SIES 2022: Software Design

[Smart Integrated Energy Systems: Enhanced Virtual Power Plant VPP+ Energy Pool Integration for Local and Regional Resistance]

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Putting together a Jigsaw Puzzle

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- Learning by doing Project
- File Structure based on Prior Work (PyEMLab 2019) (Not the Only Way)
- Structured power based framework (aggregators)
- VPP –There is a both a Technical and Commercial Need for a VPP.

  Many VPP's are Technically focused.
- Process is challenging when starting from scratch.

Design

- Generic design of VPP was set out in reference [2] and consists of a number modules including communications, accounting, forecasting, scheduling, bidding and risk management etc. (Slide 4). Initially, it was envisaged that a third party supplier would provide VPP software to communicate to and from various assets and perform many of these functions. After initial scoping of the literature and available software, few solutions providers were considered, and the most promising finally selected, with the aim of building specific functions such as forecasting and optimization in a separate prototype software environment.

Generic VPP(2009)

Octopus one way EPEXSpot

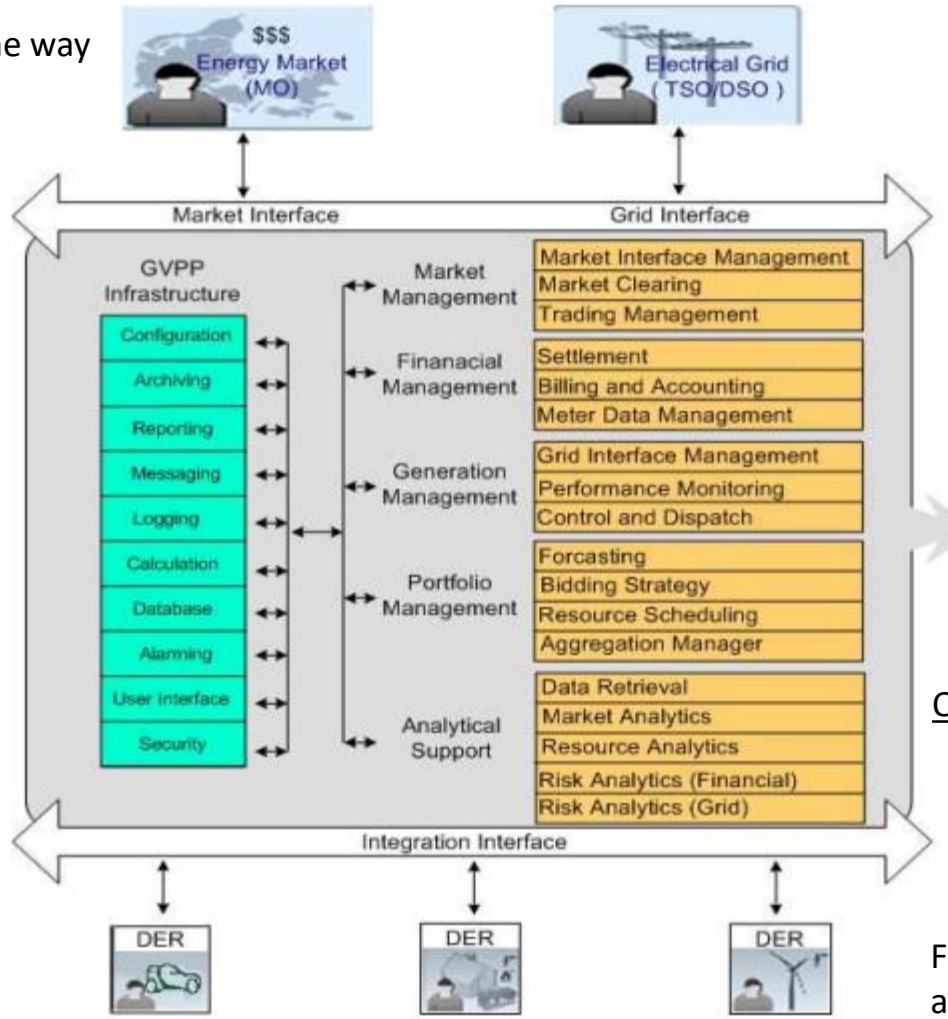

Fig. 2. Function-based Design for the GVPP

Simple Accounting Revenues and forecast Revenues

Text alarms

Offline Analytics (market & resource)

Findhorn Myres Hill – and ETC assets via Sequentec

S. You, C. Træholt, and B. Poulsen, "Generic Virtual Power Plants: Management of distributed energy resources under liberalized electricity market," in *8th International Conference on Advances in Power System Control, Operation and Management (APSCOM 2009)*, 2009, pp. 1-6.

PyEMLAb-AGG

- PyEMLab-AGG [3] was developed as a python object orientated simulator to model the interactions of aggregators (VPP owners and associated actions), domestic and industrial customers in a future flexibility market. It is a structured, ontology driven, environment that uses python as a scripting language to set up scenarios and assign roles (i.e. what to do, when and how, as well as the rules to make decisions).
- It is based on a python port of the java based EMLAb program [4] which was originally designed to simulate investment and technology behaviour in an European power market. Both EMLab and PyEMLab-AGG have been extensively tested.
- The object-orientated program is organized into packages as summarized in the following slides

PyEMLab-AGG Structure

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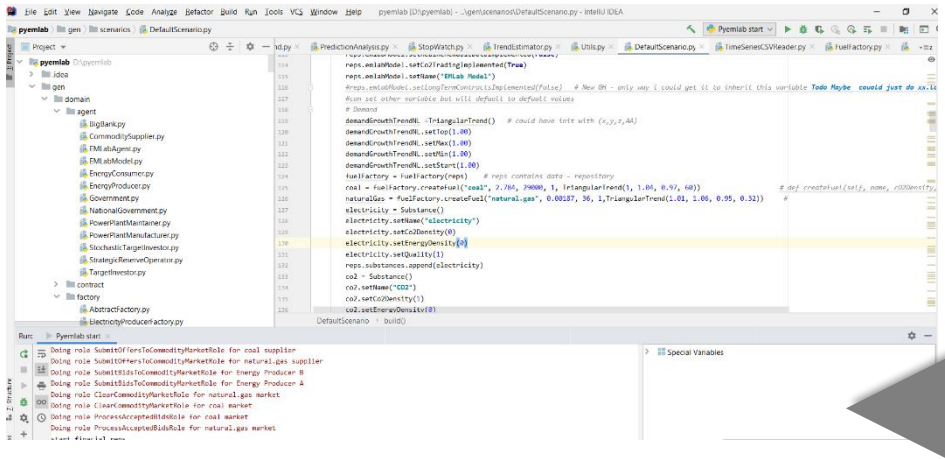
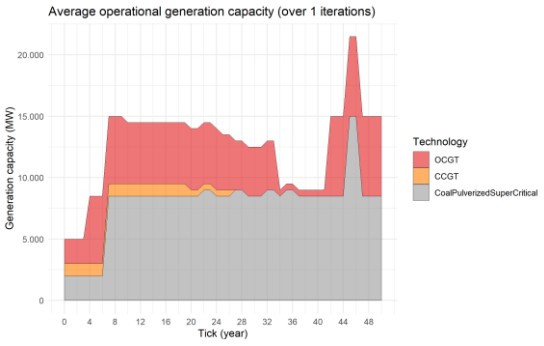
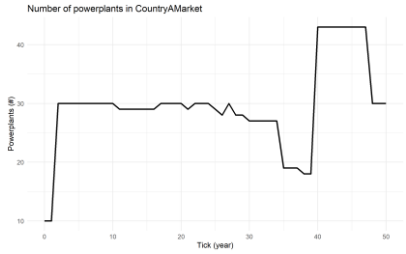
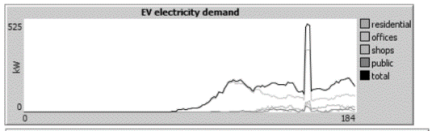
PyEmLab

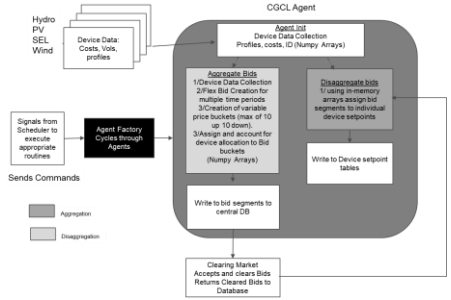


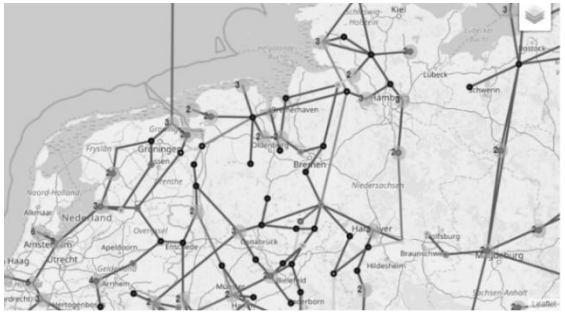


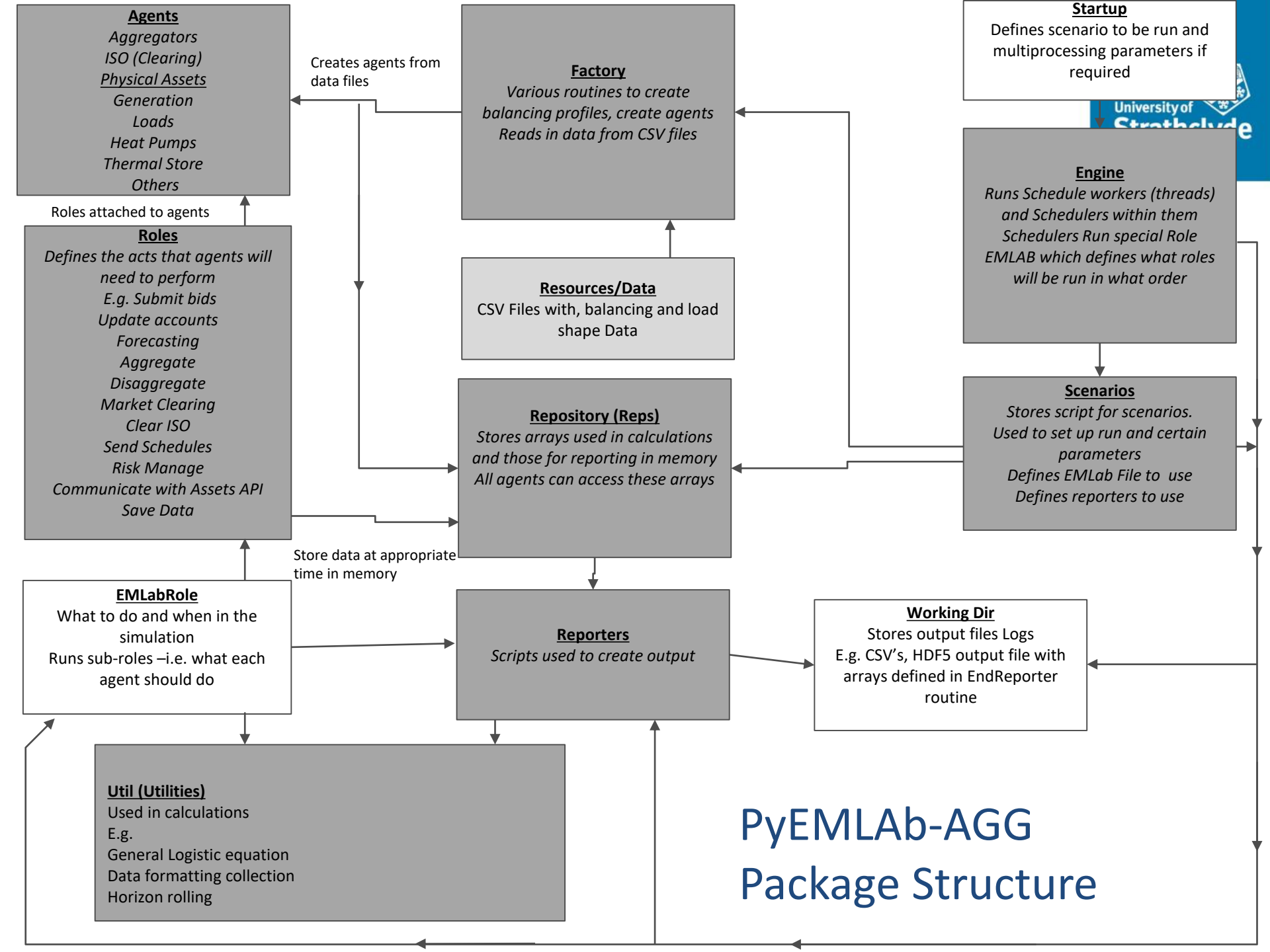


Extensions



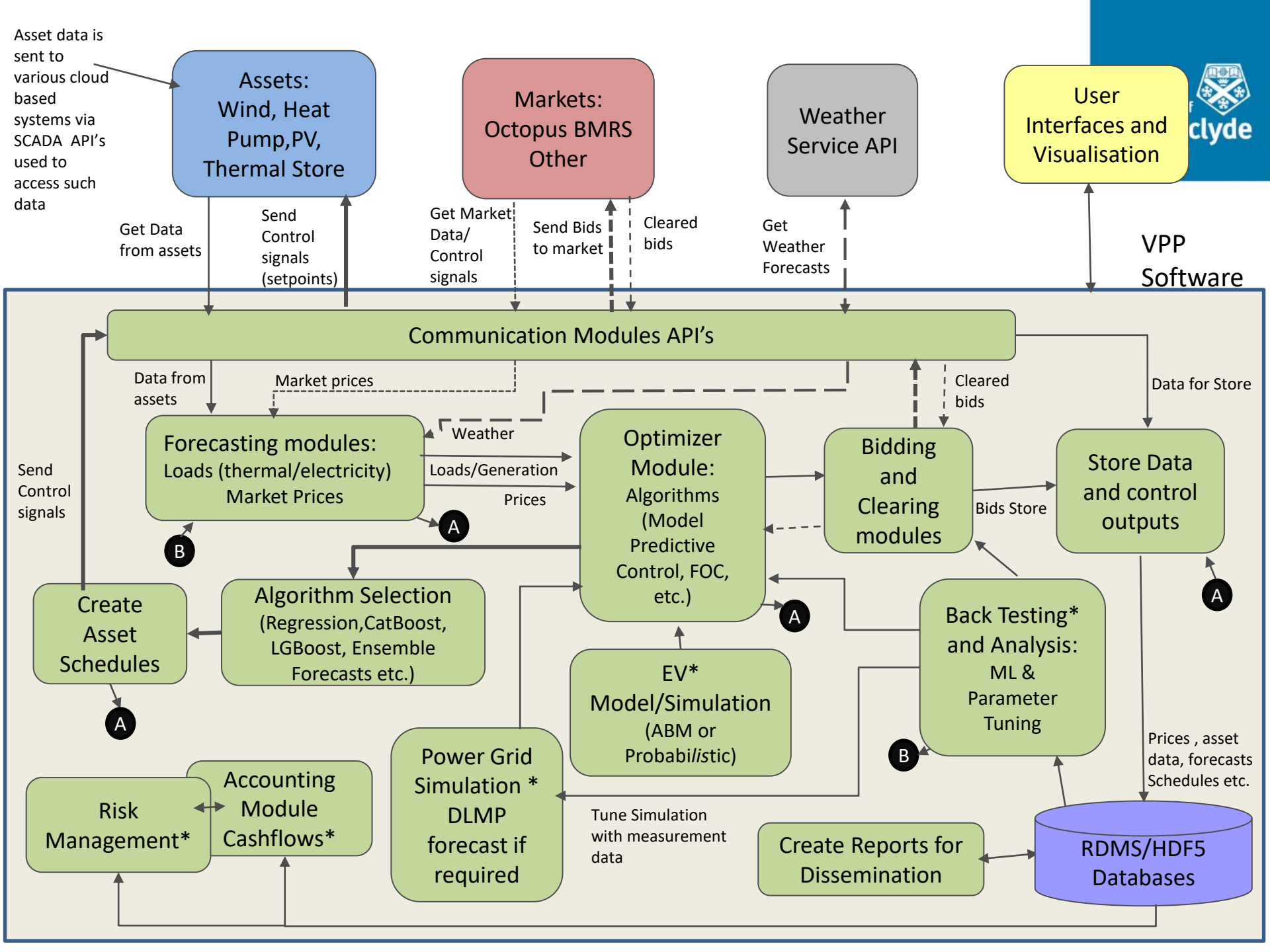


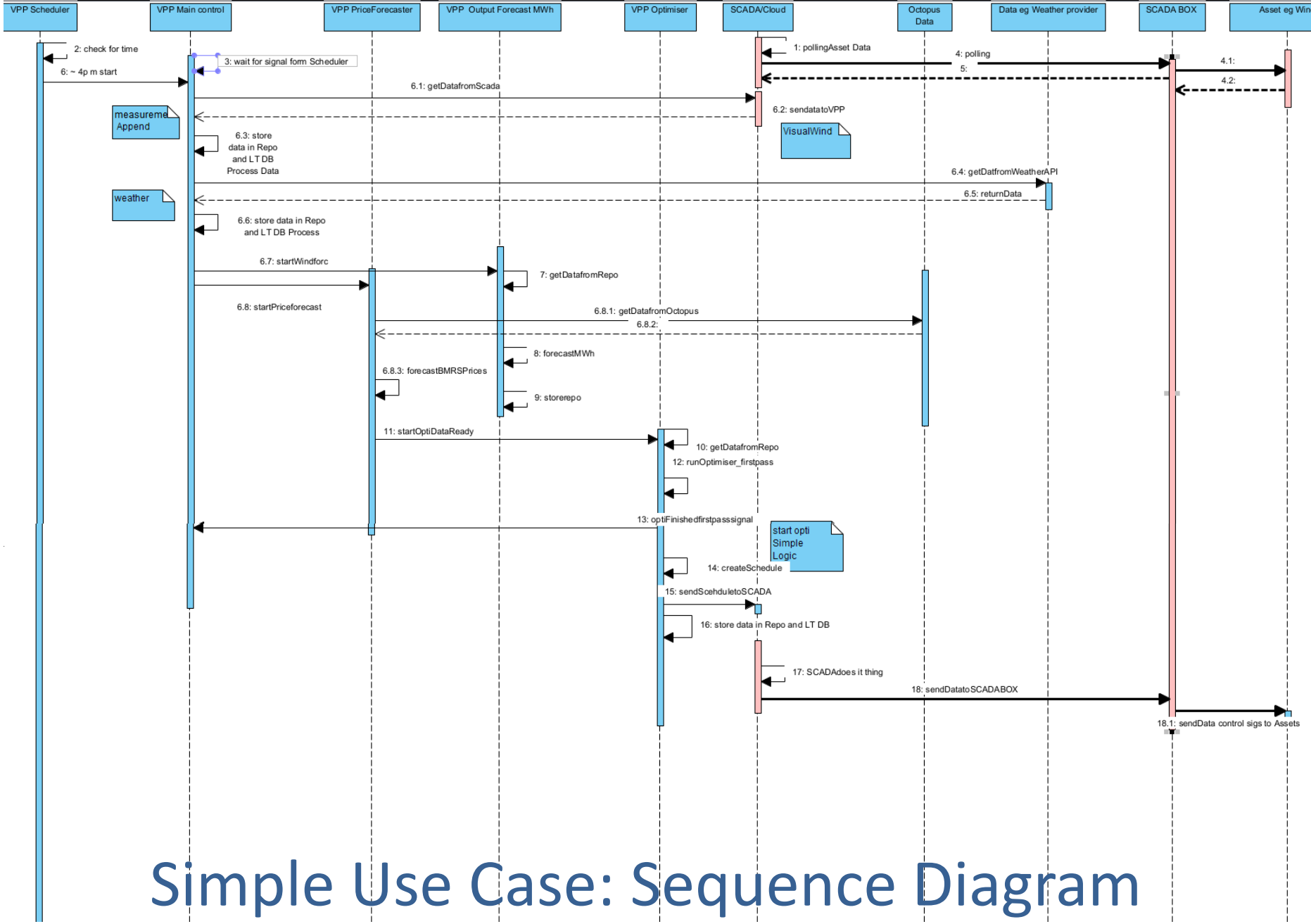



Agents
Aggregators
ISO (Clearing)
Physical Assets
Generation
Loads
Heat Pumps
Thermal Store
Others
Creates agents from data files
Factory
Various routines to create balancing profiles, create agents
Reads in data from CSV files
Startup
Defines scenario to be run and multiprocessing parameters if required
Engine
Runs Schedule workers (threads) and Schedulers within them
Schedulers Run special Role EMLAB which defines what roles will be run in what order
Roles attached to agents
Roles
Defines the acts that agents will need to perform
E.g. Submit bids
Update accounts
Forecasting
Aggregate
Disaggregate
Market Clearing
Clear ISO
Send Schedules
Risk Manage
Communicate with Assets API
Save Data
Resources/Data
CSV Files with, balancing and load shape Data
Repository (Reps)
Stores arrays used in calculations and those for reporting in memory
All agents can access these arrays
Scenarios
Stores script for scenarios.
Used to set up run and certain parameters
Defines EMLab File to use
Defines reporters to use
Store data at appropriate time in memory
EMLabRole
What to do and when in the simulation
Runs sub-roles –i.e. what each agent should do
Reporters
Scripts used to create output
Working Dir
Stores output files Logs
E.g. CSV's, HDF5 output file with arrays defined in EndReporter routine
Util (Utilities)
Used in calculations
E.g.
General Logistic equation
Data formatting collection
Horizon rolling
PyEMLAb-AGG
Package Structure

Additional Development

- Using the PyEMLab-AGG structure discussed above, the framework has been rebuilt to communicate in real time every half hour with assets at a number of locations including the ETC site (Slide 9).
- This was performed in a step wise fashion adding and testing functionality using use cases as a guide. The first use case was based on one asset with a simple control rule. Later use cases involve additional assets such as heat pumps/thermal stores and the interaction with more complicated market structures. The current architecture for the software framework is shown in Slide 9 Those modules marked with an asterix* are for future development.
- A sequence diagram (Slide 10) shows the interactions between various components for a simple use case.


Asset data is sent to various cloud based systems via SCADA API's used to access such data
Assets: Wind, Heat Pump,PV, Thermal Store
Markets: Octopus BMRS Other
Weather Service API
User Interfaces and Visualisation
Get Data from assets
Send Control signals (setpoints)
Get Market Data/ Control signals
Send Bids to market
Cleared bids
Get Weather Forecasts
VPP Software
Communication Modules API's
Data from assets
Market prices
Cleared bids
Data for Store
Forecasting modules: Loads (thermal/electricity) Market Prices
Weather
Loads/Generation
Prices
Optimizer Module: Algorithms (Model Predictive Control, FOC, etc.)
Bidding and Clearing modules
Bids Store
Store Data and control outputs
Send Control signals
A
B
Create Asset Schedules
Algorithm Selection (Regression,CatBoost, LGBoost, Ensemble Forecasts etc.)
EV* Model/Simulation (ABM or Probabilistic)
Back Testing* and Analysis: ML & Parameter Tuning
Prices , asset data, forecasts Schedules etc.
Power Grid Simulation * DLMP forecast if required
Tune Simulation with measurement data
Risk Management*
Accounting Module Cashflows*
Create Reports for Dissemination
RDMS/HDF5 Databases



Simple Use Case: Sequence Diagram

Communications

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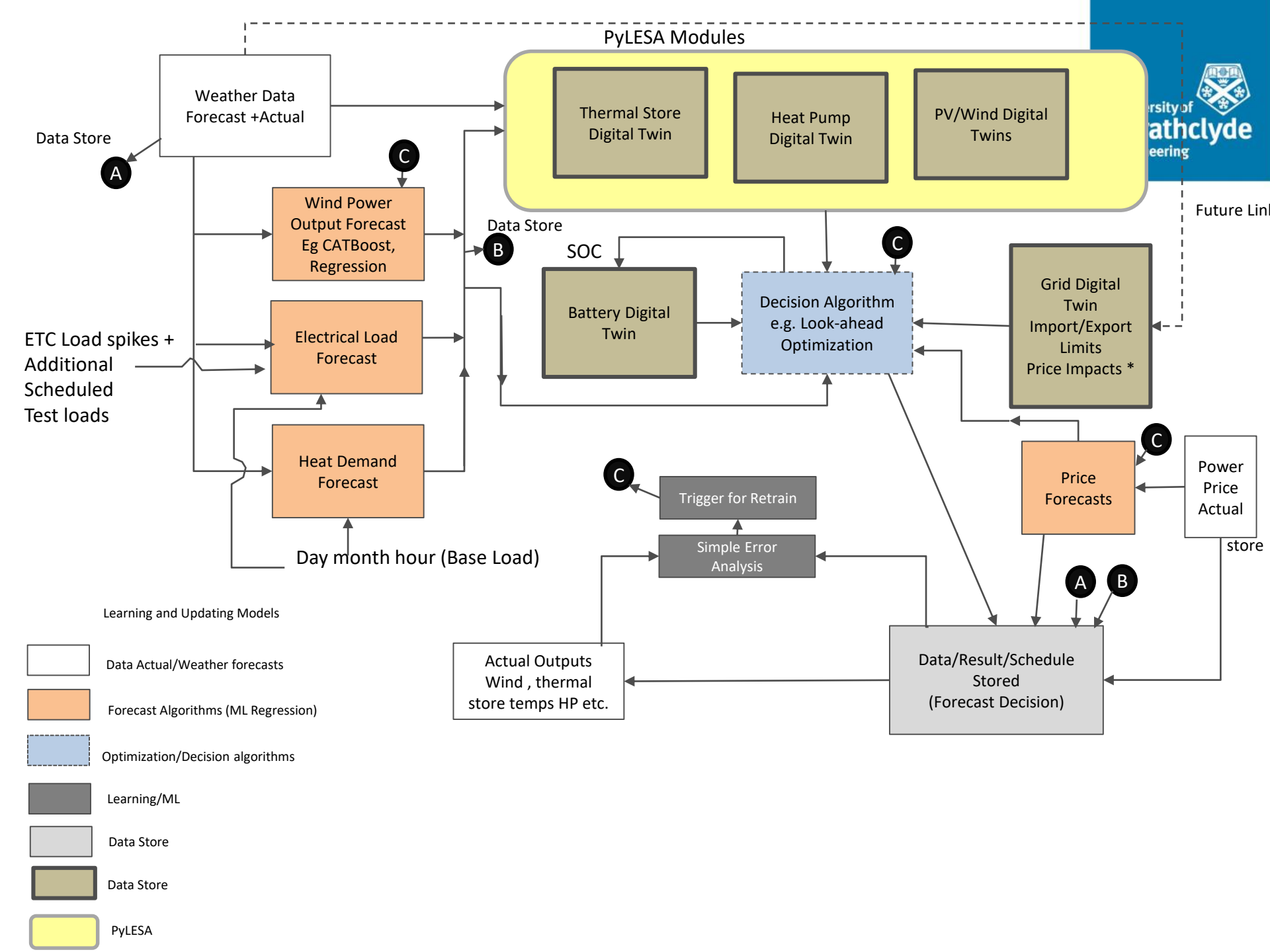
- A key role of the model is to communicate with the assets in the field. This is achieved using API's, some of which have had to be developed for this project.
- Data is collected and stored for later use, but those that are needed for immediate use are also stored into in-memory storage in the repository object described earlier.
- PDF style reports can be created and can be emailed to the appropriate parties. The software uses a rolling time horizon to forecast prices and demand, and is used in the decision module.

VPP Forecasting

- An important component of this VPP platform is associated with forecasting. Current VPP design uses deterministic algorithms but stochastic algorithms and approaches are being investigated.
- See slide 13 for schematic of forecasting modules.
- A number of forecasting modules have been constructed, some of which use existing machine learning libraries such as CatBoost [9], others that use standard regression techniques. Ensemble learning [10] could be included in a future version.
- In addition, PyLESA [11] an open source modelling tool for the design of local, integrated and smart energy systems and includes calculations and modules for solar/wind assets, heat pumps and thermal stores (digital twins) can also be included. It also uses the Gekko [12] optimisation model to perform forward looking model predictive and fixed order control of the assets. Various components of PyLESA have been integrated into the modified PyEMLab framework and are to be used to optimise heat pump and thermal store assets.


PyLESA Modules
Weather Data Forecast +Actual
Data Store
A
Thermal Store Digital Twin
Heat Pump Digital Twin
PV/Wind Digital Twins
C
Wind Power Output Forecast Eg CATBoost, Regression
Data Store
B
SOC
Battery Digital Twin
Decision Algorithm e.g. Look-ahead Optimization
C
Grid Digital Twin Import/Export Limits Price Impacts *
ETC Load spikes + Additional Scheduled Test loads
Electrical Load Forecast
Heat Demand Forecast
Day month hour (Base Load)
C
Price Forecasts
C
Power Price Actual
store
C
Trigger for Retrain
Simple Error Analysis
A
B
Actual Outputs Wind , thermal store temps HP etc.
Data/Result/Schedule Stored (Forecast Decision)
Learning and Updating Models
Data Actual/Weather forecasts
Forecast Algorithms (ML Regression)
Optimization/Decision algorithms
Learning/ML
Data Store
Data Store
PyLESA

Optimization

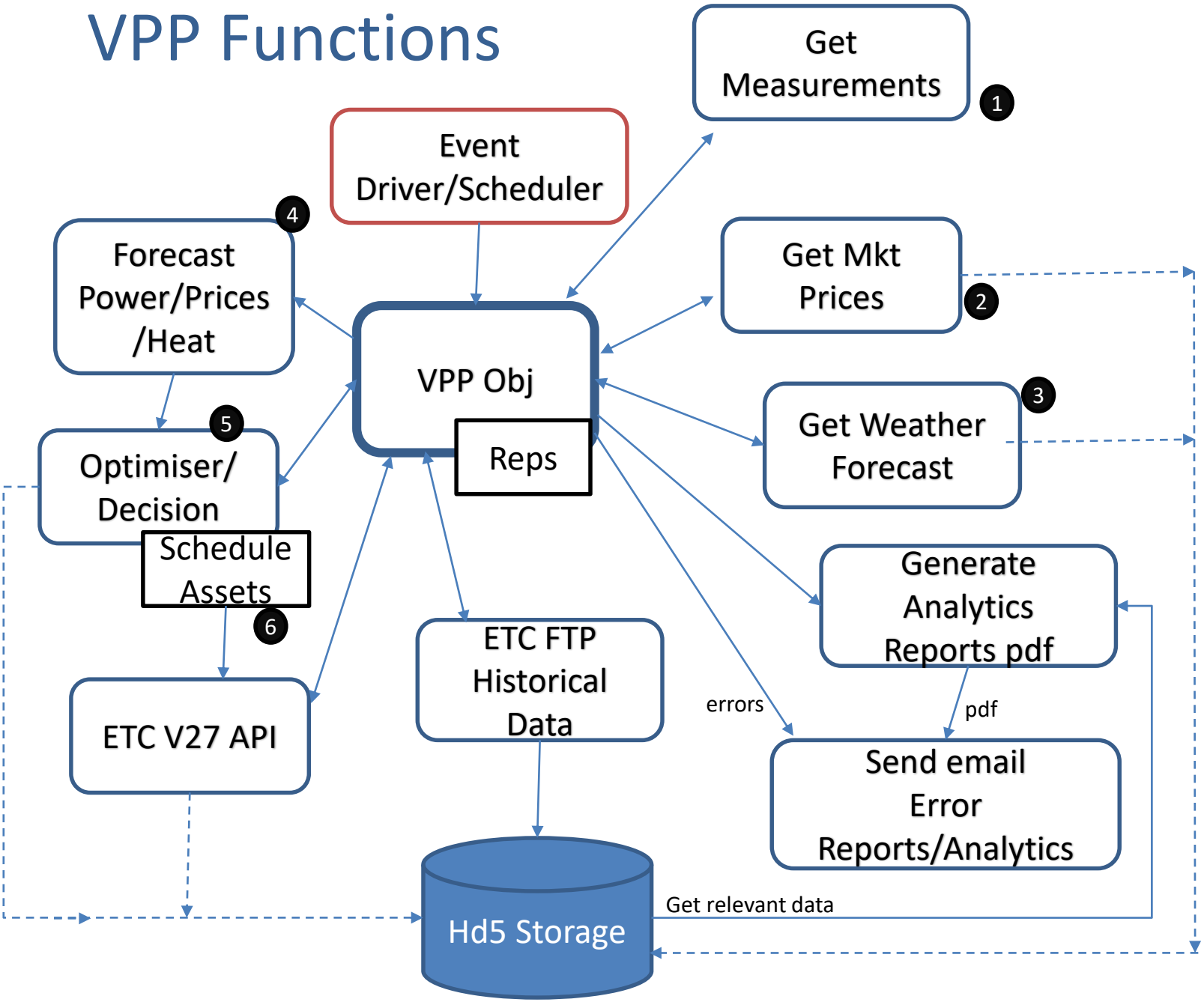
- A decision optimization model, based on the work in reference [6, 7], is included, but has been adapted to include battery degradation costs import/export limits and carbon prices. It uses the Pyomo [8] optimization model. This has been further adapted to include some elements of the current UK flexibility auction market. The optimizer, or decision model, looks to maximize revenues to the project and formulates schedules, which are then sent via the communication module to the various assets. The current model uses Octopus market prices so assumes the
- The current VPP is a price taker. This means that that bidding module is not currently used but would be as other markets are accessed. The decision module also includes other algorithms such as load following or other simple heuristics such as buy-low-sell-high and so on. Additional algorithms can be included. Note that analysis of algorithms and data is currently carried out offline.

VPP Operation

- Acquire Data
- Forecast Future Demand, Power Output , Export Import Limits etc.
- Decision Process (Simple Heuristics , FOC, Optimization other)
- Schedule Assets
- Learn

- Example Operation shown below using One Asset

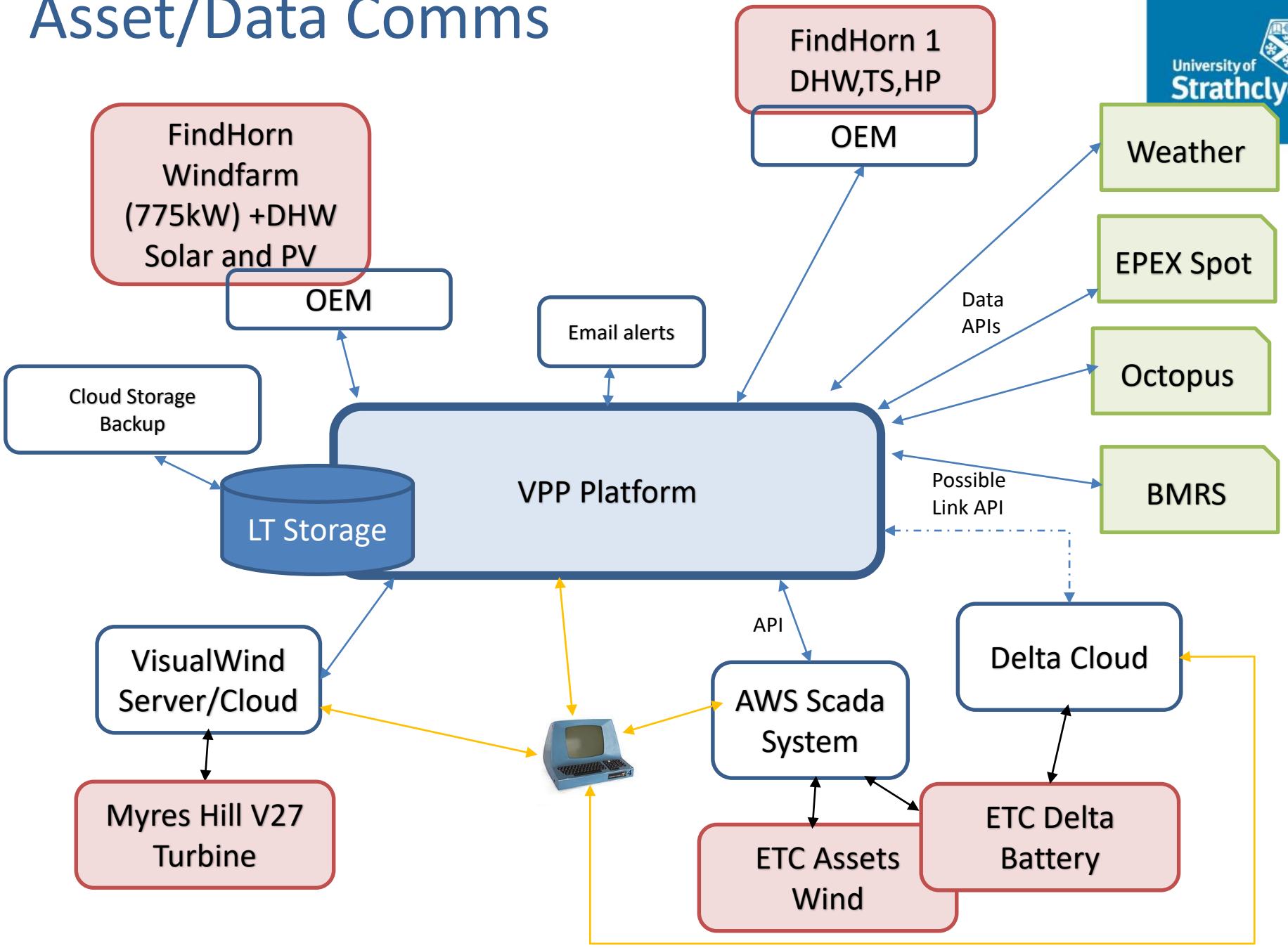
VPP Functions



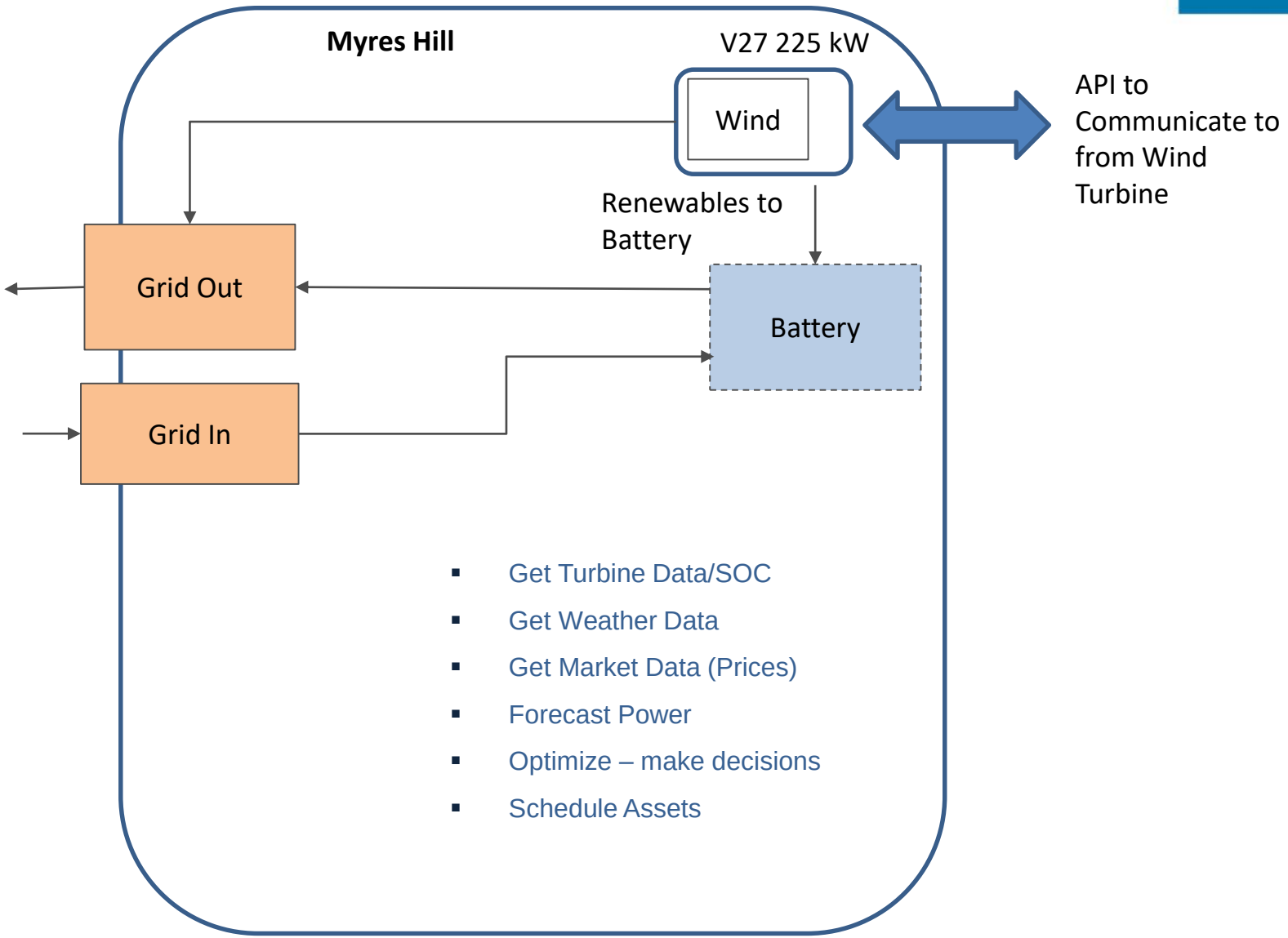
VPP ACT:

- Act at certain times
- Do certain things
- Use obj attached
- Obj stores status flags and settings

Asset/Data Comms



Simple Use Case Example



Get Measurement Data

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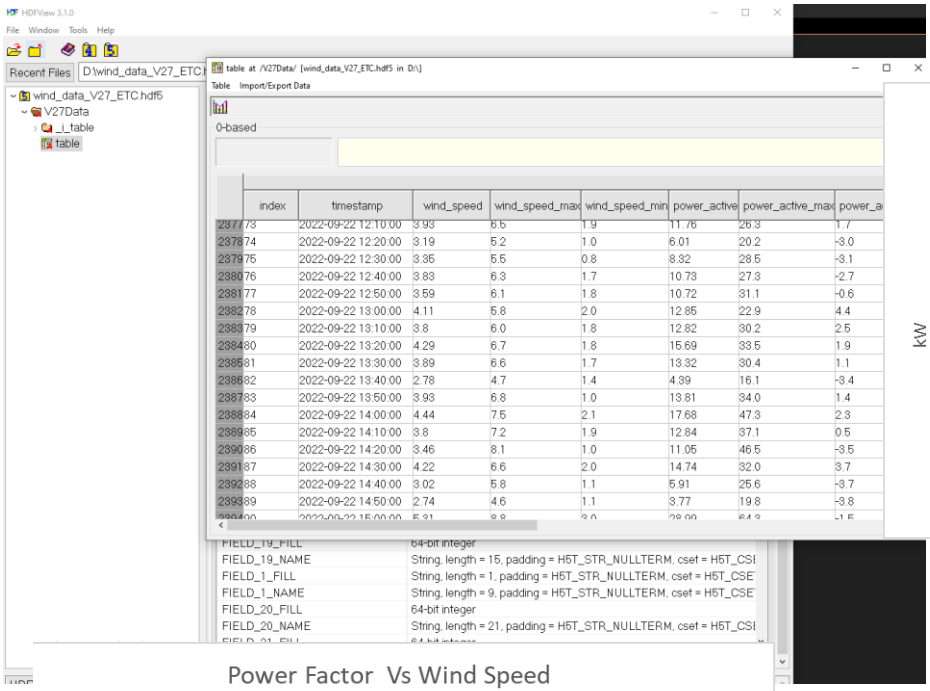

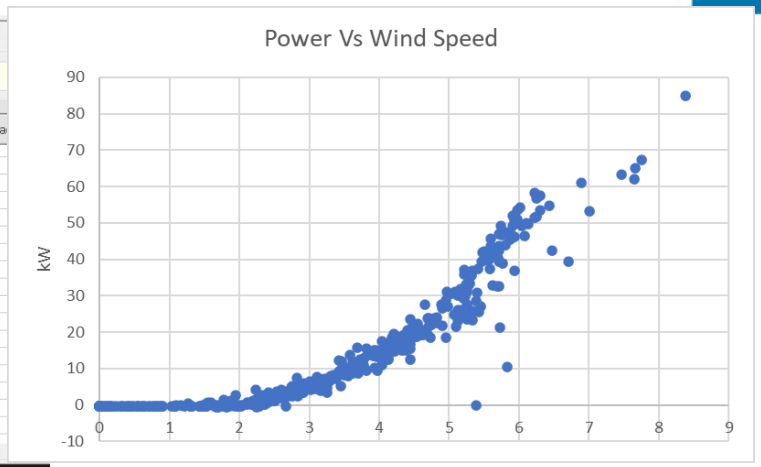

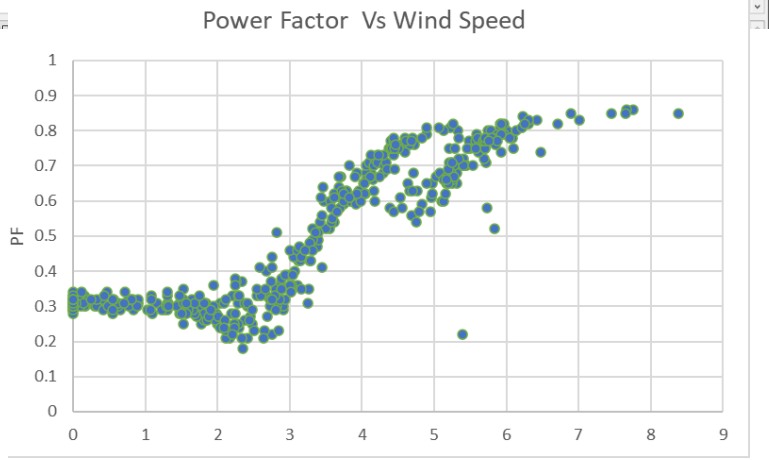

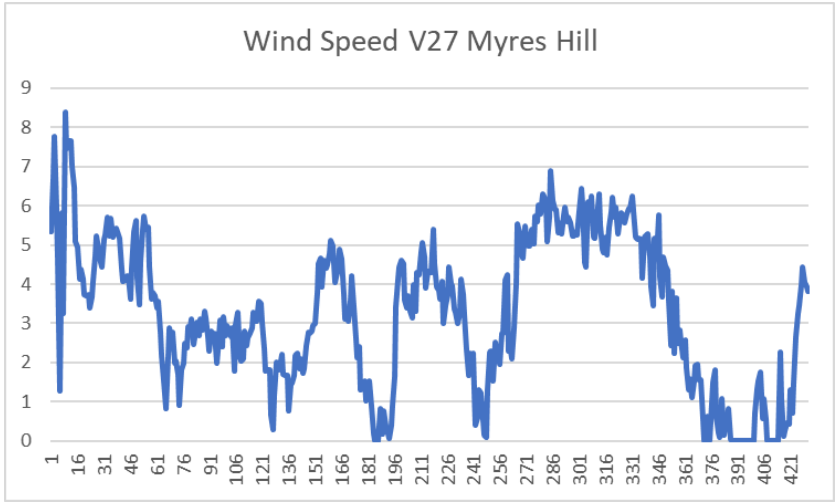

Get Market Prices

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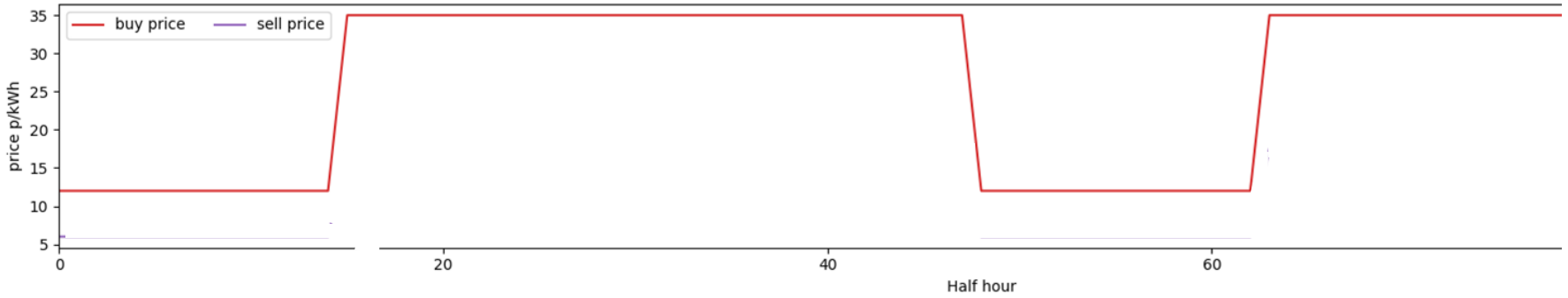

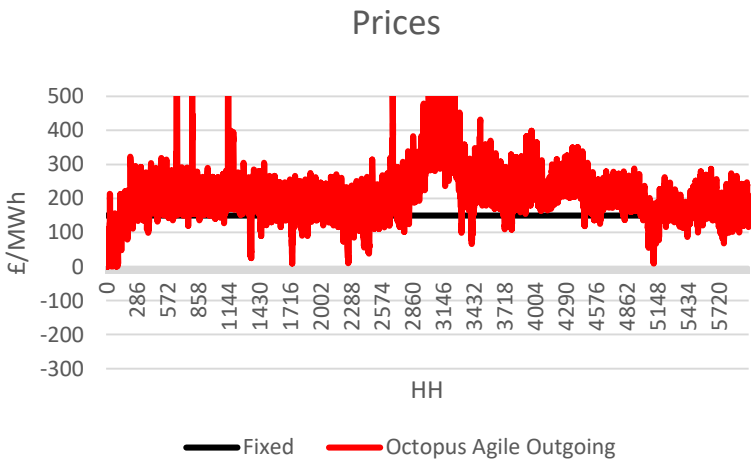

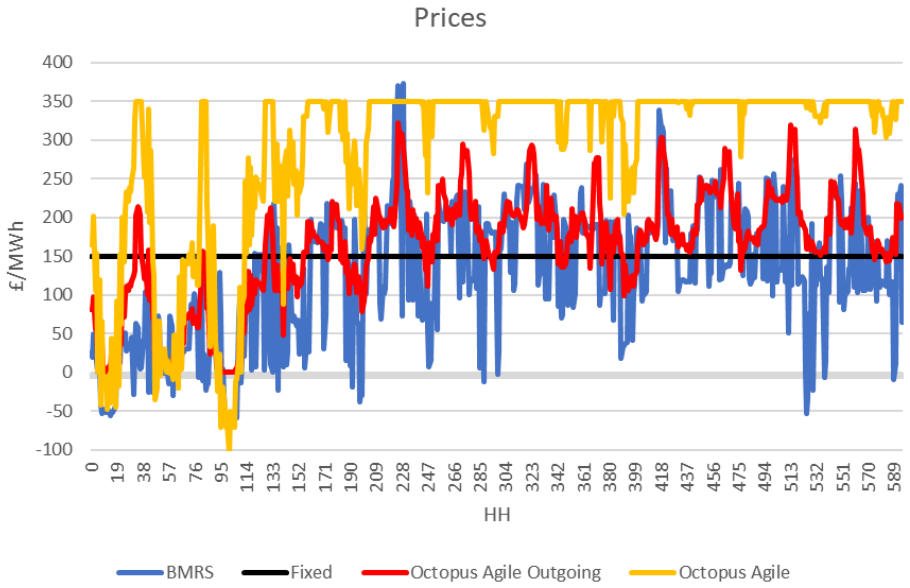

Get Weather Forecasts

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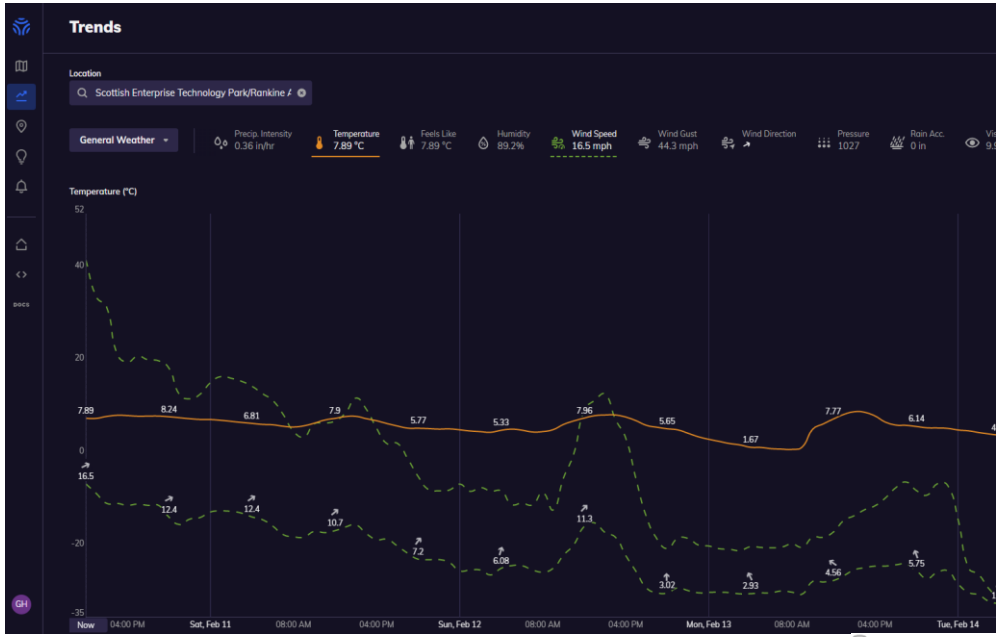


- Tomorrow.io
- 4 Days ahead
- Forecasts Stored for later analysis

- Also used in power and heat forecasting models

DB Browser for SQLite - D:\weather.sqlite

File Edit View Tools Help

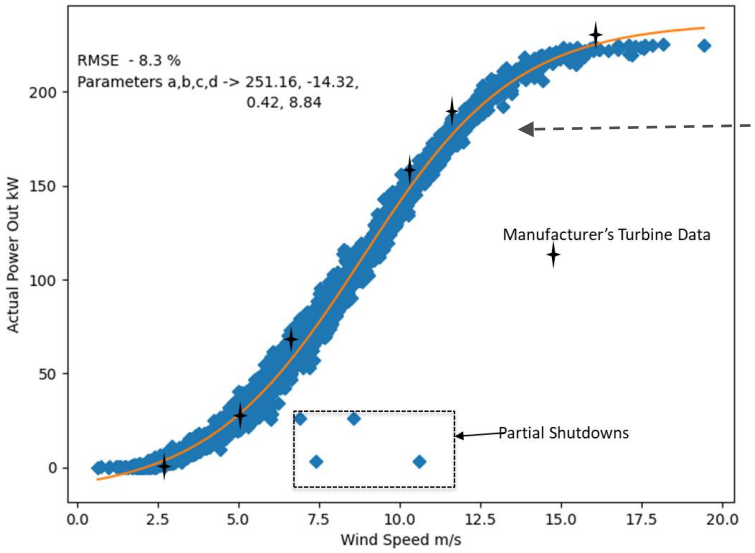
New Database | Open Database | Write Changes | Revert Changes | Open Project | Save Project | Attach Database | Close Database

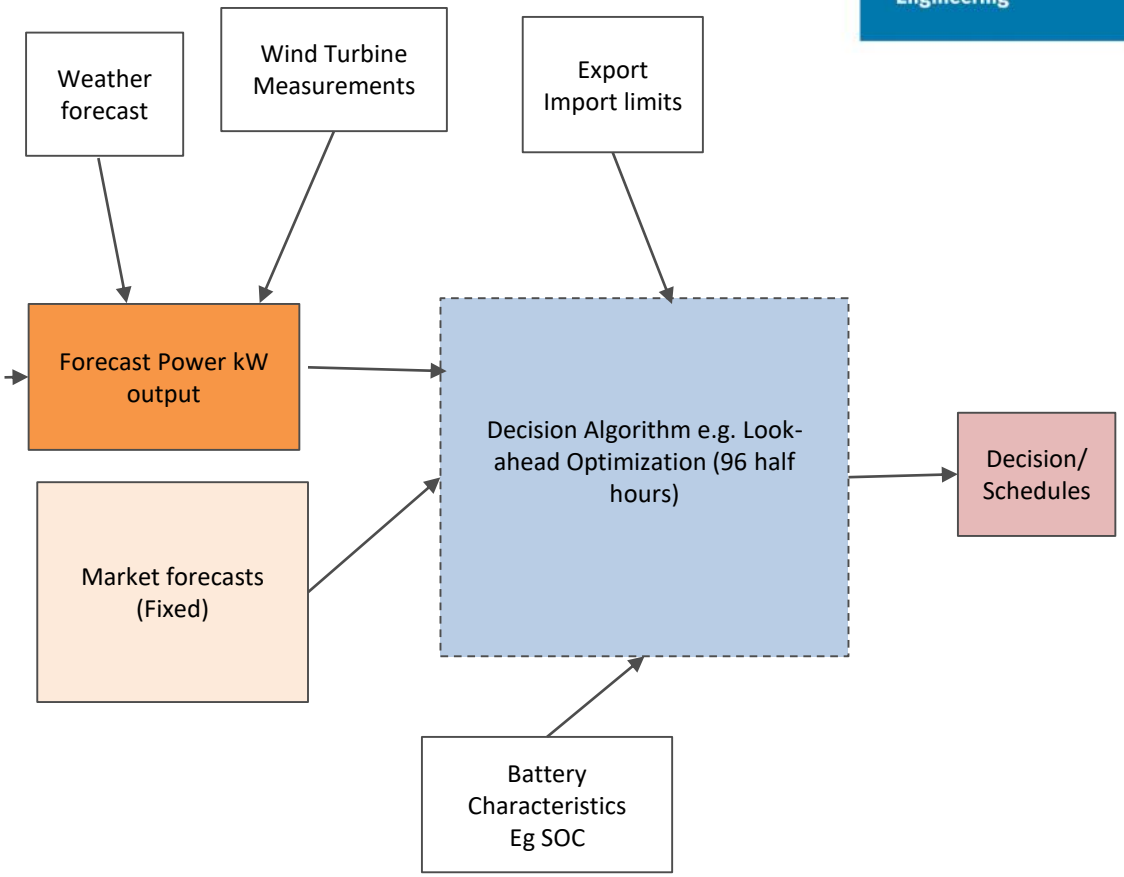
Database Structure | Browse Data | Edit Pragmas | Execute SQL

Table: all_weather_data

	temp	cloudCover	windDirection	windSpeed	humidity	dewPoint	solarGHI	pressureSurfaceLevel	dummyOzone	windGust	currentimestamp	utc_timestamp
1	3.19	0.0	5.38	2.19	79.0	-0.13	100.48	1017.83	40.0	4.31	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
2	2.13	5.47	333.46	1.56	86.33	0.08	40.53	1017.77	40.0	2.56	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
3	-0.21	2.34	326.24	2.31	88.0	-1.96	5.4	1017.83	40.0	3.28	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
4	-1.09	9.38	317.89	2.39	88.15	-2.8	0.0	1017.58	40.0	3.26	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
5	-1.65	44.53	311.24	2.32	88.54	-3.29	0.0	1017.79	40.0	3.24	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
6	-1.91	60.94	312.7	2.16	89.1	-3.46	0.0	1017.9	40.0	3.2	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
7	-1.93	63.28	305.25	1.86	89.07	-3.49	0.0	1017.84	40.0	3.02	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
8	-1.92	78.13	307.03	1.83	88.77	-3.53	0.0	1018.01	40.0	3.08	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
9	-1.91	43.75	303.9	1.84	88.64	-3.53	0.0	1017.93	40.0	3.21	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
10	-1.68	21.88	303.09	2.01	88.88	-3.27	0.0	1017.73	40.0	3.58	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
11	-1.67	4.69	299.78	2.04	88.7	-3.28	0.0	1017.48	40.0	3.65	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
12	-1.65	4.69	295.31	2.11	88.43	-3.31	0.0	1017.12	40.0	3.71	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
13	-1.74	4.69	291.81	2.07	88.33	-3.41	0.0	1016.88	40.0	3.6	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
14	-2.05	14.06	292.65	1.89	88.48	-3.69	0.0	1016.61	40.0	3.17	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
15	-2.15	11.72	286.5	1.84	88.09	-3.86	0.0	1016.32	40.0	3.12	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
16	-2.26	14.06	287.79	1.87	88.48	-3.9	0.0	1015.84	40.0	3.15	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
17	-2.37	26.56	286.22	1.83	89.1	-3.92	0.0	1015.36	40.0	3.12	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
18	-2.37	21.88	286.89	1.85	89.37	-3.88	0.0	1015.26	40.0	3.21	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
19	-2.4	9.38	281.21	1.88	89.26	-3.92	0.0	1015.04	40.0	3.22	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461
20	-2.08	0.0	273.97	1.99	89.33	-3.6	26.17	1014.65	40.0	3.49	2022-12-06T14:54:21	1670338461

Forecasts





Use forecasts to Maximise Revenues !!!!

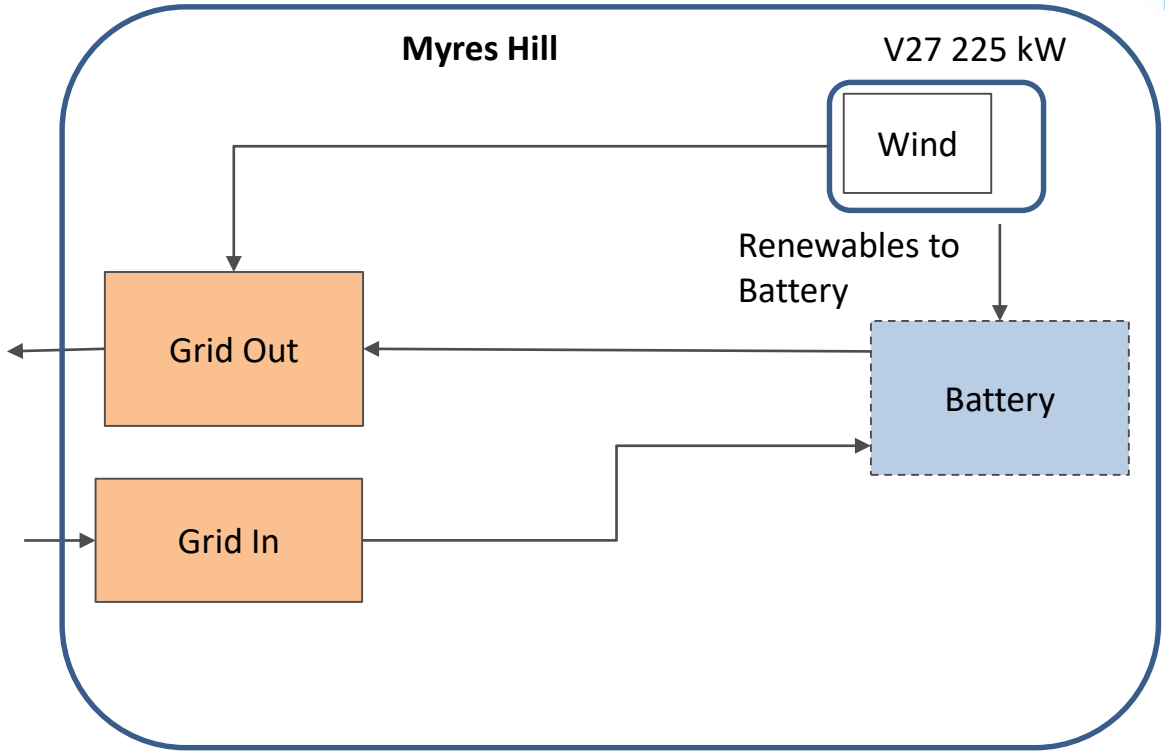
Simple Use Case Decisions

Ideally Maximize Net Revenues

Export Revs – Import Revs

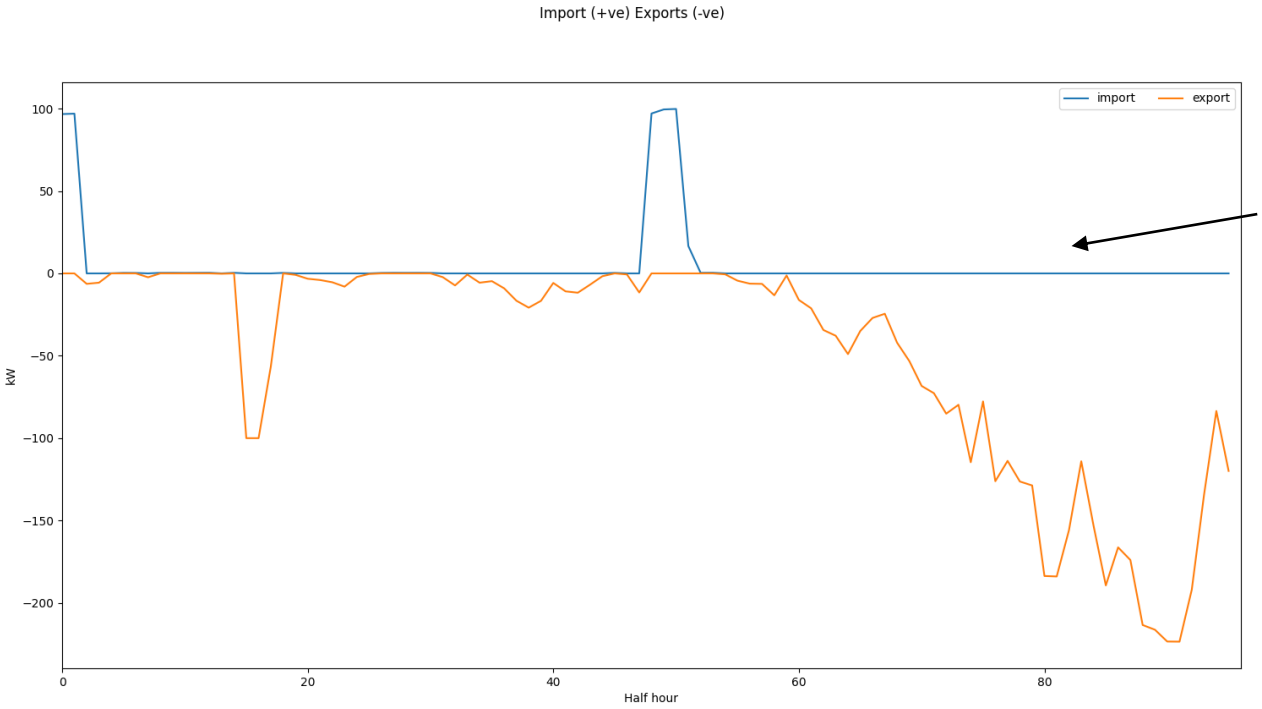
<u>2 cases</u>

- Buy lo sell hi
- Optimize



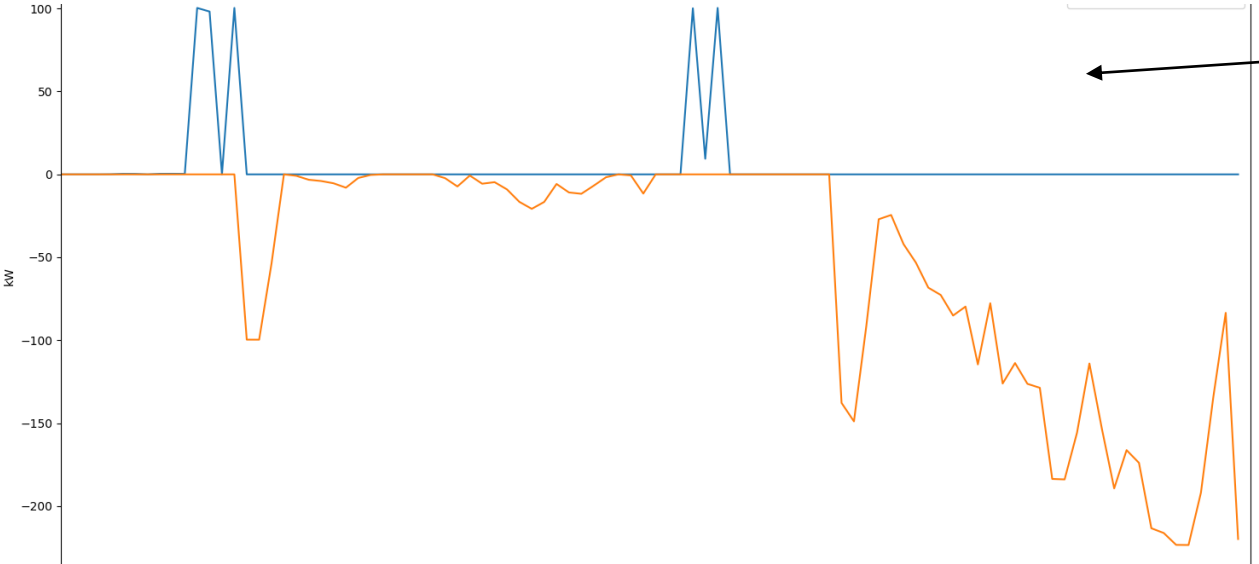
Imports/Exports

Myres hill simple



Simple strategy

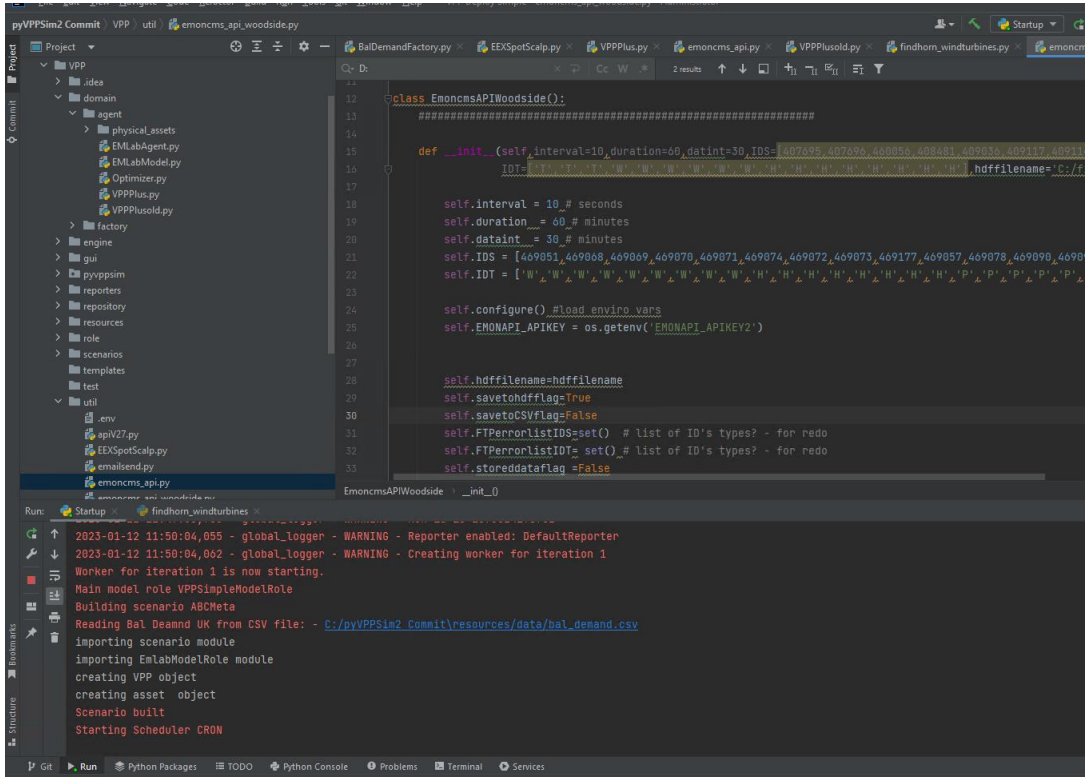
Estimated Revs=£332.5
Renew to batt – 4kWh

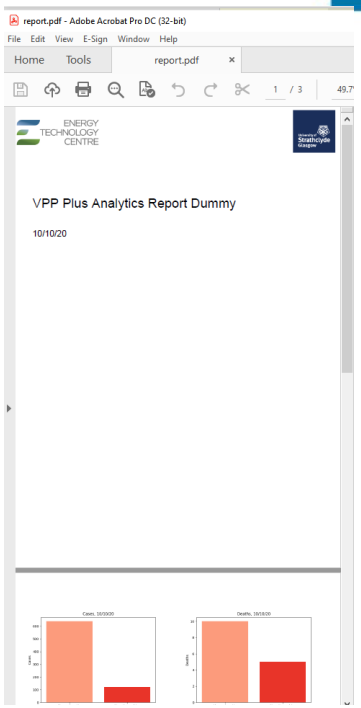


Optimization:
<u>Maximise Revenues</u>
over 2 days using forecasts

Estimated Revs=£344.3
+3.4%
Renew to batt –63kWh

VPP Deployment





From: testemail@energy-redefined.com
Date: 28 September 2022 at 00:15:52 BST
To: gary.howorth@gmail.com
Subject: error message from VPP Platform

Error on VPP Plus Platform. See Messages/Error Codes below!

errormessage API List >>
+
errormessage Hdf Store List >> ['Octopus 2 Day forecast - Stored Outgoing data Hdf error '] ['EmonCMS Actual Stored data Hdf error ']

VPP Platform Code-Base

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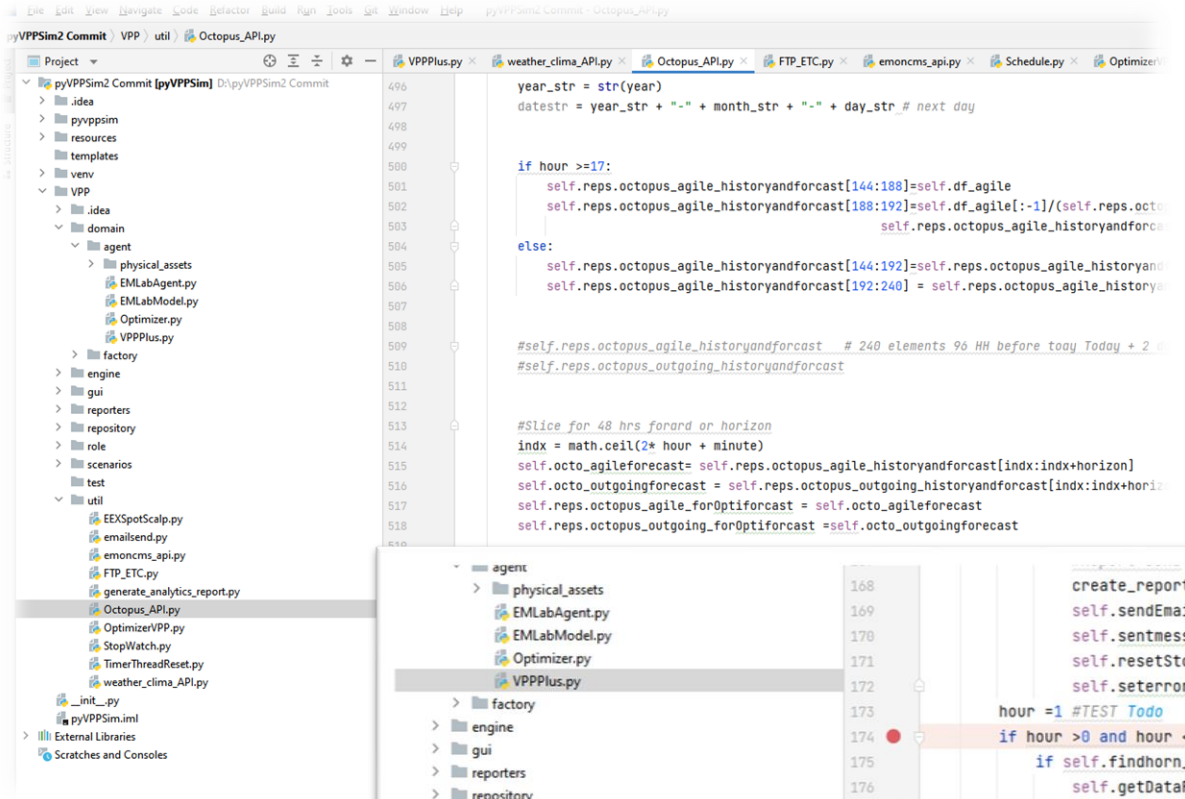
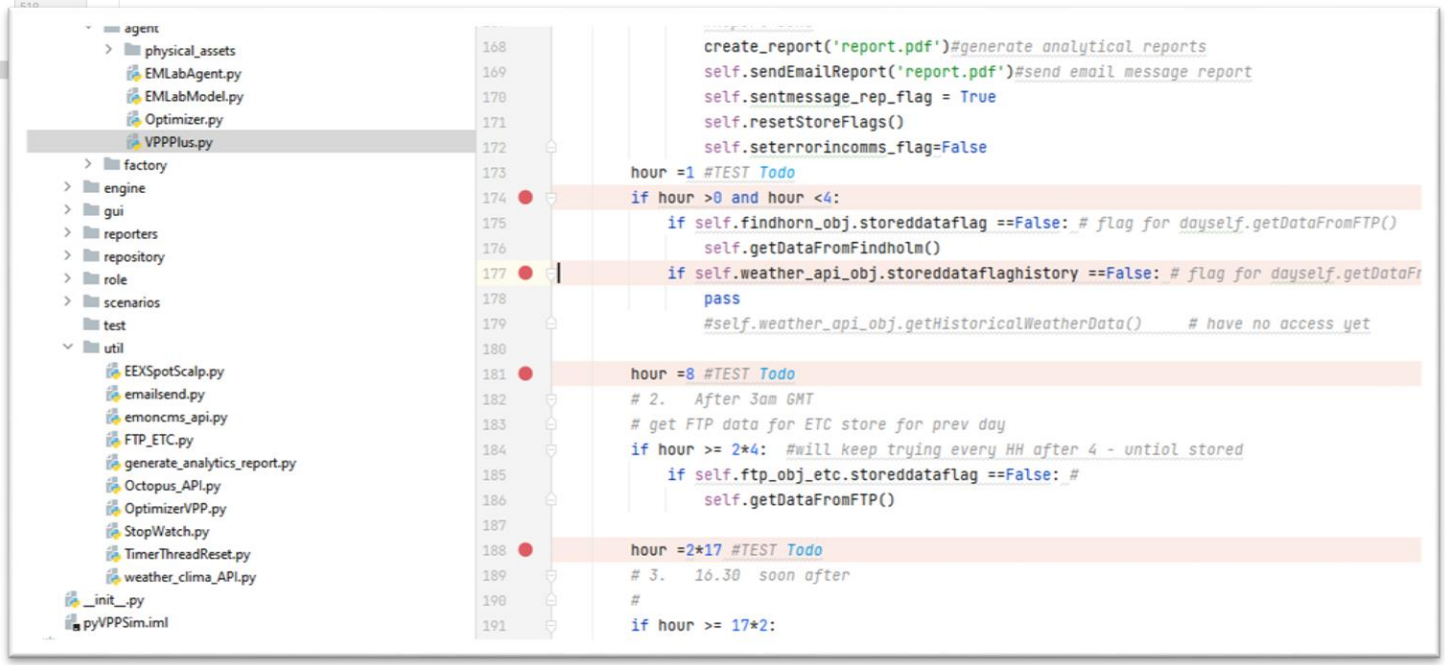
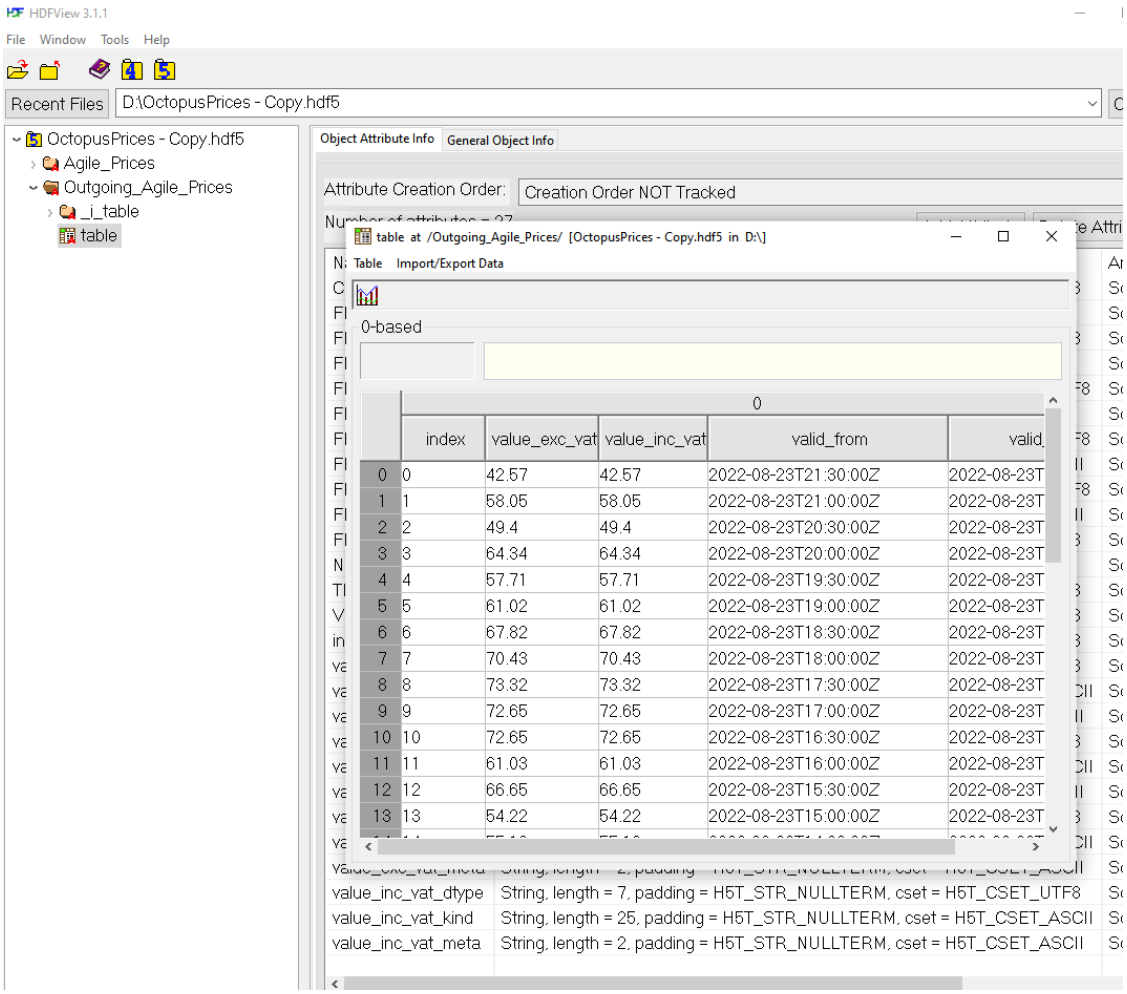
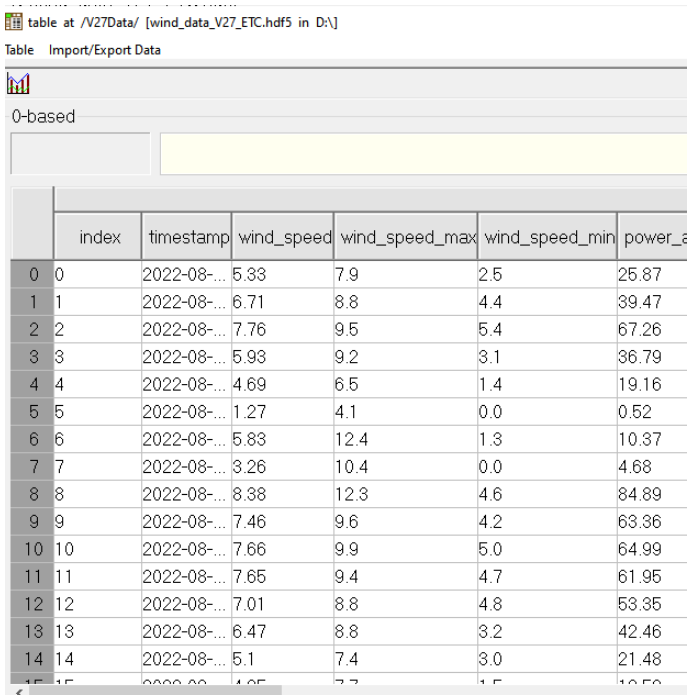
Code based on work by GHoworth 2017-2020
and open source libraries
EmLab 2017



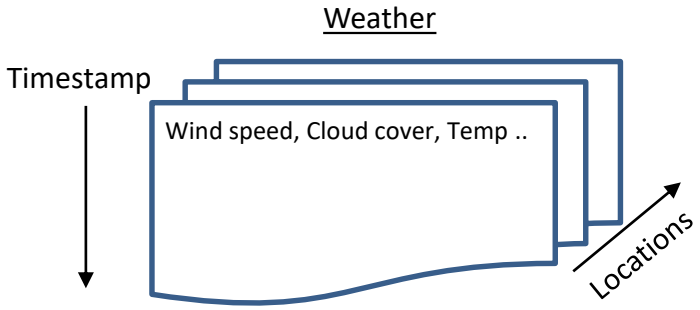


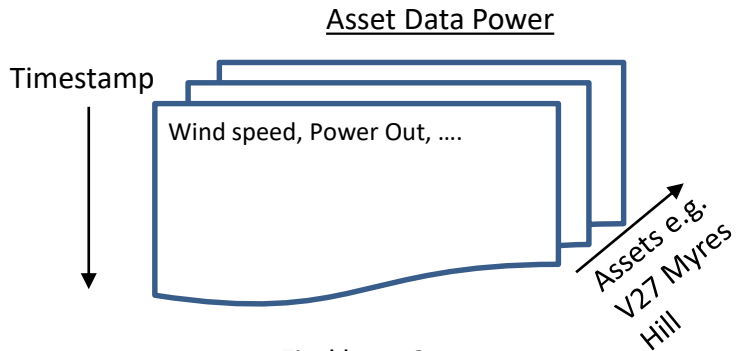
Database Example: Hdf5

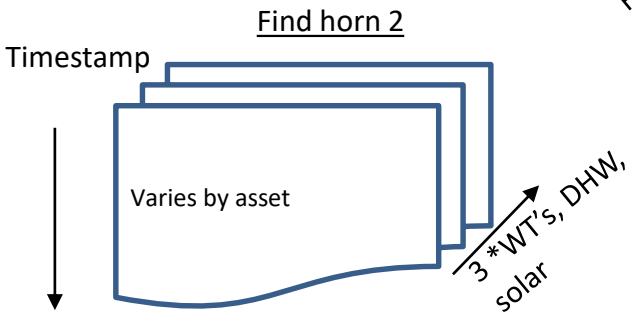


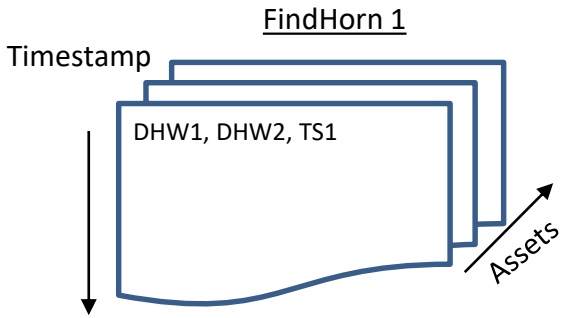


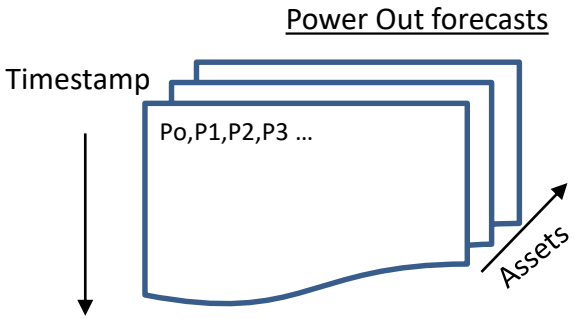
Databases:

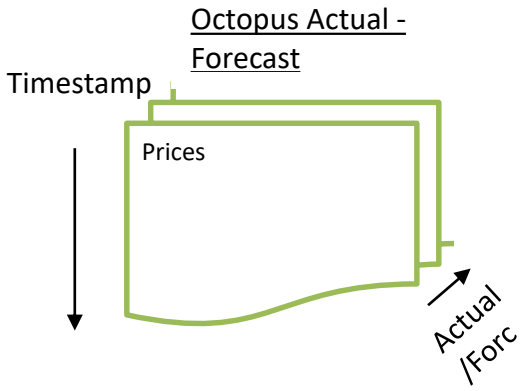

Weather
Timestamp
Wind speed, Cloud cover, Temp ..
Locations

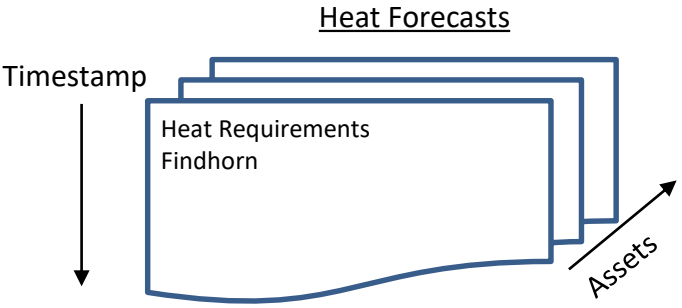

Asset Data Power
Timestamp
Wind speed, Power Out, ….
Assets e.g. V27 Myres Hill

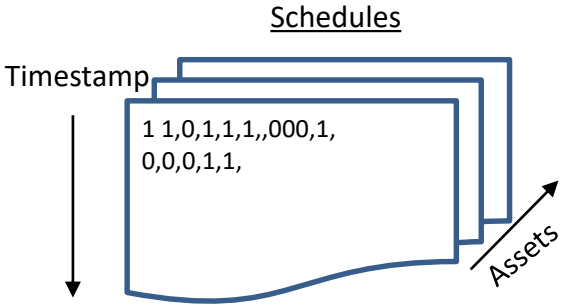

Find horn 2
Timestamp
Varies by asset
3 *WT's, DHW, solar

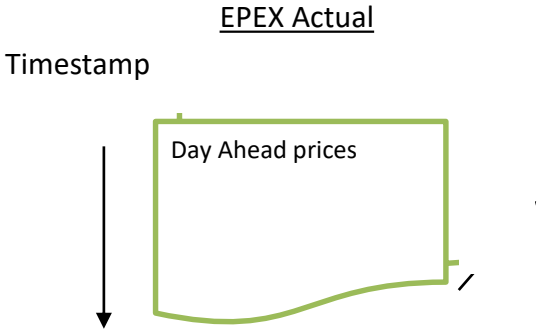

FindHorn 1
Timestamp
DHW1, DHW2, TS1
Assets


Power Out forecasts
Timestamp
Po,P1,P2,P3 …
Assets


Octopus Actual - Forecast
Timestamp
Prices
Actual /Forc

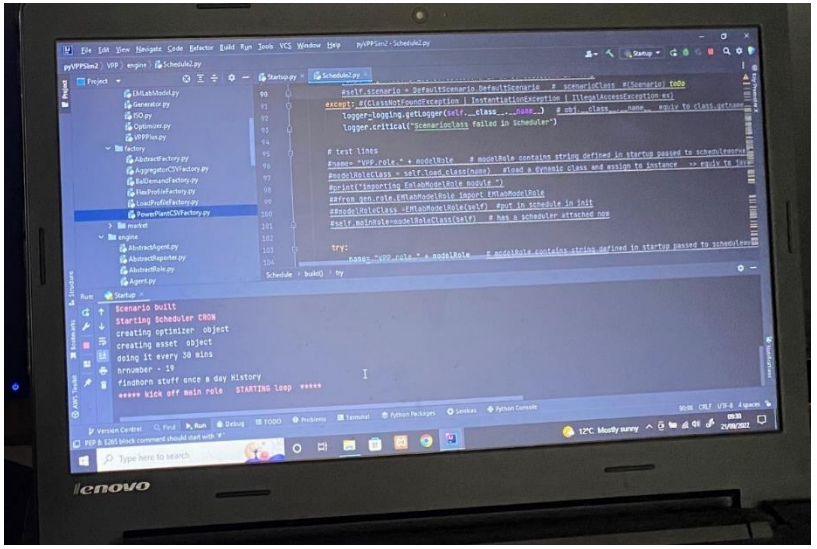

Heat Forecasts
Timestamp
Heat Requirements Findhorn
Assets


Schedules
Timestamp
1 1,0,1,1,1,,000,1,
0,0,0,1,1,
Assets


EPEX Actual
Timestamp
Day Ahead prices

Two Versions

- The PyEMLab framework allows us to either simulate VPP actions or use a real time scheduler or both.
- This allows us to perform Hardware in the loop simulations and to simulate future markets that may be evolving and currently do not exist.
- It has been used to test out the effects of different business models and values
- Future Assets can be represented as Digital Twins



Lessons Learned

- After an extensive literature review and more detailed discussions, it has become clear that none of the current VPP providers are able to meet all the needs of the SIES project. An off the shelf solution with cloud resources, cyber security and error capturing functionality may have proved to be a better approach, although it will still have necessitated the development and integration of specialized algorithms and routines.
- Furthermore, integrating legacy assets or assets from different manufacturers has been time consuming.
- Prior work using the PyEMLab-AGG framework has allowed us to follow a rapid prototype development process. The rapid prototyping process includes three steps; prototyping, testing, and refining (learning by doing approach). Prior experience tells us that significant software savings can be achieved with this approach as software functionality specification can be improved. Other lessons learned include:

Lessons Learned

- Uncertainty in market price and generation from renewable resources, such as wind, is relatively large. Probabilistic approaches are required, which is driving VPP owners towards using risk management techniques to protect against potential downsides.
- As the number of types of assets and their numbers grow, complexity of models increases, resulting in longer optimization solution times. In the case where the problem is inherently non-linear, very long solution times can occur e.g. > three hours. This can be remedied by linearization and assumption simplifications, but it is important to understand how these can influence accuracy of obtained solutions.
- Pattern recognition matching could be used to help reducing solution times, or when optimizers do not converge.
- Pre-processing of data to exclude spurious scenarios helps improve forecasting, as blindly taking all data can result in worse forecasting models. This is difficult to spot in an online automated models

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Thank you

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