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PHOTOVOLTAÏQUE : AVANCÉES TECHNOLOGIQUES ET CONTRIBUTION À LA RÉDUCTION DES ÉMISSIONS DE CO2

CRP Formation continue Septembre 2023

EPFL The basics of the sun and energy



Solar irradiance spectrum



• The mean **solar irradiance** is 1366 W/m² in outer space

The spectrum is referred to as **AM**₀.

• On earth: losses by absorption (18%) and by diffusion (10%)

~ 970-1000 W/m²

Direct light around 90% of total "global" light

Solar spectrum crosses the earth atmosphere \rightarrow absorption (water vapour, ozone, dust...) and Rayleigh scattering (diffusion... blue light is more scattered than red light).

SOLAR RESOURCE MAP GLOBAL HORIZONTAL IRRADIATION







This map is published by the World Bank Group, funded by ESMAP, and prepared by Solargis. For more information and terms of use, please visit http://globalsolaratlas.info.

EPFL The basics of the sun and energy



Annual GHI in CH

One year in Switzerland: 1000-1500 full hours at intensity 1000 W/m²

1000-1500 kWh/m²/y



Almost the same as

1 barrel/m²/year



1 litre of oil ~9-10 kWh chemical energy

1 barrel = 159 litres

EPFL Fundamentals of PV



Basic design of a solar cell : p-n junction

- → Intrinsic (pure) semiconductor material (e.g. Si, CdTe,...)
- → Doping with chosen impurities → becomes conductor with +(p) or -(n) charges transporting the current
- → If a *p*-zone is in contact with an *n*-zone → diffusion of charges and creation of an electrical field \vec{E}
- → Under light: absorption of photons if $h\nu > E_g$ (E_g : semiconductor bandgap)
- → Photons absorbed in p-zone transfer their energy to electrons (in n-zone to holes)
- \rightarrow Photogenerated carriers move towards the junction and cross it







Extraction of current

Metallic contacts extract the current (and/or transparent conductive contacts)

Useful power dissipated on R_M

- Voltage depends on bandgap (Eg)
 - ~0.7 V for crystalline Si, 1.1 V for GaAs
- Current depends on Eg and is proportional to the surface area
 - typical ~ 40 mA/cm² c-Si, or 10 A for a 6" inch square cell
- To get high voltage \rightarrow connect cells in series





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Fundamentals of PV



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First approximation : a basic solar cell can be seen as a p-n diode with a current source in parallel (current proportional to light intensity)





EPFL Fundamentals of PV

PV-lab

Measure power density delivered under *standard test conditions* (*STC*) Cell or module at 25°C, spectrum AM1.5G (global, light

passing at 48° in the atmosphere), light intensity 1000 W/m²

$$\eta_{STC} = \frac{P_{MPP}}{P_{light}} \bigg|_{STC}$$

Efficiency at STC

Modules are sold according to **W or Wp** (=W peak output), with respect to 1000 W/m² (AM1.5G)

Example: 1 m² of a 20% module is rated at 200 Wp

Rule of thumb: in CH or Germany **1 Wp** of modules give **1 kWh** per year (corresponds roughly to 1000 hours of full sun \rightarrow 1 W x 1000 h = 1 kWh)

• On a one axis tracking system in South Algeria, with bifacial modules 1 W \rightarrow 3 kWh per year



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Inverters (including an MPPT): grid injection

An inverter is an electrical device that converts DC to AC current. **PV** inverters usually include an MPPT tracker.



- Entrance voltage into inverters up to 1000, or even 1500 V obtained by strings of modules (typically 30 to 50 modules in series)
- With mass manufacturing: large inverters down to low cost 4-10 cts/W
- Typical efficiencies 96-99%

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EPFL PV Technologies: an overview



Crystalline silicon Mono and multicrystalline **Status:** main market share (Mostly Mono)

Thin films CdTe, CIGS, a-Si Status: 3-5% market share (mostly CdTe) III-V solar cells (GaAs based) Space application

Market

Concentrator technologies

Status: failed market entrance New innovative concepts Other technologies Organic-Polymer, Dye sensitized, nano-inorganic Status: niche application, failed market entrance Perovskite: R&D with challenges

Novel PV concepts

Quantum dots, intermediate band... **Status**: attempt of demonstration

EPFL **PV performance and its limits**



Voltage and current

A semiconductor with a bandgap E_q absorbs only photon with $E > E_q$ e.g., photons below the wavelength λ corresponding to the bandgap



²rof. Christophe Ballif

(1.6)

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EPFL PV performance and its limits



Increasing efficiency: tandem & multi-junction

tandem \rightarrow triple-junction \rightarrow 5-cells \longrightarrow 6-cells



Reduced gap

3-6 Junction Photovoltaic Cells For Space AndTerrestrial Concentrator ApplicationsF. Dimroth et al. Proc 31st IEEE, 2005

Ultra-expensive (1000x more than standard Silicon solar cells)

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Best Research-Cell Efficiencies



MESSAGE 1

A SEMICONDUCTOR OF HIGH QUALITY + 2 ASSYMETRIC CONTACTS -> SOLAR CELLS

1 WATT OF SOLAR MODULE → 1-3 KWH PER YEAR

SILICON SOLAR CELLS = 97% OF THE MARKET

PRIMARY ENERGY CONSUMPTION



~ 166'000 TWh (CHF 320 TWh)

Still 80% fossile fuel

*Electricity in kWh of biomass, hydro, solar, nuclear wind taken multiplied by 2.5 to be shown as primary energy source

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Statistical Review of World Energy 2022 IEA global energy review 2021







QUICK RULE OF THUMBS ESTIMATIONS

- With a 2% growth in primary energy need*
 → 250'000 TWh in 2050
- Strong electrification of heating/mobility + biomass + rest electricity for H₂
 → 100'000 TWh electrical production by 2050

Today: 28'000 TWh

In 2022*:

- hydro ~ 4300 TWh
- Nuclear 2600 TWh
- wind 2100 TWh
- Solar 1300 TWh

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*according to BP accounting technique

*Global Electricity Review 2023 | Ember (ember-climate.org)

4 MAJOR OPTIONS FOR 100'000 TWh ANNUAL ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

Which can be combined.....

- a e.g. **40'000 GW of Solar** and 15'000 GW of Wind (+ Hydro + Biomass)
 - 13'000 x 1 GW nuclear power plants
 - Carbon sequestration
- d Don't care (or too late...)

1GW Nuclear \rightarrow 8 TWh/year (8000 hours)1GW solar \rightarrow 1-2 TWh/year (1000-2000 hours)1GW wind \rightarrow 2-4 TWh/year (2000-4000 hours)





Michael Child, C. Breyer, et al. Renewable Energy 139 (2019) 80-101

With massive wind and solar, eu grid can be balanced on an hourly/weekly basis but shortterm storage (batteries mostly and pump storage) required



MAJOR TECHNOLGICAL ROUTES



Flexibility and intelligence



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LEVELISED COST OF ELECTRICITY (LCOE)

In ten years wind and solar large parks (bi-facial + 1 axis tracking) well below LCOE of fossile fuels



Source: IRENA report «Renewable power generation costs in 2021»

STORAGE STIMULATE BY THE AUTOMOTIVE MARKET

Automotive Battery learning curve



Cost Dynamics of Clean Energy Technologies, Glenk et al.

23

Today automotive battery pack at 120-150 \$ /kWh

"We expect the price of an average battery pack to be around \$94/kWh by 2024 and \$62/kWh by 2030" Bloomberg NEF (before the Ukraine War) Tesla announcements

700 GWh Li-Ion produced in 2022

4700 GWh annual battery production by 2030?

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WORLDWIDE PRODUCTION OF SOLAR MODULES



ROW

North America

Europe

Asia

220 GW in 2022

Est 350 GW in 2023 (n.b > 90% China)



PERSPECTIVES 2028



Industry expects 800–1000 GW annual production by 2028... $(\rightarrow > 25 \text{ TW} \text{ installed by 2050 ...})$

Could even grow to 2000–3000 GW/year in "agressive scenarios" (CO2 capture, high Power to gas fraction, Desalination)

100 GW/Year (2018) \rightarrow 400 years for 40'000 GW 1000 GW/Year (2028 ?) \rightarrow 40 years for 40'000 GW

✓ PV on the right growth path

- ✓ Batteries growing strongly
- Wind needs to be pushed faster

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MESSAGE 2

TRANSITION IS NECESSARY, POSSIBLE AND COST EFFECTICE. NO DESPAIR, BUT ACTION ! HUGE UPSCALING IS/WAS NECESSARY !

ANNUAL SWISS PV MARKET IN MW: NEW INSTALLATION



End 2022: 4.2 GW installed ~6. % of annual CH electricity consumption of 2022

1.5 GW more in 2023 ?

Min > 1.7–2 GW year For scenarios with **50 GW** solar

A factor 1.7 to 2 two slow. But 20x better than 12 years ago

Confederation targets ~ 35-40 GW

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Source: Swissolar/internal data

HOW TO SOLVE THE «WINTER PROBLEM» IN CH - 1/2



- Put more quickly more photovoltaics everywhere and curtail (easy)
- Put more PV on facades and in the alps (less easy but useful)
- Increase some dams height/new dams, optimise for Swiss autarcy not costs
- More wind/ reduce time to construction and opposition



HOW TO SOLVE THE «WINTER PROBLEM» IN CH - 2/2



- Renovate buildings and introduce efficiency everywhere
- Do not stop safe nuclear powerplants too early
- Store biomass and wastes, use for district heating/electricity in Winter, store heat in Summer for winter, geothermal for winter
- Rely on EU grid, supply and assets (e.g. close to 300 GW gas which could turn to hydrogen, strong wind growth). Import/export will/should continue
- Reduce consumption for a few critical weeks in Winter (e.g. maintenance of industrial assets, reduction of heating,),....
- Build peakers gas/hydrogen turbines, with short operation time (only a few weeks per year) and store clean fuels...



ALPINE WITH SNOW REFLECTION

- Bi-facial PV systems
 - Up to 3 times more energy in Winter seasons.
 (and up to ~ 3 times the price).
 - Would speed up installation and energy security
 - F. Baumgartner et al. ZHAW





Greniols park: simulation by enemies



Source: 2020 electricity generation in Switzerland - ENTSO-E

Swiss National Congress for Wind Energy 2022, M. Cauz et al. A study by Marine Cauz, Phd Student of EPFL- PV-lab, working with Planair EPFL :CSEM

IS THE ENERGY TRANSITION SUSTAINABLE?

- Material availability, extraction ?
- Energy Payback time?
- CO₂ emission (and others)?
- Biodiversity?









Minerals for renewable is a small fraction of total mining. Impact much less than current status (in particular fossile fuel and coal extraction brings huge issues and pollution) "an emerging perspective in the US public discourse argues that a buildout of renewable electricity would exacerbate supply risks, mining intensity, and import dependence. This paper's findings challenge such assertions."

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Others

MATERIAL USAGE FOR ELECTRICAL NICO LITHIUM BATTERIES

kg/vehicle



- Car makers can shift to Lithium Iron
 Phosphate batteries. Heavier but no Ni and
 Cobalt which are the most critical.
- Enough Li for > 2 billions cars, and possible shift to Na-Ion
- Battery cars of 70 kWh CO₂ emission ~ 5 T.
- If using clean electricity in 30'000 km
 → carbon neutral!



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As for all mining possible local problems, and good practice required!!

Graphite

Zinc

MATERIAL USAGE: EXEMPLE CUPPER

PV: 1 TW/year at 3 Cu Tons/MW Windturbines: 500 GW/year at 2 Tons/MW, with Al grid connection) Electric cars: 80 millions cars at 60 kg Cu, with charging station

- \rightarrow 3 MT /year
- \rightarrow 1 MT/year
- \rightarrow 4.8 MT/year

- ~ 8-9 MT out of 25 MT /year processed today
- → market pressure and possible bottlenecks, but not fundamental, and...
- Materials can be saved (improved designs), additional/improved mining and recycling.
- As for other less used materials (e.g. rare earth, Ag for photovoltaics, Cobalt for batteries), alternative solutions always exist!



DURABILITY OF PV ? MANY IMPROVEMENTS!

1st major improvement

Siemens silicon recrystallation process 200 kWh/kg of Si in 2000!!!

Today:

Can make 10 tons of silicon per run, tubular filaments, cold reflected coated walls. Only 40-45 kWh/kg.









Yesterday, multi-wire sawing, SiC particles → 200 microns lost Si

Today, diamond wires for mono c-S \rightarrow 50 microns lost Si (36 microns wire) \rightarrow 80 % more wafers than 5 years ago!



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Si:B n-Si Ag

p-Si

DURABILITY OF PV

3rd major improvement technologies

> The various types of silicon technologies:

More and more Voltage !!

Ballif/Haug et al. Nat. Rev Materials 2022







- 1) More bubars: reduce losses in siliver fingers (+ 0.1-1% relative)
- 2) Half-cells: less losses in cupper ribbon interconnects
 (+ 2% relative)
- 3) Larger cells: less empty area, less edges per area (up to 21 x 21 cm2 cells) (+ 0.5-1% relative)
- 4) Larger modules:
 less spacinga the edge
 (+ 1-2% relative for 700 W modules)

Ballif/Haug/Boccard et al. Nat. Rev Materials 2022

PERMANENT INCREASE IN THE MODULE EFFICIENCY



Haug, Ballif et all. Nat. Rev. Materials 2022

- 0.4-0.5% gain per year
- Todays average cells at 22.5-23.5%, modules at 20.5-21% average
- Efficiency will further increase → practical limit at 24–25%

Reduces all other material costs/usage per W



PURIFIED SILICON USAGE PER WATT FOR SILICON PV MODULES



From 17 to 2.1 g/W in 20 years thanks to:

- Improved processes (poly-si)
- Diamond wire sawing
- Thinner wafers
- Efficiency increase

ENERGY PAY-BACK TIME (EPBT) OF SILICON PV ROOFTOP SYSTEMS: STRONG IMPROVMENTS



A typical PV system will give back the energy required for fabrication in 1 year. Module around 60–65% of the total.

Full module: currently around 0.5–0.6 kWh/W electricity required



PV MODULE CO₂ FOOTPRINT



Made with:

EU electricity 400 gCO₂/W China coal electricity ~670 gCO₂/W

Q CELLS modules earn further low-carbon certification for French tenders

Hanwha Q CELLS GmbH, the German subsidiary of one of the largest solar cell and module manufacturers in the world, Hanwha Q CELLS Co., Ltd, has received on March 14 a Certisolis carbon footprint (CFP) certification of 300 kgeq/CO²)kWc in France for its high-efficiency Q.PEAK DUO module series.

APRIL 1, 2019 O CELLS

Reported

< 300 gCO₂/W

A comparative life cycle assessment of silicon PV modules: Impact of module design, manufacturing location and inventory – ScienceDirect 2021, Muller et al.



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KEEPING A SMALL FRACTION OF OUR EMISSIONS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

- With the key elements of the energy transition (simple estimates)
 - 15 TW of Wind at 200 g $CO_2/W \rightarrow 3$ GT
 - 40 TW of PV at 300 g CO₂/W \rightarrow 12 GT
 - 2 billions batteries of 50 kWh at 60 kg CO₂/kWh \rightarrow 6 GT
 - Systems, grid update.... \rightarrow 6 GT

Estimated total (with current good practice) \rightarrow 27 GT ~3% remaining in the 1000 GT remaining for a +2°C scenario



Using a few percent (\sim 3%) of our remaining carbon budget is required to build the objects and infrastructure that will save on CO₂



MESSAGE 3.

YES, A LITTLE MORE MINING, CO2 AND LOCAL IMPACT ON LANDSCAPE (E.G. WIND, SOLAR) TO SAVE THE WORLD !



BUT IT IS MUCH, MUCH LESS DAMAGING THAN TODAY'S SYSTEM ! THE REST IS THE PROBLEM



PHOTOVOLTAICS AND ENERGY SYSTEMS IN NEUCHÂTEL



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2800 M² OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND 120 PEOPLE.....





PRODUCTION FORECAST AND PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR ENERGY ASSETS WITH CSEM AI

Machine learning from Big data sets and physical knowledge of systems

Applicability

- Wind (software used no by Proxima Solutions)
- Hydro
- Solar
- Heat pumps
- Cooling
- Batteries



BATTERY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: FROM MATERIALS TO SYSTEMS

Coatings and Interfaces





- Thin-film coatings
- Wet coatings
- Interface functionalization

Solid-state cell electrolytes modelling

Polymer solid

Ceramic solid

state

state

cell



- SoX estimators based on EIS
 Validation vs.
 - measurements
- Integration and Simulations stabilization in

Cell/module testing



- Technological screening
- Ad-hoc testing protocols
- Second-life testing procedures

Post mortem analyses



- Opening
- Imaging
- Modelling



BMS

prototyping

- CMS concept
- Active
- balancing - EIS integration



- Frequency regulation
 - Power trading optimization
- V2G analysis

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A LEAN PROCESS TO MAKE HIGH EFFICIENCY CRYSTALLINE SILICON SOLAR CELLS



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NEW ORGINAL SMARTWIRE TECHNOLOGY AND SILICON HETEROJUNCTION PROCESSES



- developped with CSEM/EPFL
- Multi GW planned production
- Strong growth of Meyer Burger
- only solar cell producer in Europe with > 1 GW

promote EU products, with EU cells when possible. Support rebuilding a supply chain ...



BEYOND STANDARD CELLS: THE TUNNEL BACK-CONTACT CELL

World record single-cell laminate with tunnel-IBC + SmartWires[®]:



First 60-cell tunnel-IBC module in glass/backsheet configuration:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

Confederaziun svizra

🕅 MEYER BURGER

These activities are supported by SFOE in the frame of the project "SIRIUS" (2021-2024E)



CELLS ABOVE 30%? PEROVSKITE/SILICON TANDEM SOLAR CELL



Perovskite Spiro-TTB nc-Si:H(p+) nc-Si:H(n+) a-Si:H(n) a-Si:H(i)

c-Si



Sahli et al. Nature materials 2018



CSEM Upscaling ongoing And 29.6% certified on 25 cm²

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Possibly extend the learning curve, But a lot of work/research to make stable device !

> **# CSem** EPF

Xin Yu Chin et al. Science (2023) Turkey et al. Artuk et al.

SWITZERLAND, SENSITIVE TO ACCEPTANCE IN RURAL AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Sensitive to aesthetics







Neuchâtel, maison des associations, Swiss Solar Award 2015 «renovation category»

Over 20'000 "Megaslates" systems installed (3S solar solution), fast ramping up of Swiss production

Prix solaire Suisse 2015



CSem



Elegance and architecture Transforming building and cities

CSEM as pioneer of transformative technologies for PV panes Based on low cost c-Si modules,

White PV panels, together with Solaxess











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Ecuvillens One of the Terra-cotta tones With ISSOL, Solstis, Userhuus, SFOE Soutien des Service de l'énergie et des biens culturels de Fribourg

Prix solaire Suisse 2018

> hftu Höhere Fachschule Luzern

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra

ETAT DE FRIBOURG STAAT FREIBURG

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE



: CSeM



Prix solaire Suisse 2019







































Private house Neuchâtel

Courtesy L.E. Perret-Aebi

compáz





Private garden Neuchâtel



INNOVATION IN SWITZERLAND: OF COURSE DHP (GR)

• Deployable PV systems







Agrivoltaics on the move

insolight









Integrated PV to reach the Stratosphere







Light weight customized ultrareliable modules




Strateole: PV solutions for stratospheric balloons









Multiple Applications For terrestrial PV

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.... THE T-TOUCH SOLAR CONNECT

METED

Solar dials developped by CSEM, production fully ramped-up by CSEM

ALL A

MESSAGE 4.

AMAZING EVERYTHING YOU CAN DO WITH SOLAR AND EVEN MORE WHAT THEY CAN DO IN NEUCHÂTEL !

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

And let's take part together to changing the world for the best !

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FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION