

IEA SHC Solar Academy Task 55: Large Scale SHC Systems Integration into District Heating and Cooling Networks

# Decentralized feed-in in existing district heating networks – comparison of the hydraulic effects of solar thermal and CHP integration

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# Introduction

## Main Focus

- existing district heating networks
- identification of thermo-hydraulic impact of decentralized feed-in (varying in size and position)
  - **Solar thermal (ST) in comparison to combined heat and power units (CHP)**
- resulting requirements for components (pumps, tubes, pressure maintenance, etc.)

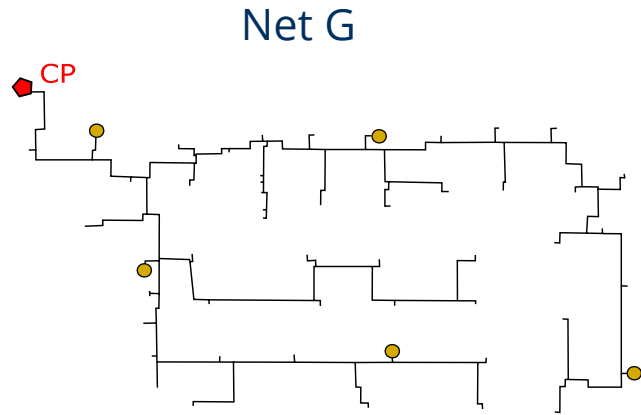
## Tools/Method

- TRNSYS TUD and DYMOLA with new types, both coupled via FMI master (own development)
- Quasi-dynamic annual simulations of the whole network, the feed-in values and the end user behavior (mass flow, temperatures) for a whole year
- Time-step 15 minutes
- Two different networks
- Two different weather conditions (Würzburg and Potsdam)
- Consideration of a central heat storage (ST) as part of the network control strategy



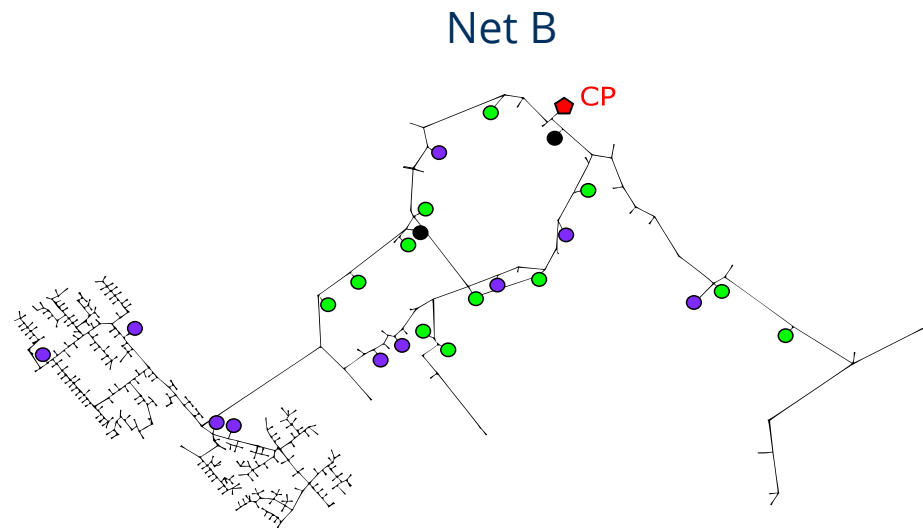
# Considered Networks

- DCP
- 100 m<sup>2</sup>
  - 500 m<sup>2</sup>
  - 1000 m<sup>2</sup>
  - 5000 m<sup>2</sup>



- 3rd GEN radial DH network
- Supply line temperature 90 ... 65 °C
- installed load of 2.2 MW
- length of 2.65 km
- 51 consumer; load range of 5 ... 72 kW

Net G



- 2nd GEN meshed DH network
- Supply line temperature 115 ... 80 °C
- installed load of 83 MW
- length of 41 km
- 485 consumer; load range of 22 kW ... 14 MW

Net B

# Boundary conditions for the simulation

## Solar thermal<sub>1</sub>(ST-variants)

- Net G

gross area      **5 x 100 m<sup>2</sup>**  
 performance    0,35 MW<sub>peak,th</sub>



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- Net B

gross area	<b>10 x 500 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>12 x 1 000 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2 x 5 000 m<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>all 24 DCP's = 27 000 m<sup>2</sup></b>
performance	3,5 MW <sub>peak,th</sub>	8,4 MW <sub>peak,th</sub>	7,0 MW <sub>peak,th</sub>	18,9 MW <sub>peak,th</sub>

## Block heat and power units (CHP-variants)

- Net B

nominal power	<b>10 x 250 kW<sub>el</sub> / 290 kW<sub>th</sub></b>	<b>10 x 500 kW<sub>el</sub> / 580 kW<sub>th</sub></b>
performance	2,9 MW <sub>th</sub>	5,8 MW <sub>th</sub>



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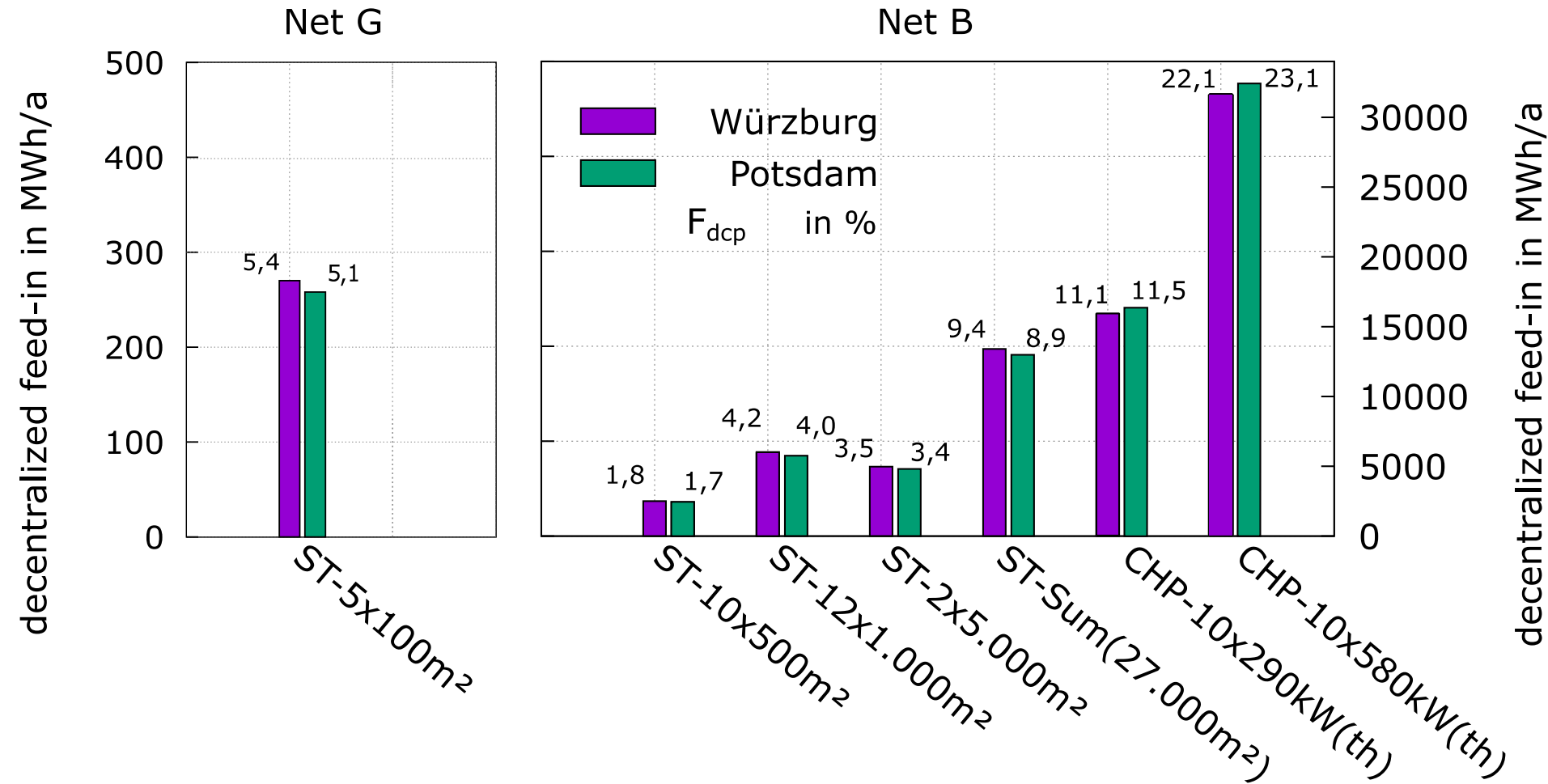
## Consumer modeling

- Measurement based regression models for 24 types of buildings
- Calculation in each time step (15 minutes) for each regression model



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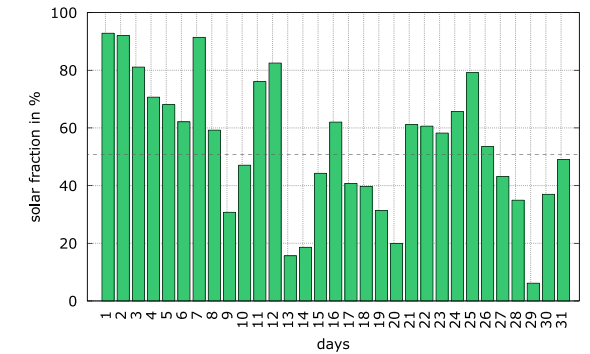
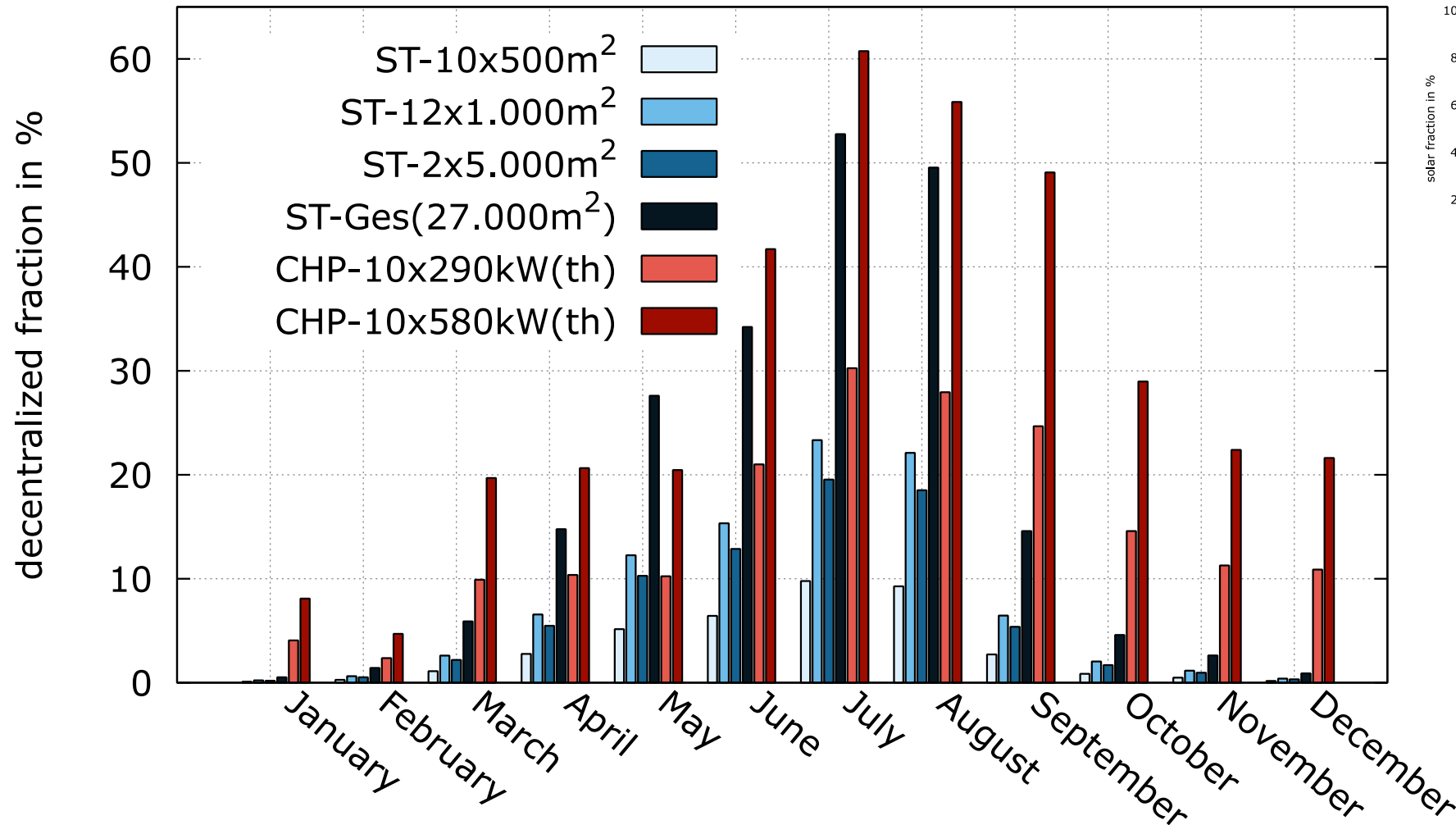
# Annual heat production and $F_{dcp}$ for the two networks



Fraction of decentralized production

$$F_{dcp} = \frac{\sum \dot{Q}_{dcp}}{\sum \dot{Q}_{net}} = \frac{\text{sum of decentralized solar thermal ST or CHP feed-in}}{\text{sum of heat consumption for the whole network}}$$

# Fraction of decentralized production (Net B, monthly, Würzburg)



ST Ges (27 000m<sup>2</sup>)  
daily, July

**Attention!** CHP feed-in depends on European Energy Exchange (EEX) prices and the local optimization on other aspects.

# Possible effects of feed-in

## Flow reversal in parts of the net segments can occur

- Normal situation for mashed parts
- Effect of decentralized feed-in for radial parts

## Moving supply frontiers

- border between positive and negative mass flow in pipe
- thermal stress due to alternating temperatures

## Full supply by decentralized heat producers

- high performance of solar thermal “meets” low demand at the user side  
→ central storage is necessary

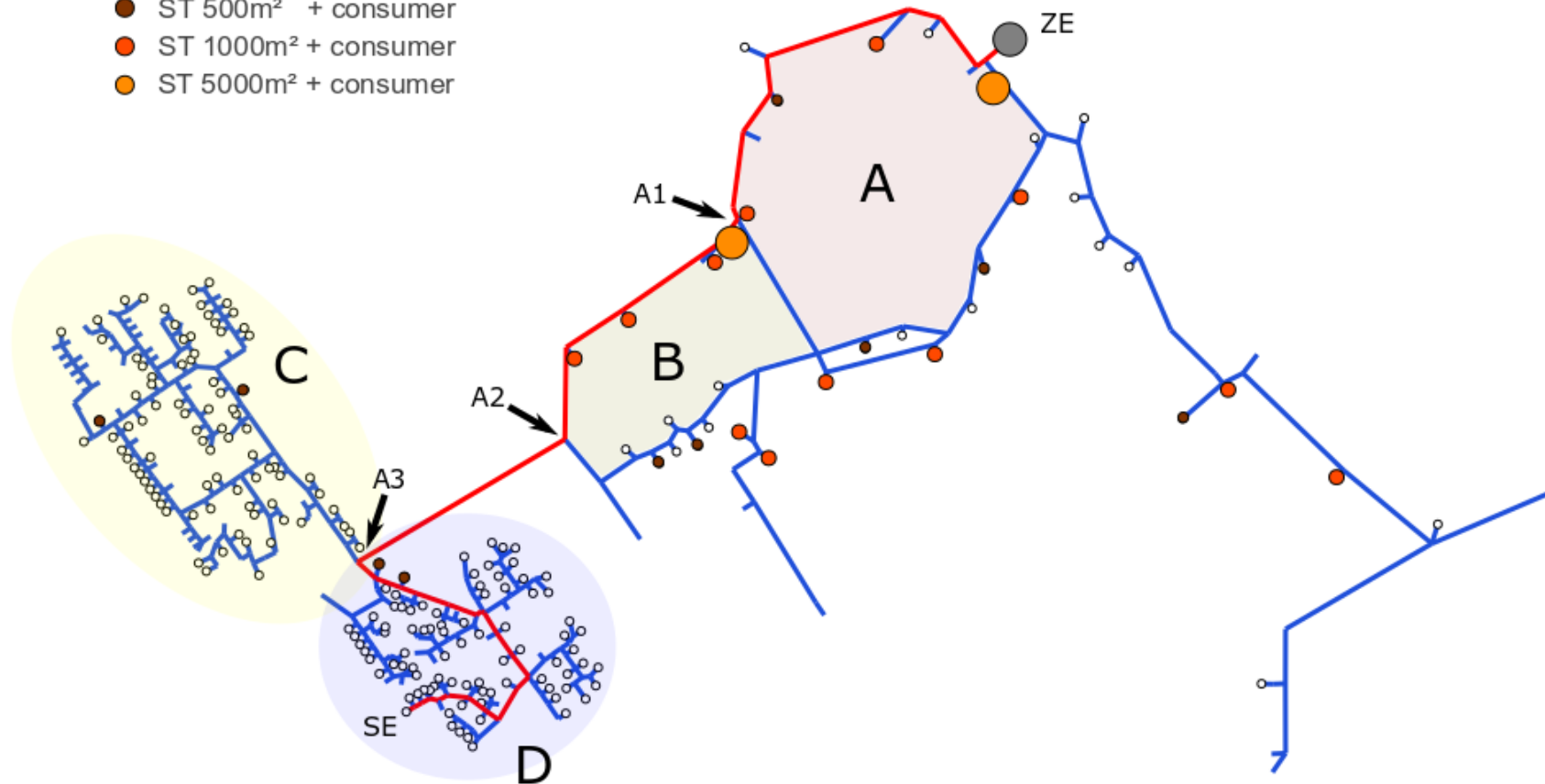
## Switching index circuit due to changed pressure conditions

- New control methods for central district heating pumps
- Influence on pressure maintenance

# Example results of thermohydraulic simulation: branch 1 in Net B

- central heat producer + storage
- consumer
- ST 500m<sup>2</sup> + consumer
- ST 1000m<sup>2</sup> + consumer
- ST 5000m<sup>2</sup> + consumer

all 24 solar thermal plants = 27 000 m<sup>2</sup>

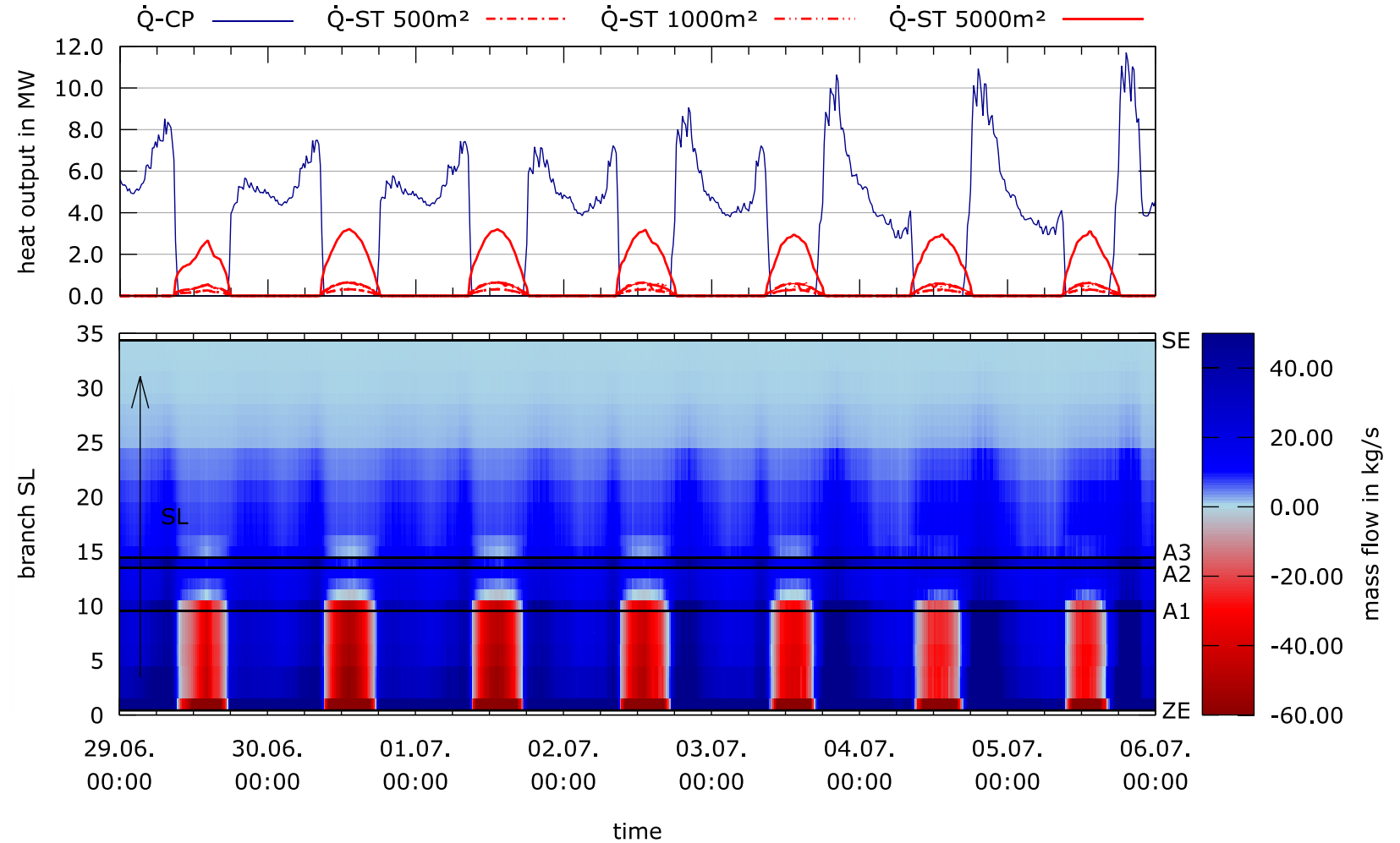
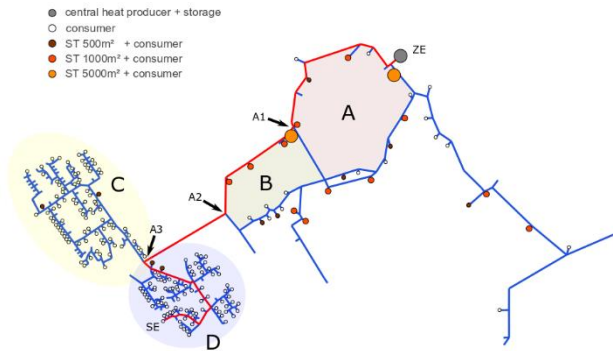




# Mass flow distribution for branch 1 - summer week

## Conclusions

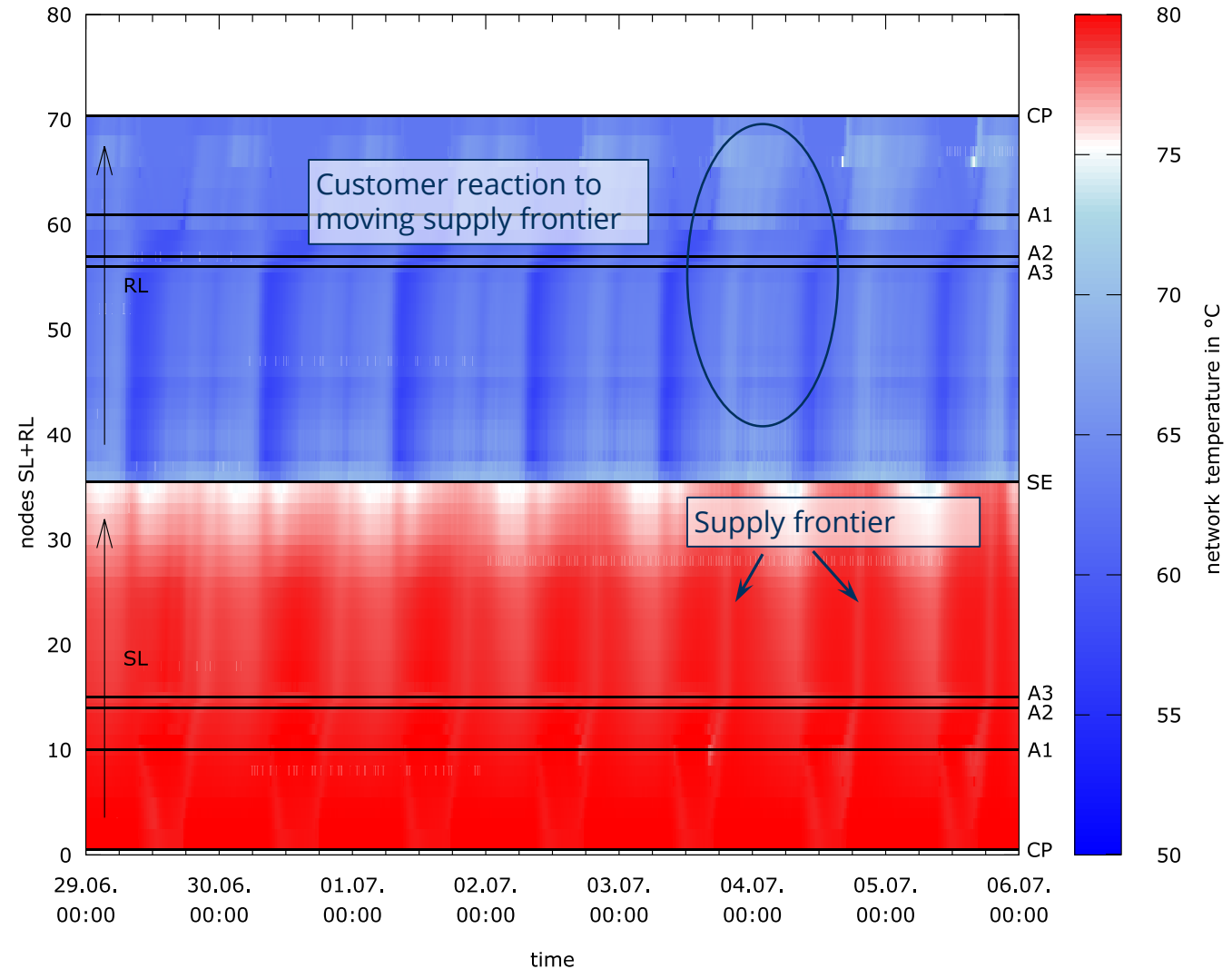
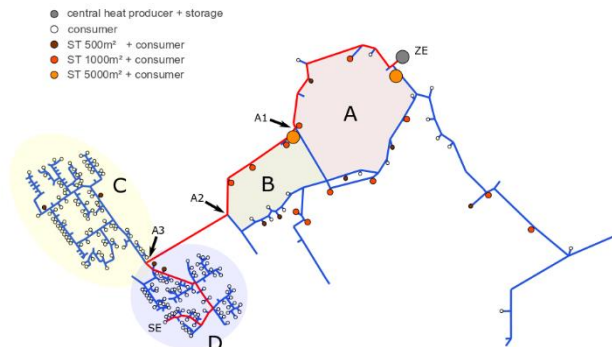
- Without central storage, decentralized solar-thermal would have to be limited → stagnation
- Decentralized feed-in pumps take over the transport!



# Temperature distribution for branch 1 - summer week

## Conclusions

- Customers react with changed return-line temperatures
- Supply-line temperature drops in the direction of the supply frontier
- Effects on pipelines and network pumps as well as changes in working cycles pressure maintenance can be identified



# Conclusions & Outlook

## Conclusions

- annual solar fraction up to 9,2 % in Net B with 27 000 m<sup>2</sup>
- flow reversal and full supply by DCP identified, pre-dimensioning for central storages take place
- investigation of decentralized feed-in of combined heat and power plants

## Outlook

- simulation of Net B with a large field solar-thermal system plant near mash A (> 25 000 m<sup>2</sup>)
- prediction of consequences for central heat producer → part load efficiency, CO<sub>2</sub>-reduction
- requirements for feed-in pumps → comparison with the pump catalogues of the manufactures
- investigations regarding thermal stress → life time of district heating tubes

**→ A short video presentation for simulation results of four summer days**



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**Thank you for your attention!**  
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