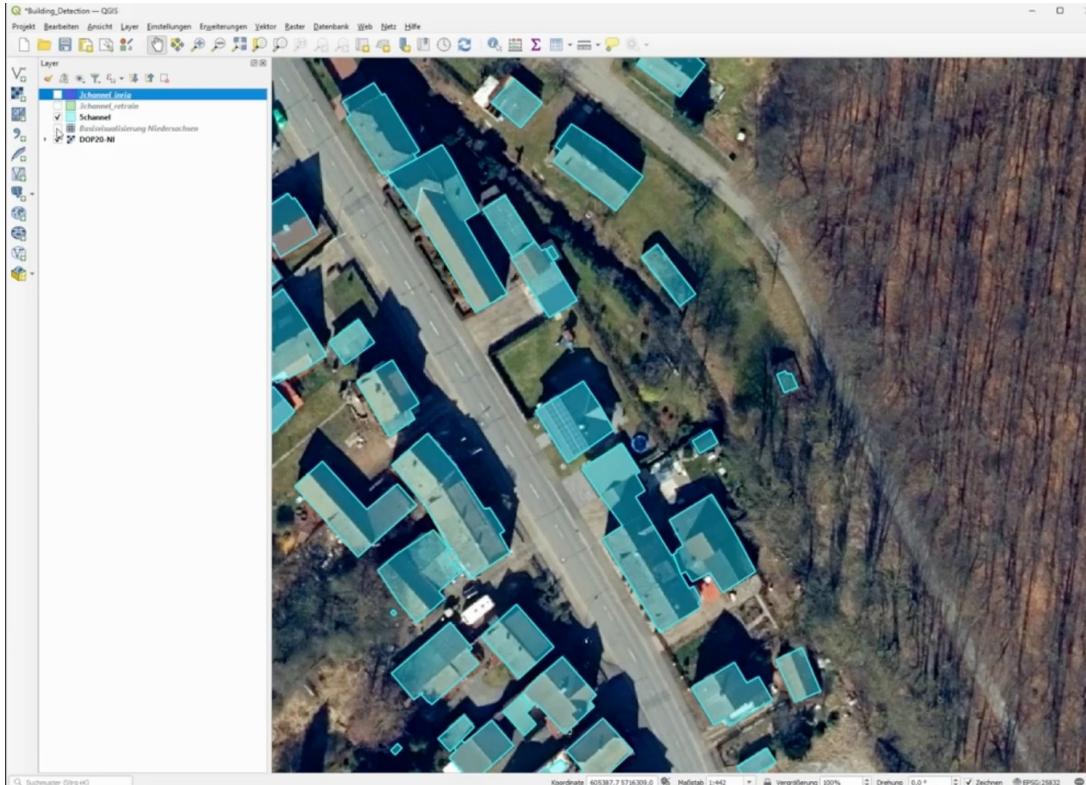
# Mapping built-up and energy infrastructure

E.g., using CNNs and Decision Trees to estimate the building energy use at scale .





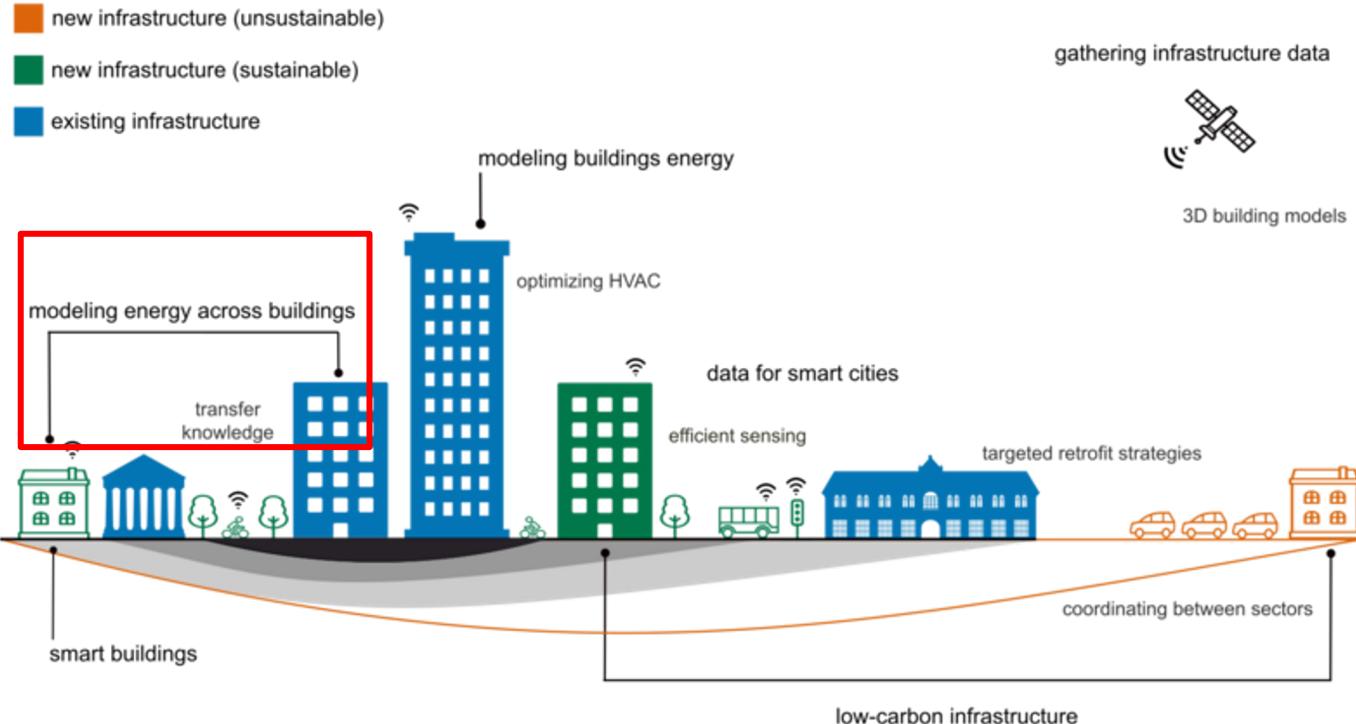
# Mapping built-up and energy infrastructure



Source: <https://twitter.com/JonasBostelmann/status/1626237769122222080>,  
based on <https://github.com/Lydorn/Polygonization-by-Frame-Field-Learning>



# Overview of machine learning applications areas for buildings



Source: Rolnick, David, et al. "Tackling climate change with machine learning." ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR) 55.2 (2022): 1-96.



# Transfer Learning and Global Modelling

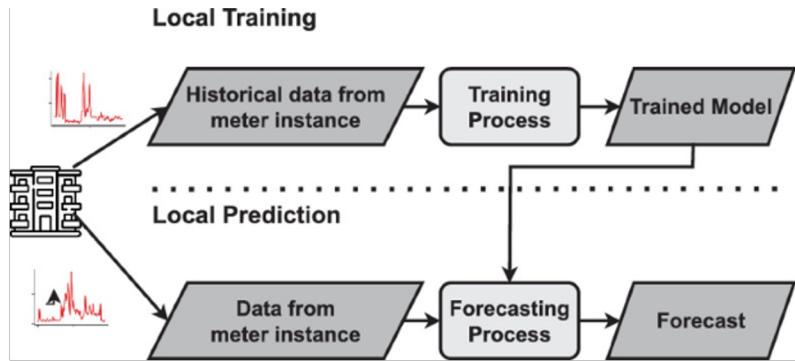


Source: Pinto et al.: Transfer learning for smart buildings: A critical review of algorithms, applications, and future perspectives. Advances in Applied Energy (2022).

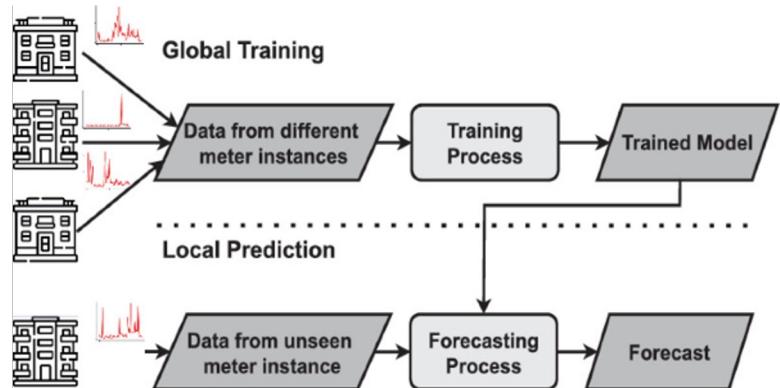


# Transfer Learning and Global Modelling

## Local Modelling



## Global Modelling

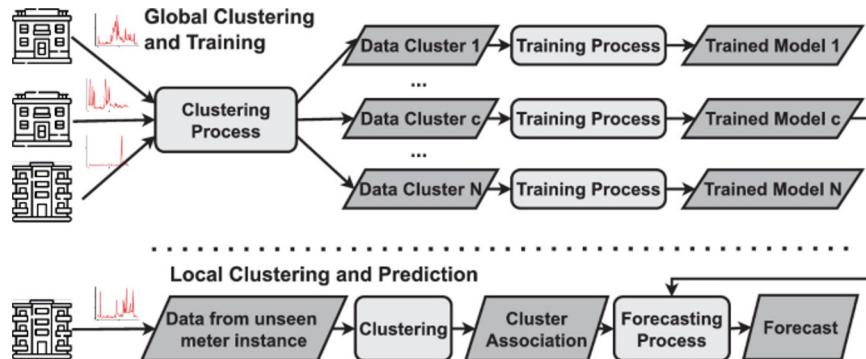


Source: Haben, S., Voss, M., & Holderbaum, W. (2023). Core Concepts and Methods in Load Forecasting: With Applications in Distribution Networks.

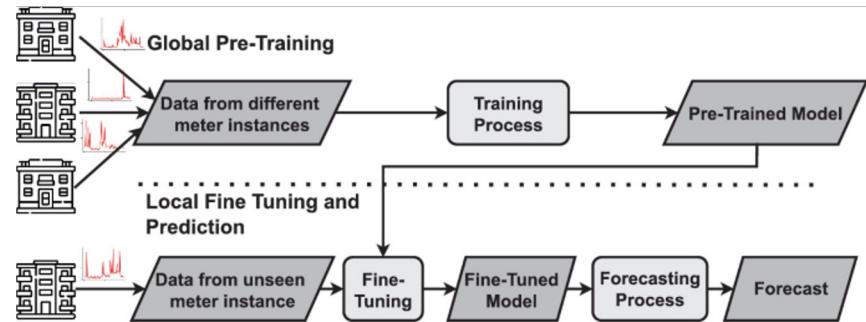


# Transfer Learning and Global Modelling

## Global Modelling with Clustering

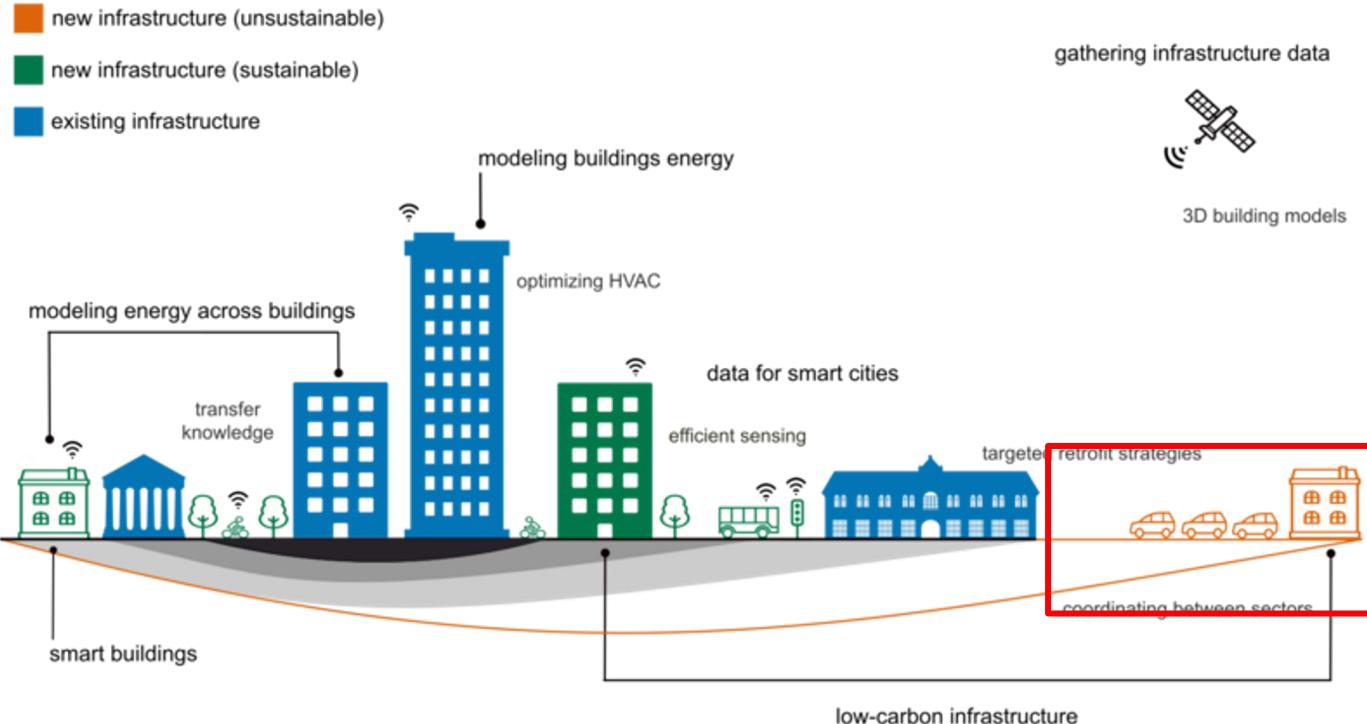


## Fine Tuning a Model





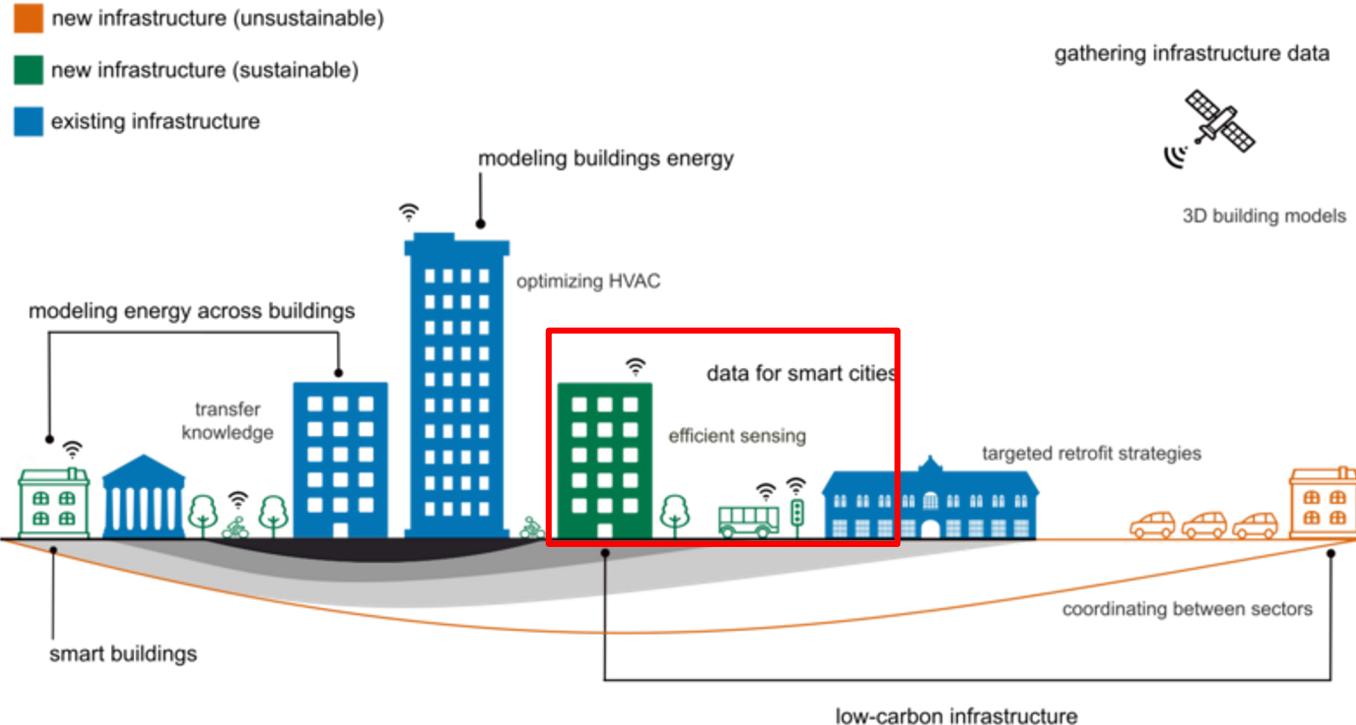
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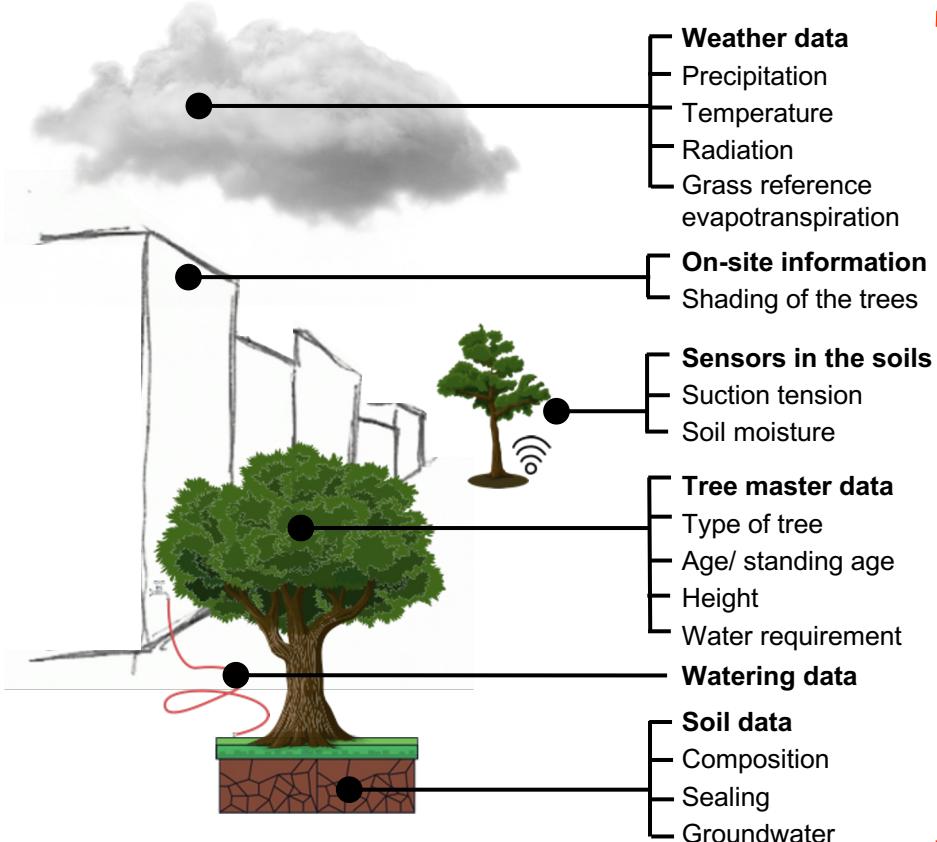


# Overview of machine learning applications areas for buildings

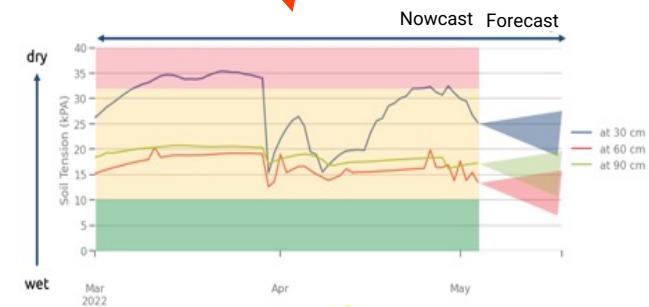


Source: Rolnick, David, et al. "Tackling climate change with machine learning." ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR) 55.2 (2022): 1-96.

# Quantified Trees: Predicting City Tree Irrigation Requirements



Random  
Forest





# Quantified Trees: Predicting City Tree Irrigation Requirements

## Dashboard for Greenery Departments

The dashboard includes a map of Berlin with tree locations, a weather chart for Berlin, a list of irrigation events, and a list of messages.

**Filters:**

- Filter nach Bezirk: Reinickendorf, Pankow, Mitte, Wedding, Gesundbrunnen, Prenzlauer Berg, Lichtenberg, Kreuzberg, Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf
- 0 Saugspannung
- Baumalter in Jahren: 25
- Baumart: 0
- Filters out of scope (2)

**APPLY FILTERS** **CLEAR ALL**

**QTrees Dashboard**

**Baumkarte**

**Wetter in Berlin**

**Giebungen**

**Meldungen**

## App for Berlin Citizens

**Willkommen bei Baumblick BETA**

Die App, die dir einen Ein- und Ausblick in den Zustand und die Wasserversorgung der Stadtbäume Berlins gibt.

**Baum finden** **Mehr erfahren**



Project by



TECHNOLOGIE  
STIFTUNG  
BERLIN

 birds  
on  
mars



Supported by:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag

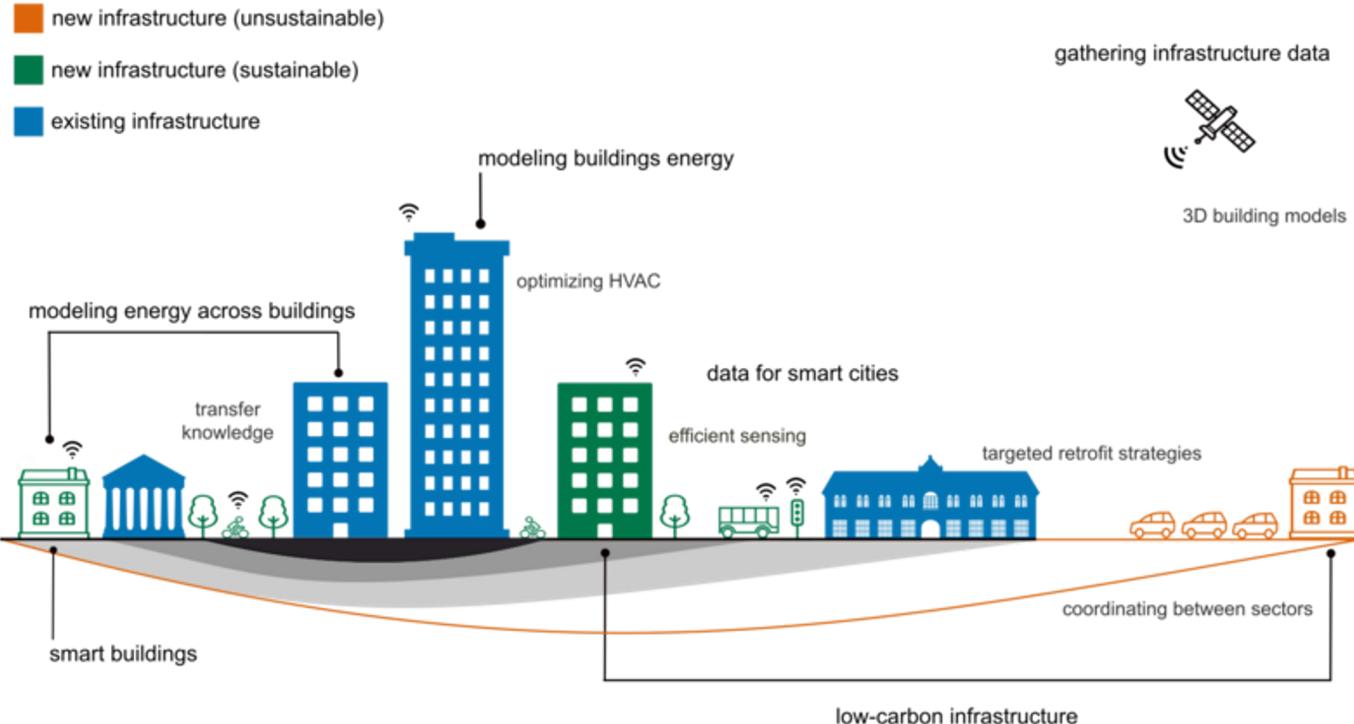
Administrated by



Zukunft  
Umwelt  
Gesellschaft



# Overview of machine learning applications areas for buildings



Source: Rolnick, David, et al. "Tackling climate change with machine learning." ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR) 55.2 (2022): 1-96.



# Another Overview of Machine Learning applications areas for buildings

	Inter-Building	Building	Occupant
Control strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Power flow coordination</li><li>Smart energy storage and distribution</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>HVAC, lighting control</li><li>Space scheduling</li><li>Demand response</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Occupant-centric environmental control</li></ul>
Learning Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demand response prediction</li><li>Building load prediction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Building control</li><li>Fault diagnosis</li><li>Occupancy detection</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Thermal comfort</li><li>Activity detection</li><li>Utility Function Learning</li></ul>
Markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aggregation &amp; mechanism design</li><li>Energy allocation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Demand response cost optimization</li><li>Smart load scheduling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mechanism design based on occupant utility</li></ul>

Source: Prasanna Das, Hari, et al. "Machine Learning for Smart and Energy-Efficient Buildings." *arXiv e-prints* (2022).  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2211.14889.pdf>



# Current Research Directions



# Hybrid physical and data-driven modelling

## Black Box

No Knowledge of  
the System Physics  
(Data-driven)

- Better Accuracy
- Better Transferability

## Grey Box

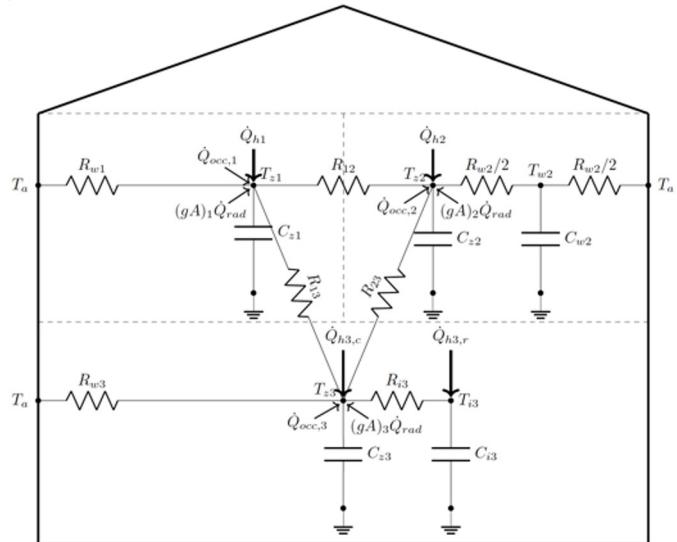
Partial Knowledge  
of the System  
Physics

## White Box

Complete  
Knowledge of the  
System Physics

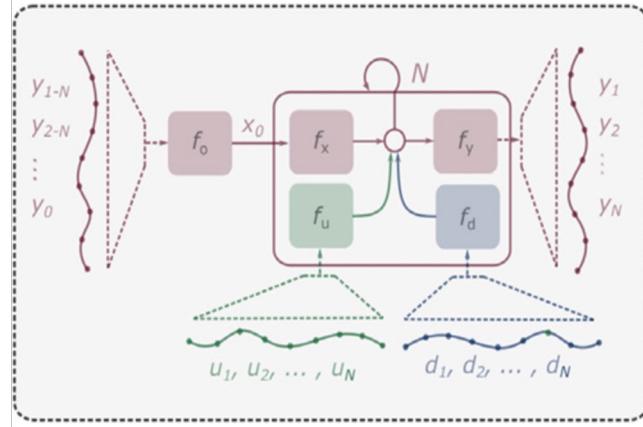
- Suitable for small datasets
- Reliability

# Hybrid physical and data-driven modelling



Arroyo, J. Synergy between control theory and machine learning for building energy management. PhD Thesis, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium (2021).

Autoregressive neural state space model



Physics-constrained system identification

Drgona et al.: Physics-constrained deep learning of multi-zone building thermal dynamics Energy and Buildings 243 (2021), 110992.



# Hybrid optimal control methods

CONTROL THEORY	MACHINE LEARNING
Data efficiency	Data efficiency
Constraint handling	Constraint handling
Robustness	Robustness
Adaptive	Adaptive
Domain knowledge required	Domain knowledge required
Implementation cost	Implementation cost

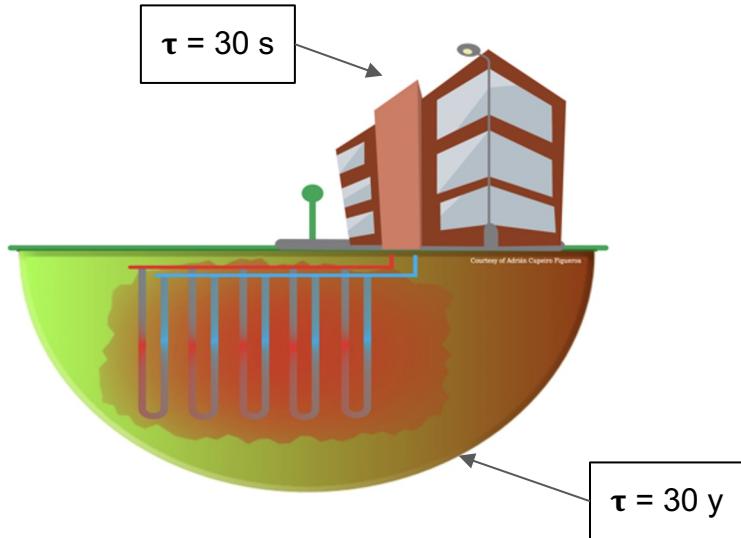
Source: Javier Arroyo in Lecture from Summer School 2022.

- **Approximate MPC**, Drgoňa et al. (2018).
- **Gnu-RL**, Chen et al. (2019).
- **DPC**, Drgoňa et al. (2021).
- **RL-MPC**, Arroyo et al. (2022).

- Drgoňa, J., Picard, D., Kvasnica, M., Helsen, L., "Approximate model predictive building control via machine learning." *Applied Energy* 218 (2018) 199-216.
- Chen, B., Cai, Z., and Bergés, M. Gnu-RL: A Precocial Reinforcement Learning Solution for Building HVAC Control Using a Differentiable MPC Policy. In Proceedings of the 6th ACM International Conference on Systems for Energy-Efficient Buildings, Cities, and Transportation (BuildSys) (New York, New York, USA, November 2019), pp. 316–325
- Drgona, J., Tuor, A., Skomski, E., Vasisht, S., and Vrabie, D. Deep Learning Explicit Differentiable Predictive Control Laws for Buildings. *arXiv* (2021)
- Arroyo, J., Manna, C., Spiessens, F., and Helsen, L. Reinforced Model Predictive Control (RL-MPC) for Building Energy Management. *Applied Energy* 309 (2022), 118346.



# Optimizing across different time scales





# Challenges for Deployment of RL in Buildings

1. Being able to learn on live systems **from limited samples**
2. Dealing with unknown and potentially **large delays** in the system actuators, sensors or feedback
3. Learning and acting in **high-dimensional state and action spaces**
4. Reasoning about **system constraints** that should never or rarely be violated
5. Interacting with **systems that are partially observable**
6. Learning from **multiple, or poorly specified, objective functions**
7. Being able to **provide actions quickly**, especially for systems with low latencies
8. **Training off-line** from fixed logs of an external policy
9. Providing system operators with **explainable policies**

Using Reinforcement Learning to Improve Energy Management for Grid-Interactive Buildings

Implementation in the Citylearn environment and key challenges for multi-agent reinforcement learning



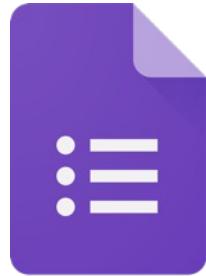
Zoltan Nagy and Kingsley Nweye, June 02, 2023



Photo credit by Pixabay



# And Large Language Models? Generative AI?



**Answer in the Google Form**

Any Ideas?



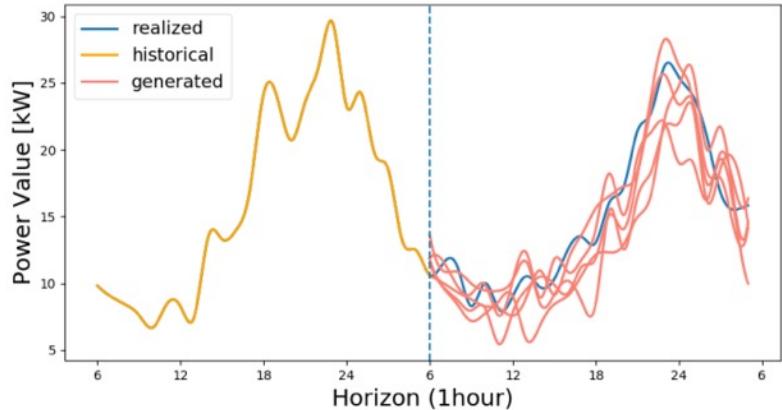
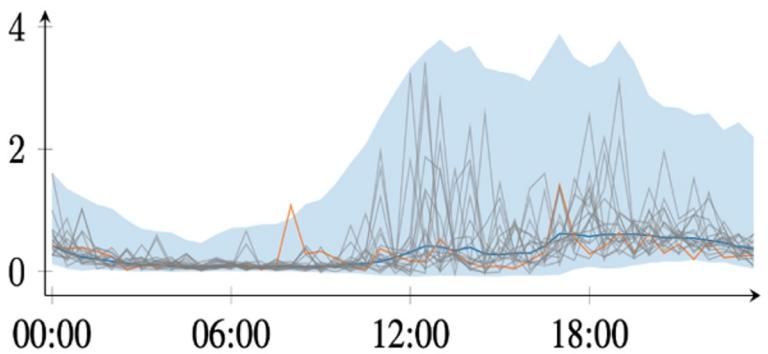
# Generative AI for Images





# Generative AI for Time Series

Using generative machine learning for probabilistic load forecasting of scenarios and generating energy loads for simulations.



Arpogaus, M., Voss, M., Sick, B., Nigge-Uricher, M., & Dürr, O. (2023). Short-term density forecasting of low-voltage load using bernstein-polynomial normalizing flows. *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*.

Zhang, L., & Zhang, B. (2019). Scenario forecasting of residential load profiles. *IEEE Journal on Selected Areas in Communications*, 38(1), 84-95.



## More Ressources



# More on Buildings in this Summer School

## Tutorial on Load Forecasting



### Building Load Forecasting with Machine Learning



Marcus Voss, CCAI Summer School 2022

Accurate forecasts of energy demand and supply are essential to mitigate climate change. Discover how to train and evaluate building load forecasts using off-the-shelf ML models.

Buildings & Cities    Intermediate    Python  
Time Series Analysis    Energy Management

## Tutorial on RL in Buildings



### CityLearn: Reinforcement Learning Control for Grid- Interactive Efficient Buildings and Communities



Kingsley Nweye, Allen Wu,  
Yara Almilaify, and Zoltan Nagy,  
ICLR 2023

Learn how to design simple and advanced control algorithms to provide energy flexibility, and acquire familiarity with the CityLearn environment and its datasets for extended use in projects. The tutorial provides a walk-through on how to set up and interact with the environment using a real-world dataset in three hands-on control experiments.

Electricity Systems    Introductory    Python  
Reinforcement Learning    Building Energy Management  
Energy Flexibility



# More on Buildings in this Summer School

## Tutorial on (Tool Box for?) Smart Meter Data



Smart Meter Data Analytics:  
Practical Use-Cases and Best  
Practices of Machine Learning  
Applications for Energy Data in the  
Residential Sector



Tobias Brudermueller and Markus Kreft,  
ICLR 2023

A practical guide to current trends in smart meter data analytics with a focus on feature engineering and machine learning scenarios for energy data at 15-minute resolution. Gain insights into current trends and use cases in the energy field and get a sense of typical and atypical energy consumption in a residential building.

Electricity Systems    Introductory    Python    Time Series Analysis  
Building Energy Management    Energy Flexibility

## Bonus: Another Tutorial on RL in Buildings (from last year's summer school!)



Building Control with RL using  
BOPTEST



Javier Arroyo, David Blum, Kyle Benne,  
and Iago Figueroa,  
CCAI Summer School 2022

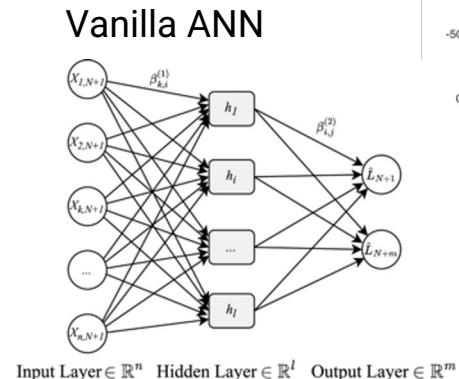
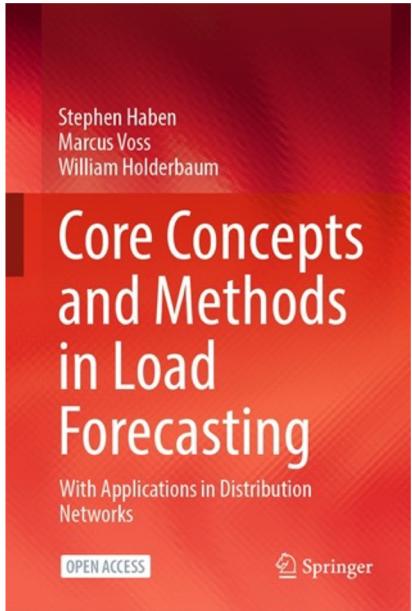
Apply reinforcement learning to a building emulator to intelligently control HVAC systems.

Check out the [recorded talk](#) for more information.

Buildings & Cities    Intermediate    Python    Reinforcement Learning  
Energy Management

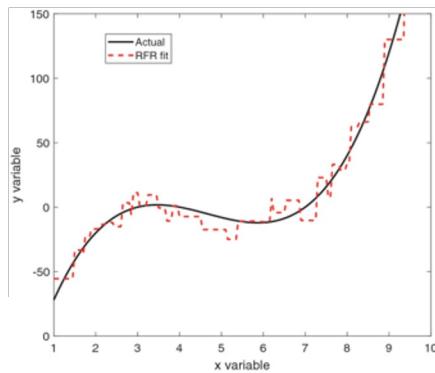
# “Shameless plug”

An open access book on Load Forecasting



<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-27852-5>

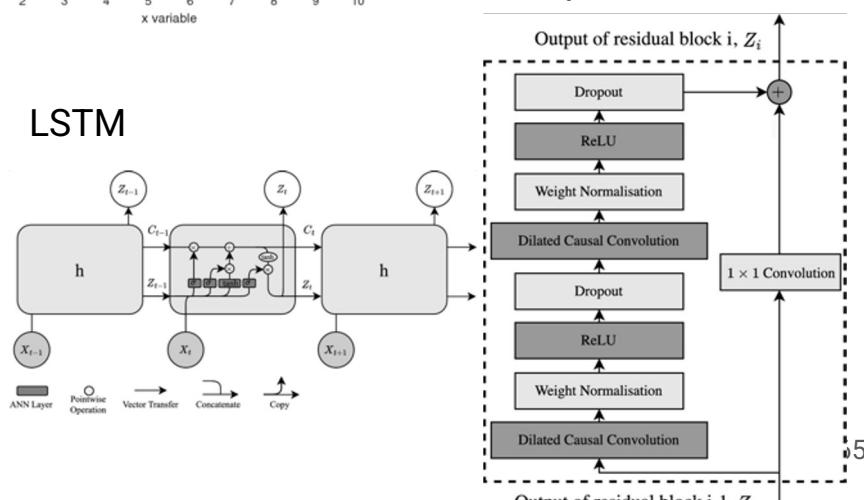
## Random Forest



Decision Tree



## Temporal CNN





# Other resources on AI and buildings

## Surveys:

- Machine Learning for Smart and Energy-Efficient Buildings, <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2211.14889.pdf>

## CCAI Entry Points:

- CCAI Wiki pages on buildings: [https://wiki.climatechange.ai/wiki/Buildings\\_and\\_Cities](https://wiki.climatechange.ai/wiki/Buildings_and_Cities)
- TCML Paper Section on Buildings: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3485128#d1e2765>

## Some interesting Frameworks:

- BOPTEST (there is the other CCAI tutorial) <https://github.com/ibpsa/project1-boptest>
- CityLearn (you will use that in this year's tutorial!): <https://github.com/intelligent-environments-lab/CityLearn>
- COBS: Comprehensive Building Simulator <https://github.com/sustainable-computing/COBS>
- ACTB: Advanced Controls Test Best: <https://github.com/henze-research-group/MODRLC>

## Datasets:

- Building Performance Database: <https://buildings.lbl.gov/cbs/bpd>
- List of low-voltage level smart meter data (includes several datasets of households and buildings): <https://low-voltage-loadforecasting.github.io/>
- Several resources of the SIG Energy interest group of ACM: <https://energy.acm.org/resources/>
- List of building data by Clayton Miller on Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/claytonmiller/datasets>
- The Building Data Genome 2 (BDG2) Data-Set: <https://github.com/buds-lab/building-data-genome-project-2>
- BENCHMARK DATASETS of Building Environmental Conditions and Occupancy Parameters: <https://bbd.labworks.org/>



# Concluding Thoughts

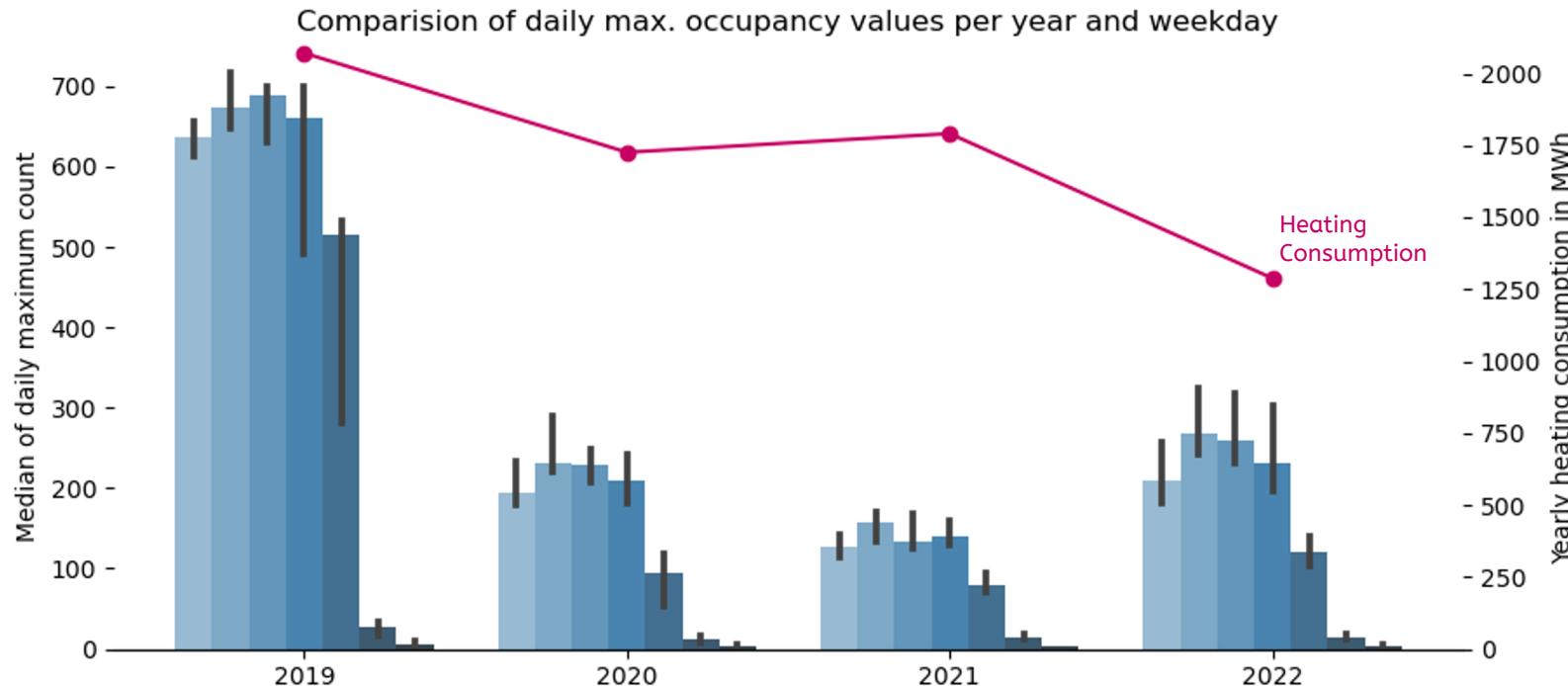
# Some final thoughts



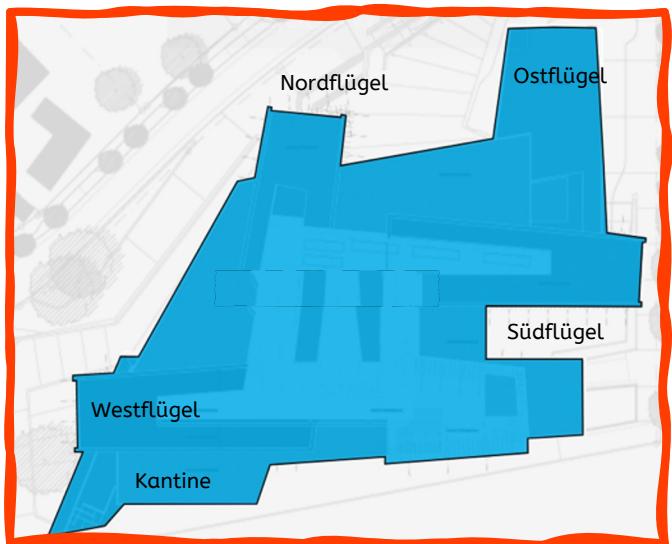
Remember

- ML is not a silver bullet and is only relevant sometimes
  - ... an if so, only as part of an overall strategy.
- Sophisticated algorithms may be required, but aren't always
  - ... sometimes out-of-the-box simple regression models can be of high impact.
  - ... or even just Excel and getting the right people together.

# Case study of energy savings of a real building



# Case study of energy savings of a real building



## Realizations:

- First, AI/ML was not needed to find low-hanging fruits,
- Idea: closing parts of the building.

However:

- Organizational constraints: some people can't (don't want to) move,
- Technical constraints: only large zones can be controlled independently,
- Building is already quite efficiently built, so that absolute savings are low

- Project was stopped, as relative savings for closing half of the building are "only" 10%-12,5%
- More could be saved with less effort by lowering temperature by one Kelvin altogether
- Easy 2-2.5% percent can be saved, when canteen closes on Fridays (and people go to neighboring buildings)

# Some final thoughts



Remember

- ML is not a silver bullet and is only relevant sometimes
  - ... an if so, only as part of an overall strategy.
- Sophisticated algorithms may be required, but aren't always
  - ... sometimes out-of-the-box simple regression models can be of high impact.
  - ... or even just Excel and getting the right people together.



Thanks!  
Questions?