



SINTEF

# Towards digital twins for understanding and managing underground thermal energy storage systems

Øystein Klemetsdal, Odd Andersen, Stein Krogstad, Applied Computational Sciences, SINTEF Digital

III International Conference on Computational Science and AI in Industry (CSAI 2023), Trondheim, Norway, 28-30 August, 2023.

# Presentation outline

Introduction  
Digital twins for UTES  
Numerical examples  
Conclusions





SINTEF

# Presentation outline

Introduction

Digital twins for UTES

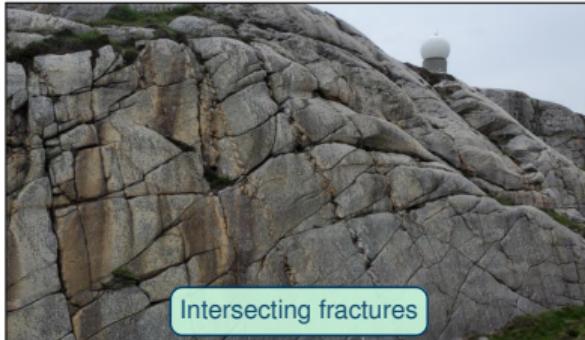
Numerical examples

Conclusions



# Underground thermal energy storage (UTES)

- The subsurface is an excellent candidate for scalable energy storage
  - Circulate water through fractured bedrock (fractures  $\approx$  fins of a heat exchanger)
  - Charge with excess heat from e.g., industrial processes/waste incineration
  - Constant discharge of base heat, rapid discharge of heat in periods of high demand
- Complex geology (horizons, faults, intertwined fracture networks, ...)
- Complex operation (multiple wells, heaters, heat pumps, heat exchangers, ...)



# Underground thermal energy storage (UTES)

- The subsurface is an excellent candidate for scalable energy storage
  - Circulate water through fractured bedrock (fractures  $\approx$  fins of a heat exchanger)
  - Charge with excess heat from e.g., industrial processes/waste incineration
  - Constant discharge of base heat, rapid discharge of heat in periods of high demand
- Complex geology (horizons, faults, intertwined fracture networks, ...)
- Complex operation (multiple wells, heaters, heat pumps, heat exchangers, ...)
- To justify investments and fully utilize potential of underground thermal energy storage, **numerical simulation and optimization** is imperative.

**Here:** Show how a fully differentiable geoenergy simulator can be integrated in a larger system model, and practically used for operational support and iterative model tuning  
→ **Towards digital twin system for underground thermal energy storage**



SINTEF

# Presentation outline

Introduction

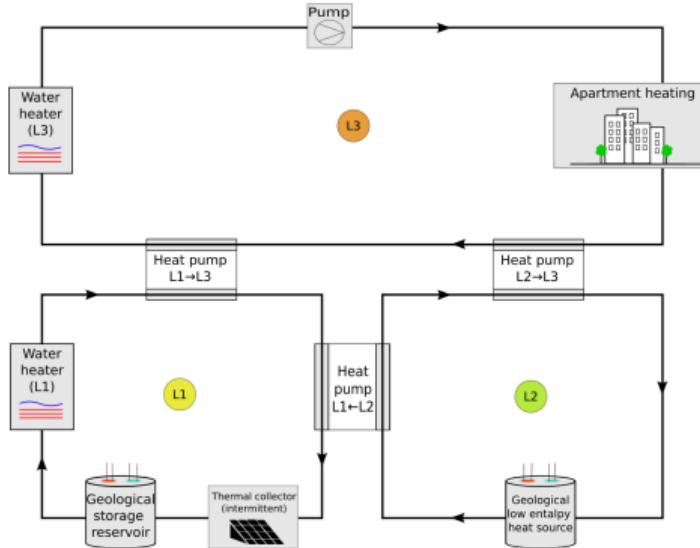
Digital twins for UTES

Numerical examples

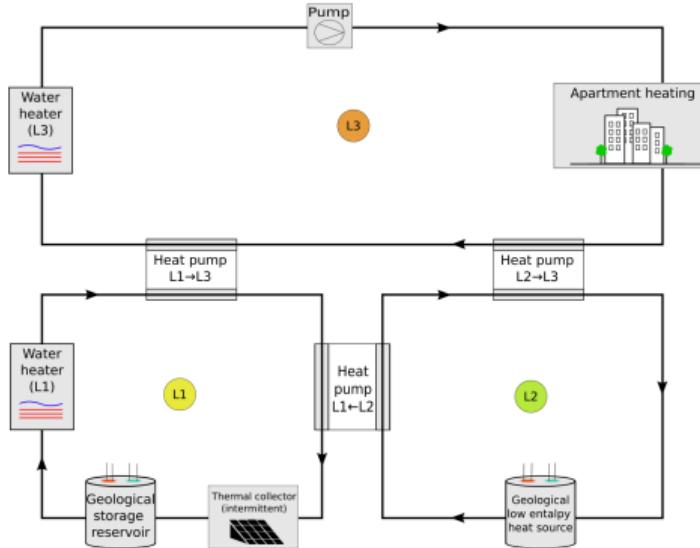
Conclusions



# Underground thermal energy storage system



# Underground thermal energy storage system

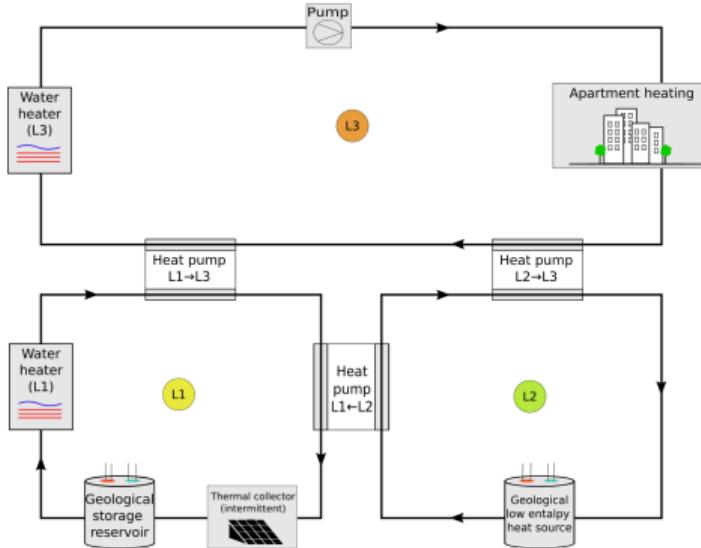


## PDE-constrained optimization

Minimize  $C$  (e.g., cost of delivering heat to apartment complex), while ensuring conservation of mass/thermal energy

$$\min_u C(x(u)) \text{ such that } \mathcal{S}(x(u), u, \theta) = 0$$

# Underground thermal energy storage system



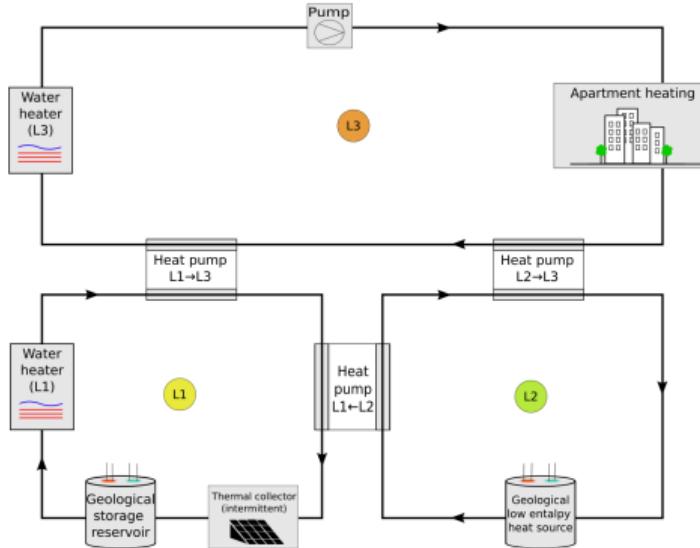
## PDE-constrained optimization

Minimize  $C$  (e.g., cost of delivering heat to apartment complex), while ensuring conservation of mass/thermal energy

$$\min_u C(x(u)) \text{ such that } \mathcal{S}(x(u), u, \theta) = 0$$

Controls (pump rates, energy input, ...)

# Underground thermal energy storage system



## PDE-constrained optimization

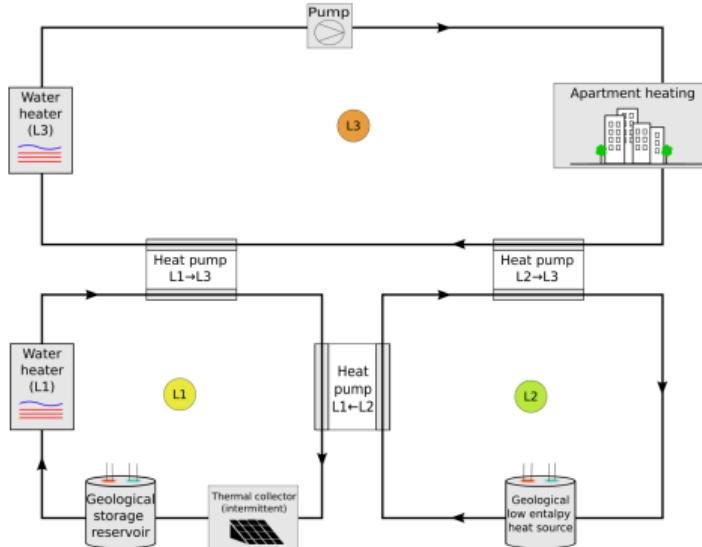
Minimize  $C$  (e.g., cost of delivering heat to apartment complex), while ensuring conservation of mass/thermal energy

$$\min_u C(x(u)) \text{ such that } \mathcal{S}(x(u), u, \theta) = 0$$

Controls (pump rates, energy input, ...)

Parameters (geology, COP, dissipation, ...)

# Underground thermal energy storage system



## PDE-constrained optimization

Minimize  $C$  (e.g., cost of delivering heat to apartment complex), while ensuring conservation of mass/thermal energy

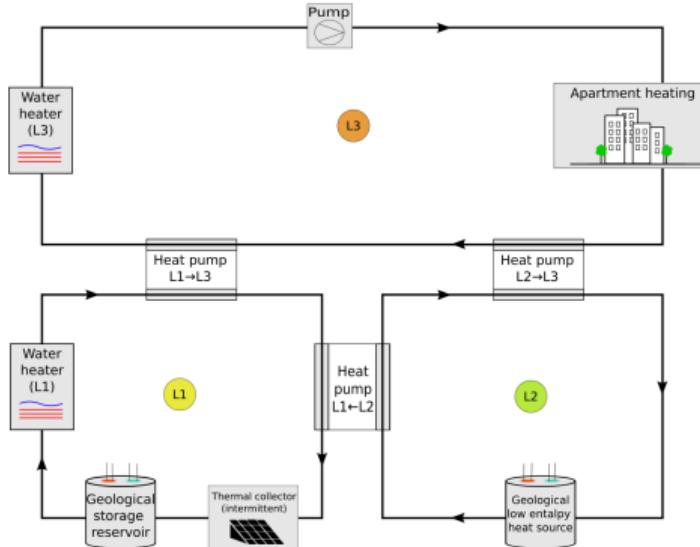
$$\min_u C(x(u)) \text{ such that } \mathcal{S}(x(u), u, \theta) = 0$$

Controls (pump rates, energy input, ...)

Parameters (geology, COP, dissipation, ...)

**Q1** what parameters  $\theta$  give output  $x$  that matches observed data?

# Underground thermal energy storage system



## PDE-constrained optimization

Minimize  $C$  (e.g., cost of delivering heat to apartment complex), while ensuring conservation of mass/thermal energy

$$\min_u C(x(u)) \text{ such that } \mathcal{S}(x(u), u, \theta) = 0$$

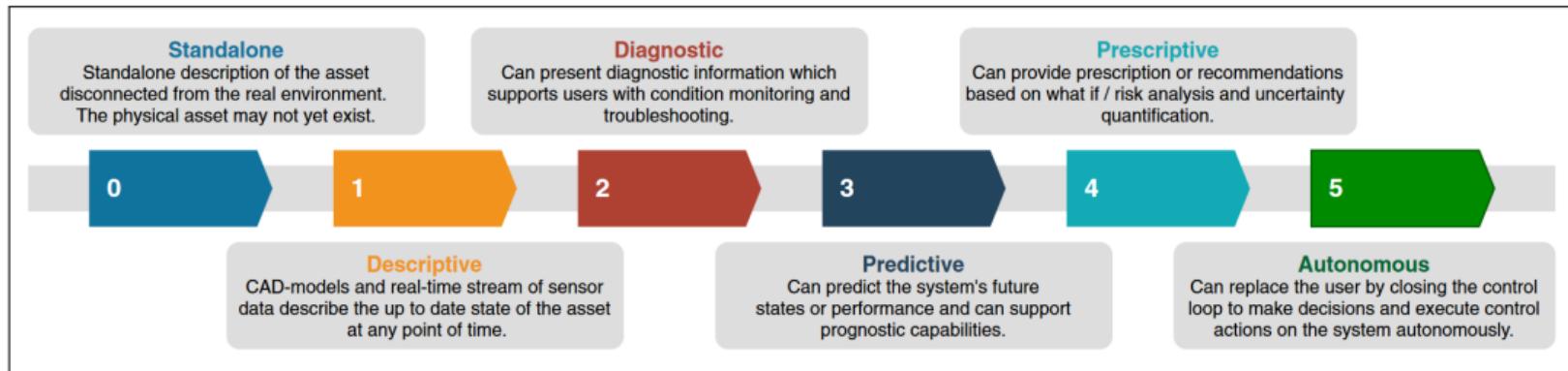
Controls (pump rates, energy input, ...)

Parameters (geology, COP, dissipation, ...)

Q1 what parameters  $\theta$  give output  $x$  that matches observed data?

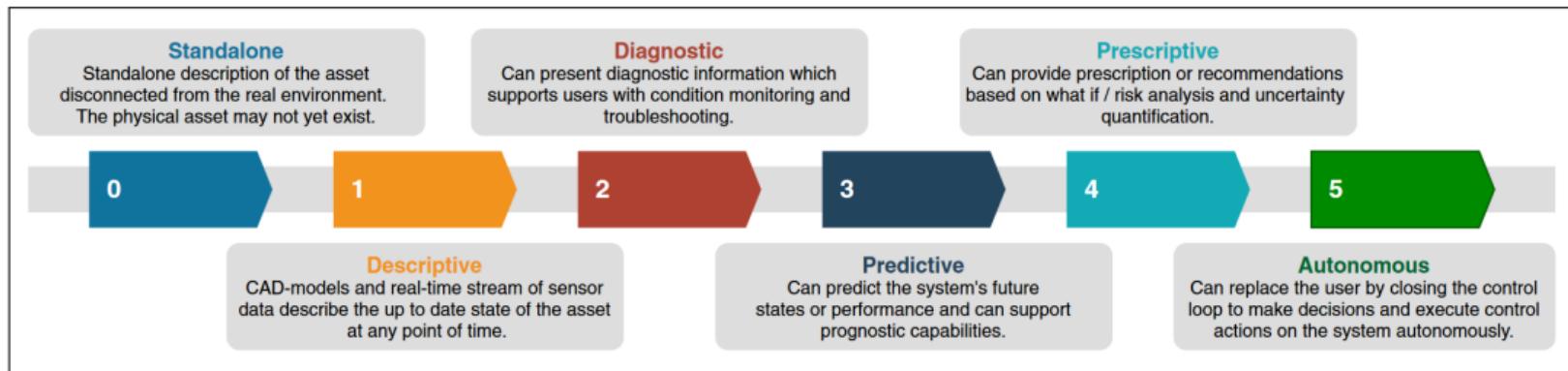
Q2 what are the optimal controls  $u$  that minimize cost?

# Digital twin system enablers



San, Rasheed, and Kvamsdal 2021

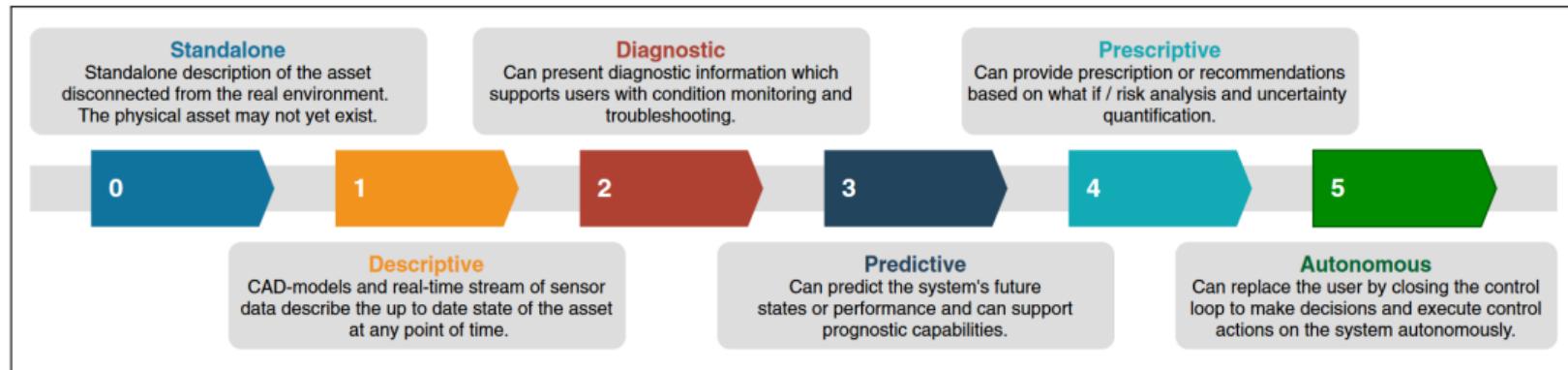
# Digital twin system enablers



San, Rasheed, and Kvamsdal 2021

1. Composable and modular in the design of system components
2. Able to integrate and adapt to external data streams (real-time/forecast)
3. Fully differentiable, i.e., able to provide sensitivities/gradients
4. Able to quantify uncertainty

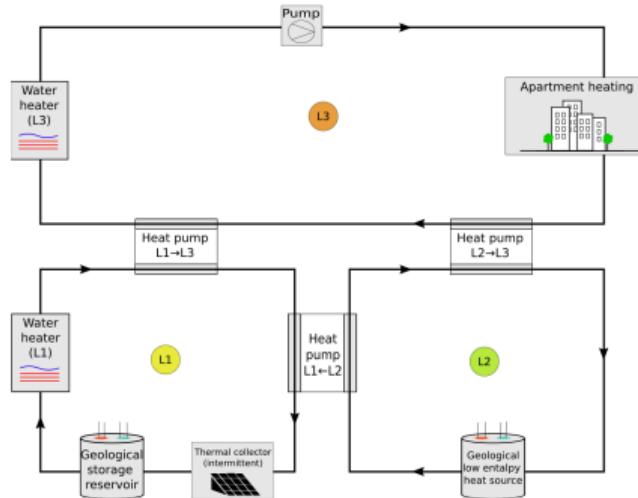
# Digital twin system enablers



San, Rasheed, and Kvamsdal 2021

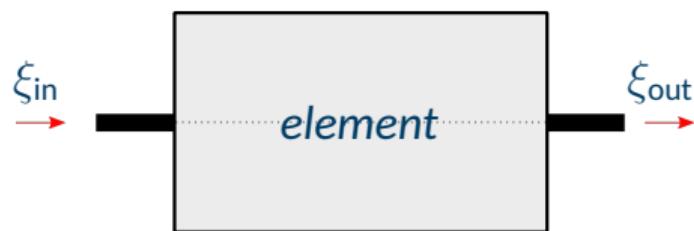
1. **Composable and modular in the design of system components**
2. Able to integrate and adapt to external data streams (real-time/forecast)
3. Fully differentiable, i.e., able to provide sensitivities/gradients
4. Able to quantify uncertainty

# Loop-based modeling approach

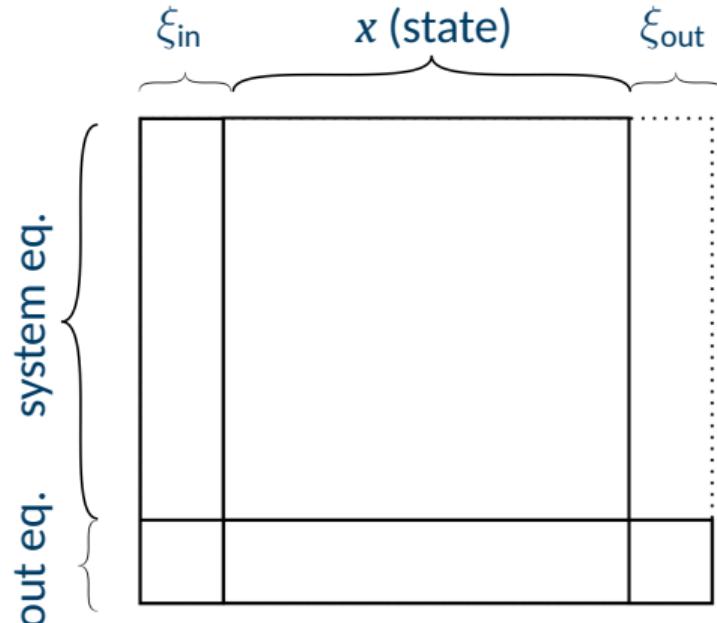


- System conceptualized as set of closed loops
- Heat moved between loops by heat pumps, exchangers or common components
- Each system component is a *differentiable* physical model with its own internal state
- Through loops, all system components are coupled together and simulated as a single, large model

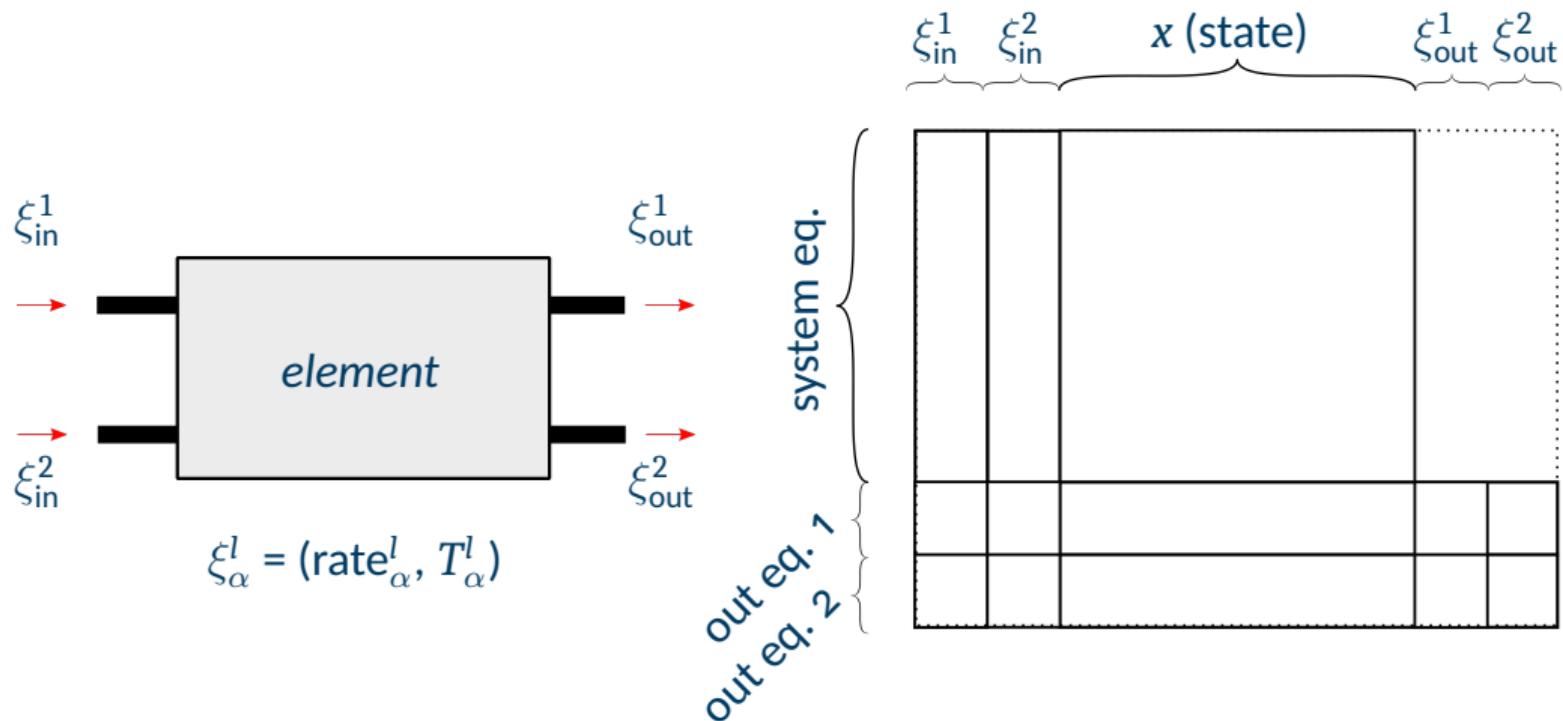
## Single-loop element



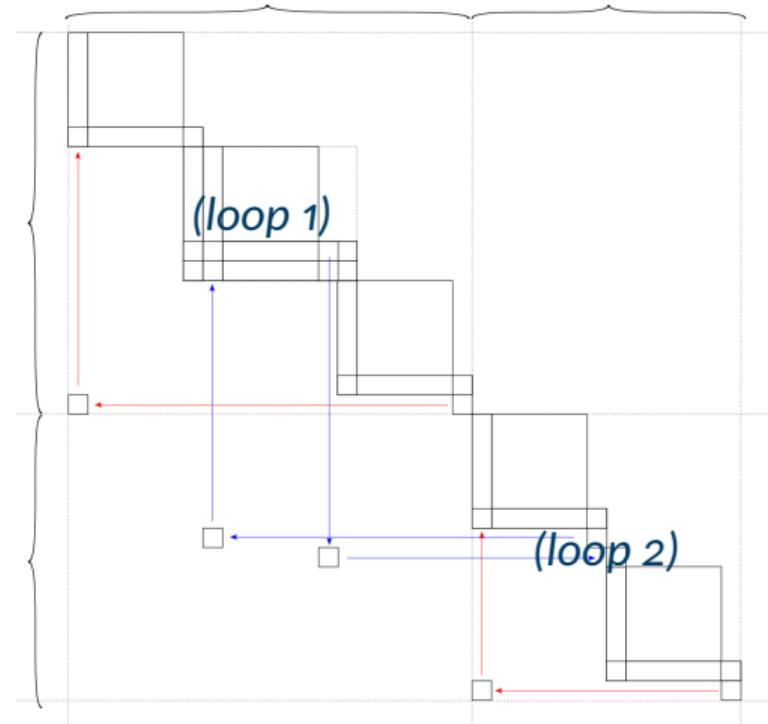
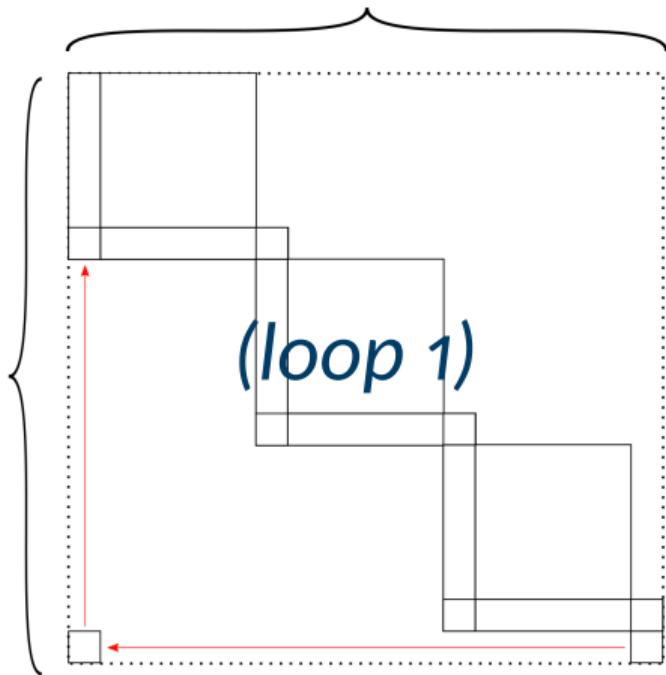
$$\xi_\alpha = (\text{rate}_\alpha, T_\alpha)$$



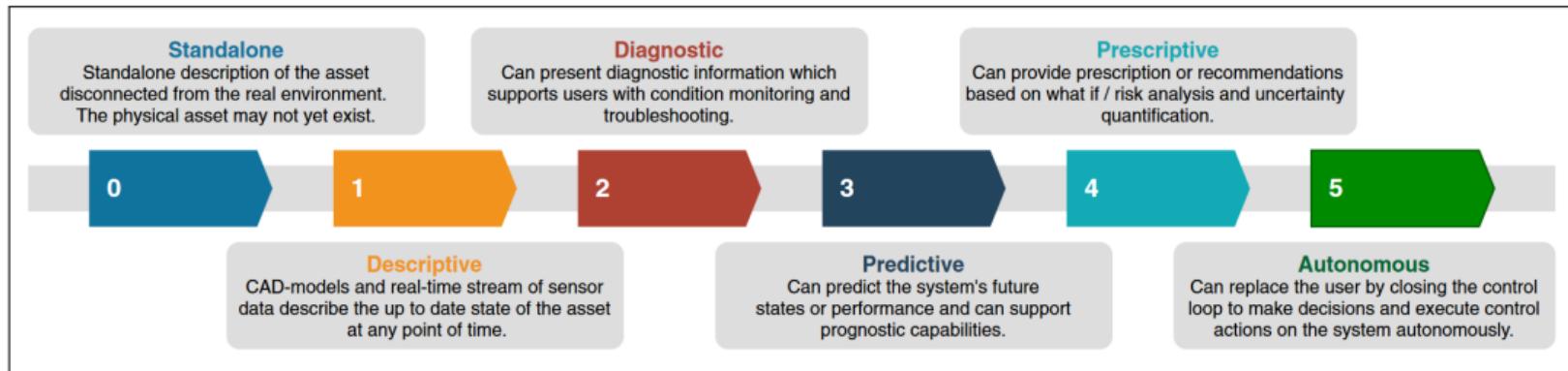
## Double/multi-loop element



## Assembling the loops



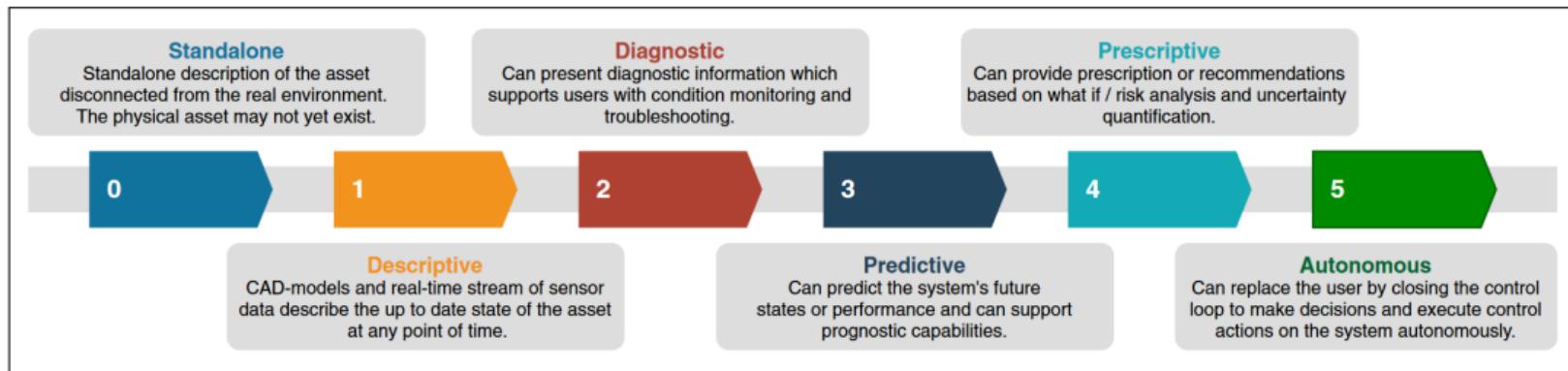
# Digital twin system requirements



San, Rasheed, and Kvamsdal 2021

1. Composable and modular in the design of system components
2. Able to integrate and adapt to external data streams (real-time/forecast)
3. Fully differentiable, i.e., able to provide sensitivities/gradients
4. Able to quantify uncertainty

# Digital twin system requirements



San, Rasheed, and Kvamsdal 2021

1. Composable and modular in the design of system components
2. Able to integrate and adapt to external data streams (real-time/forecast)
3. **Fully differentiable, i.e., able to provide sensitivities/gradients**
4. Able to quantify uncertainty

# Enabling technology: automatic differentiation

- Introduce extended pair,  $\langle v, v_x \rangle$ , to represent the value  $v$  and its derivative  $v_x$
- Combine chain rule and elementary derivative rules
  - mechanically accumulate derivatives *at specific values of x*

Elementary:  $v = \sin(x)$   $\rightarrow \langle v \rangle = \langle \sin x, \cos x \rangle$

Arithmetic:  $v = f * g$   $\rightarrow \langle v \rangle = \langle f * g, f * g_x + f_x * g \rangle$

Chain rule:  $v = \exp(f(x))$   $\rightarrow \langle v \rangle = \langle \exp(f(x)), \exp(f(x))f'(x) \rangle$

- Use operator overloading to avoid messing up code

```
[x,y] = initVariablesADI(1,2);
z = 3*exp(-x*y)
```

$x = \text{ADI Properties:}$   
val: 1  
jac: {[1] [0]}

$y = \text{ADI Properties:}$   
val: 2  
jac: {[0] [1]}

$z = \text{ADI Properties:}$   
val: 0.4060  
jac: {[[-0.8120] [-0.4060]}}

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial y}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \Big|_{x=1,y=2}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \Big|_{x=1,y=2}$$

## Adjoint-based optimization

Define a Lagrange function (cost function  $\mathcal{C}$  penalized by simulator residual)

$$J_{\lambda} = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{\top} \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Gradient: differentiate with respect to  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\frac{dJ_{\lambda}}{d\mathbf{u}} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{\top} \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{u}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^{\top} \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{u}} + \mathcal{S}^{\top} \frac{d\boldsymbol{\lambda}}{d\mathbf{u}}$$

## Adjoint-based optimization

Define a Lagrange function (cost function  $\mathcal{C}$  penalized by simulator residual)

$$J_\lambda = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Gradient: differentiate with respect to  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\frac{dJ_\lambda}{d\mathbf{u}} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{u}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{u}} + \mathcal{S}^\top \frac{d\boldsymbol{\lambda}}{d\mathbf{u}}$$

**Forward simulation:**  
 $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$   
 Solved with a standard simulator

# Adjoint-based optimization

Define a Lagrange function (cost function  $\mathcal{C}$  penalized by simulator residual)

$$J_\lambda = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Gradient: differentiate with respect to  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\frac{dJ_\lambda}{d\mathbf{u}} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{u}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{u}} + \mathcal{S}^\top \frac{d\boldsymbol{\lambda}}{d\mathbf{u}}$$

**Adjoint equations:**  
 $(\partial \mathcal{S} / \partial \mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda} = -(\partial \mathcal{C} / \partial \mathbf{x})^\top$   
 Solved backward for  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$   
 after solving forward for  $\mathbf{x}$

**Forward simulation:**  
 $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$   
 Solved with a  
 standard simulator

# Adjoint-based optimization

Define a Lagrange function (cost function  $\mathcal{C}$  penalized by simulator residual)

$$J_\lambda = \mathcal{C}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \boldsymbol{\theta}) + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta})$$

Gradient: differentiate with respect to  $\mathbf{u}$

$$\frac{dJ_\lambda}{d\mathbf{u}} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathcal{C}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right) \frac{d\mathbf{x}}{d\mathbf{u}} + \boldsymbol{\lambda}^\top \frac{\partial \mathcal{S}}{\partial \mathbf{u}} + \mathcal{S}^\top \frac{d\boldsymbol{\lambda}}{d\mathbf{u}}$$

**Adjoint equations:**  
 $(\partial \mathcal{S} / \partial \mathbf{x})^\top \boldsymbol{\lambda} = -(\partial \mathcal{C} / \partial \mathbf{x})^\top$   
 Solved backward for  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$   
 after solving forward for  $\mathbf{x}$

**Automatic differentiation:**  
 $\partial \mathcal{S} / \partial \mathbf{u}$  computed “behind the curtain”  
 by the code during the backward adjoint  
 solve (set  $\mathbf{u}$  as independent variable)

**Forward simulation:**  
 $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{x}(\mathbf{u}), \mathbf{u}, \boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$   
 Solved with a  
 standard simulator



SINTEF

# Presentation outline

Introduction

Digital twins for UTES

Numerical examples

Conclusions





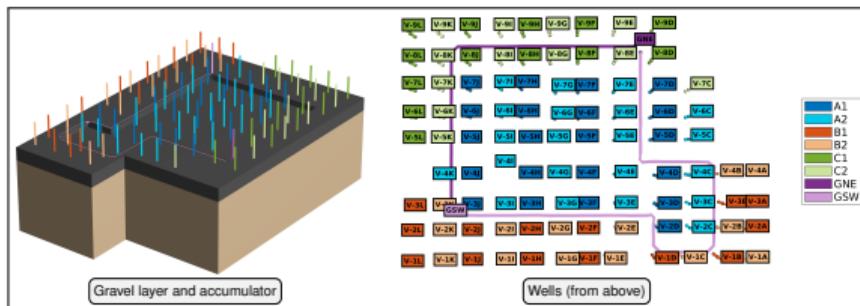
SINTEF

# Model tuning

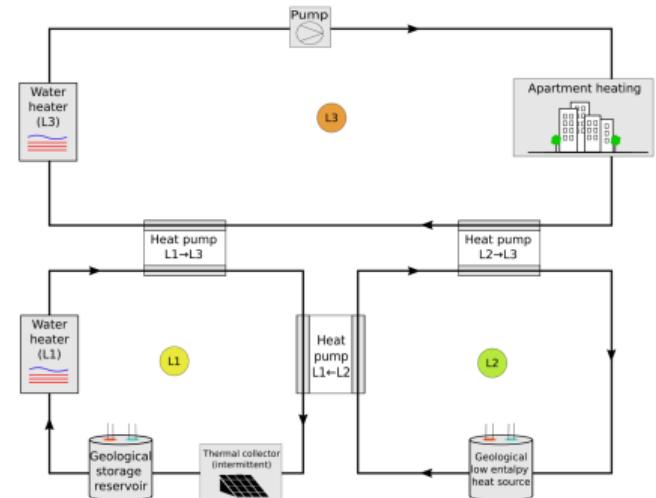


# Wesselkvarstalet

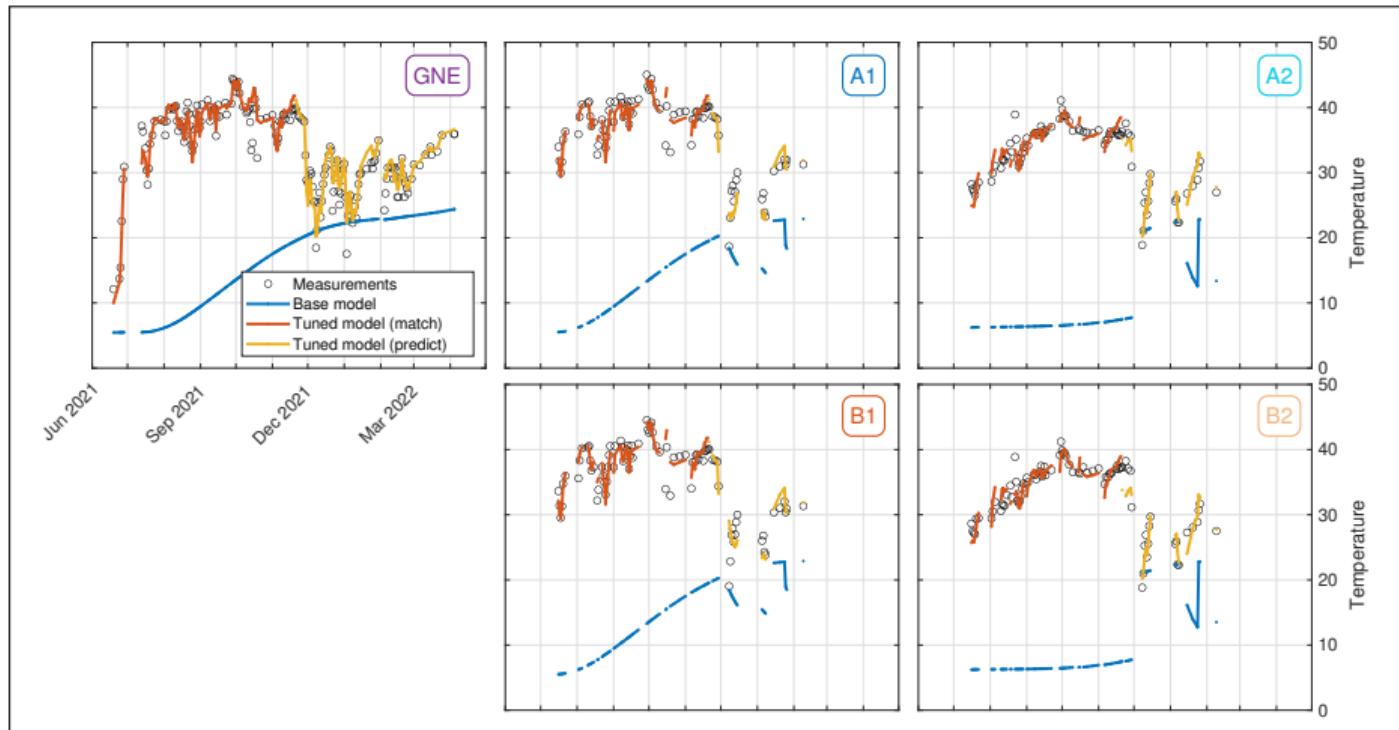
- Residential/commercial building in Asker (NO)
- Multi-reservoir, shallow geothermal storage
  - Three reservoirs at different depths
  - More than 100 wells, coupled in groups
  - Constant base load, rapid release at peak loads
  - Connected to deicing system for the city streets



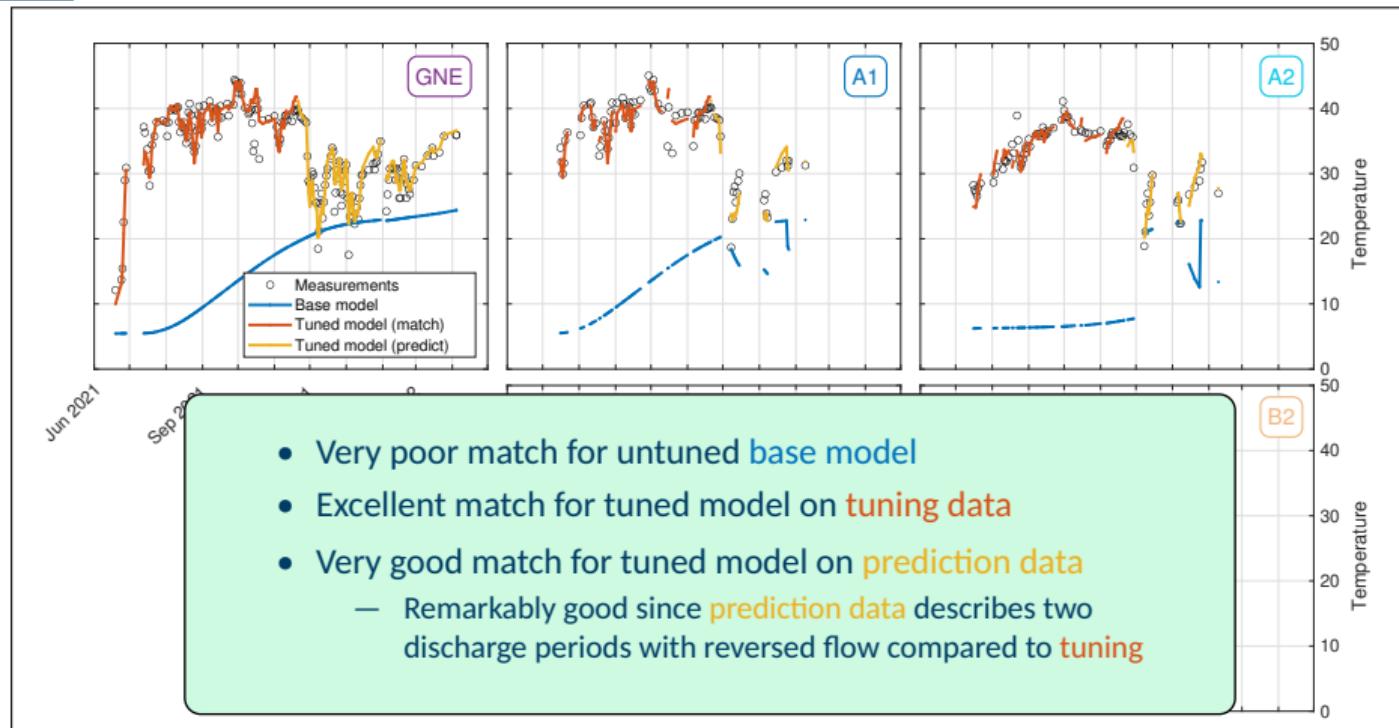
Here: tune shallow reservoir based on observed temperatures



# Wesselkvarstalet - model parameter tuning



# Wesselkvarstalet - model parameter tuning



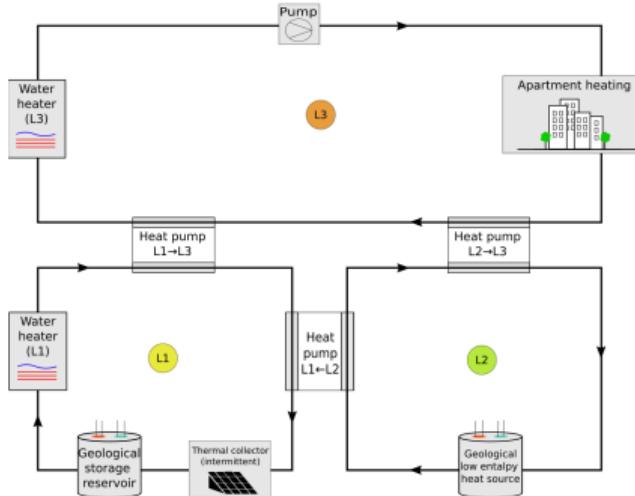


SINTEF

# Control optimization



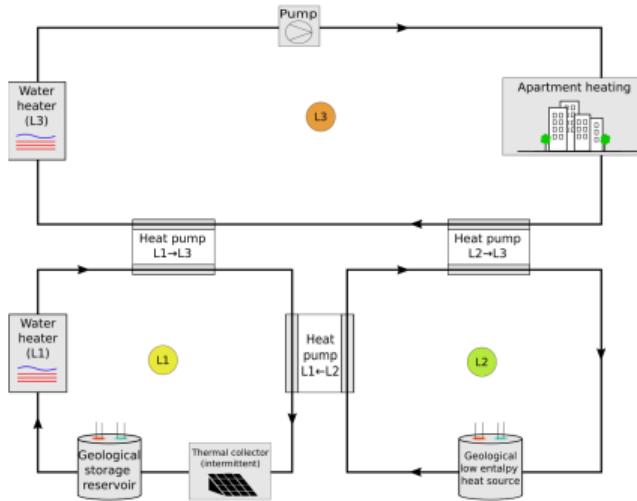
# Wesselkvarstalet - optimal control



## Scenario

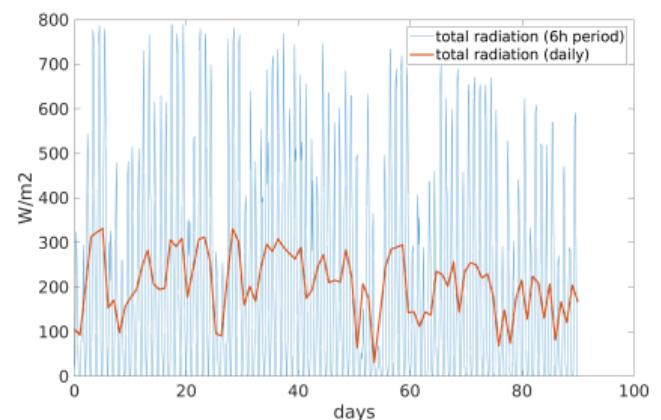
- Charge reservoir for 90 days
- Rest for 60 days
- Discharge for 65 days:
  - 60 d 6 l/s, 75°C, 5 d 8 l/s, 90°C
- Control variables:
  - rates for L1/L2, power of heater in L1
- Minimize total cost over whole cycle

# Wesselkvarstalet - optimal control

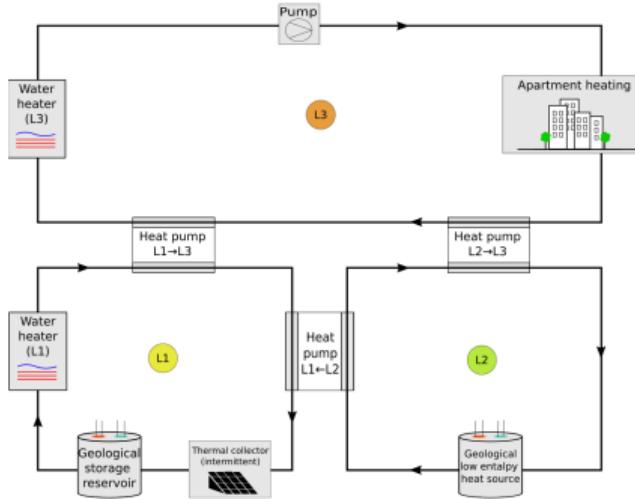


## External factors

- Varying solar radiation

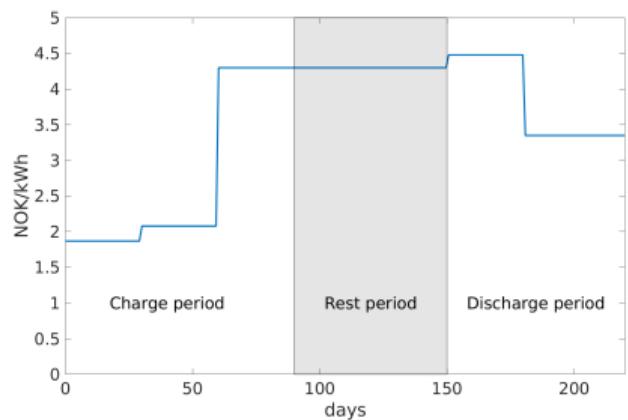


# Wesselkvarstalet - optimal control



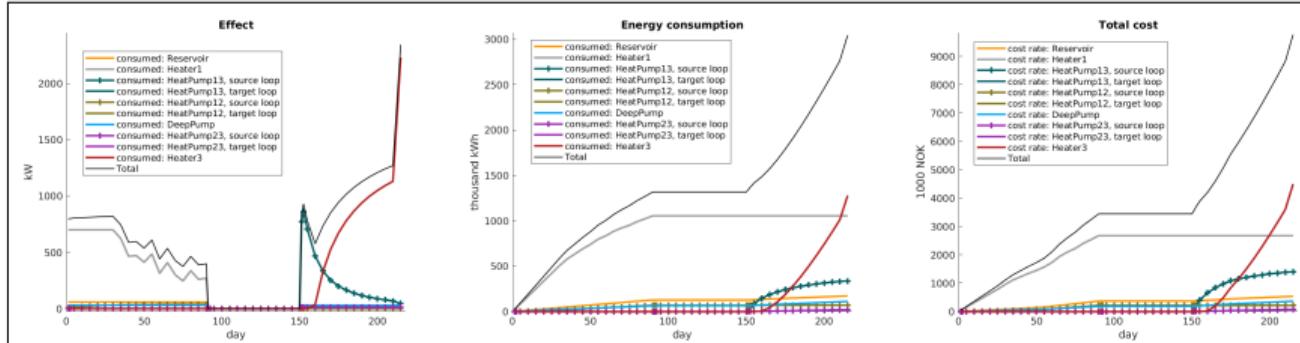
## External factors

- Varying solar radiation
- Varying energy prices

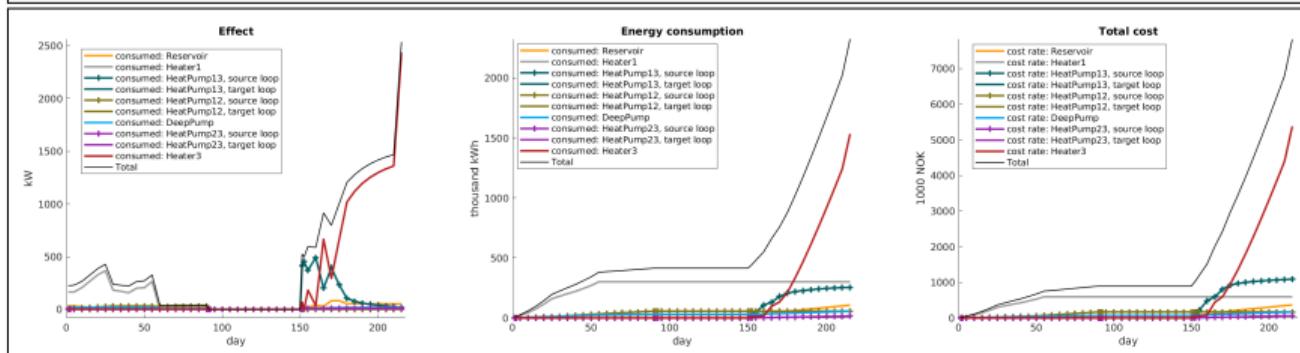


# Optimal control: energy consumption and cost

Base case

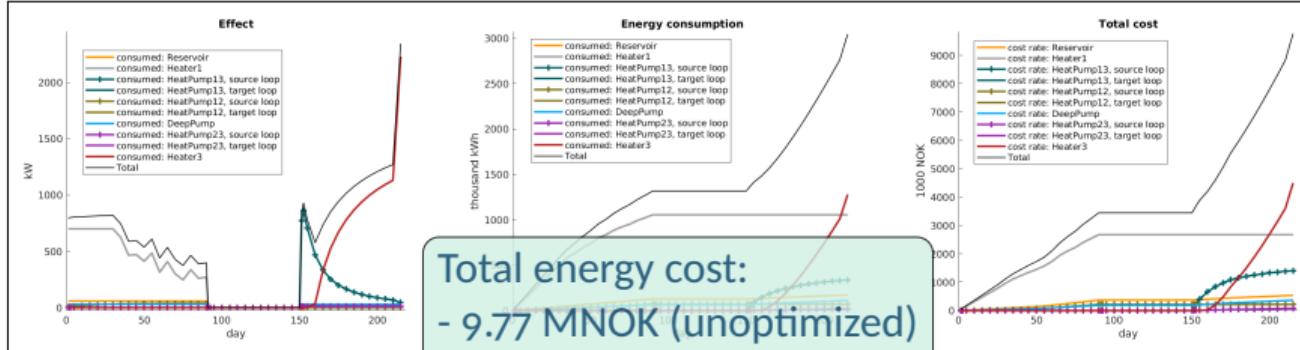


Optimized

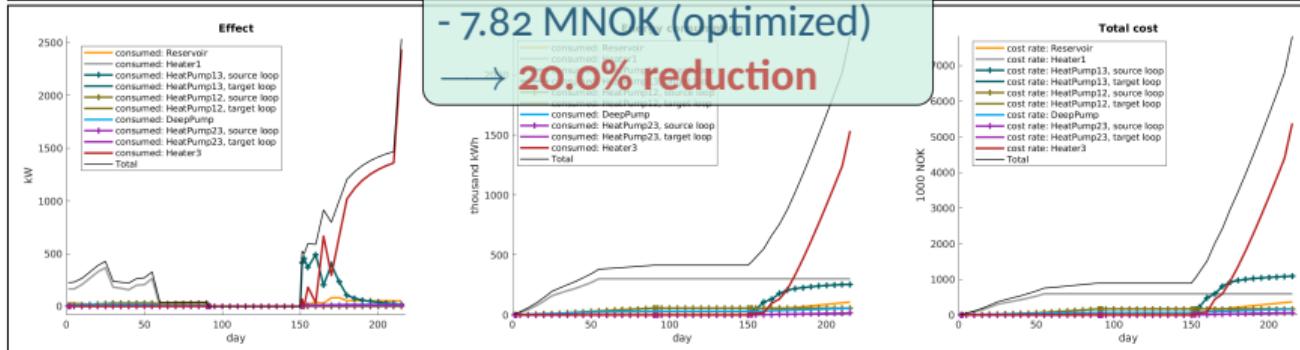


# Optimal control: energy consumption and cost

Base case



Optimized





SINTEF

# Presentation outline

Introduction  
Digital twins for UTES  
Numerical examples  
Conclusions



## Concluding remarks

### Towards digital twin system for underground thermal energy storage

- Composable and modular modelling framework
  - Coupling of complex simulation models into a single simulator
- Fully differentiable code
  - Compute sensitivities and perform adjoint-based optimization
- Two examples of important applications
  - Model parameter tuning – model output matches observations
  - Control optimization – minimize operational costs
- Next steps:
  - Integrate and adapt to external data streams (real-time/forecast)
  - Incorporate uncertainty – quantify, optimize under uncertainty

## Concluding remarks



All simulation code has been developed in the open-source MATLAB Reservoir Simulation Toolbox

- Source code, documentation, tutorials, etc.; [mrst.no](http://mrst.no)
- Book chapter on geothermal modelling with MRST (open-access):  
Collignon, M., Klemetsdal, Ø., Møyner, O. (2021). *Simulation of Geothermal Systems Using MRST*  
Cambridge University Press. doi: [10.1017/9781009019781.018](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009019781.018)
- Conference paper on modelling and optimization of geothermal energy systems:  
Klemetsdal, Ø., et al. (2022). *Modeling and Optimization of Shallow Geothermal Heat Storage*  
ECMOR 2022, Sep 2022. doi: [10.3997/2214-4609.202244109](https://doi.org/10.3997/2214-4609.202244109) – Journal version in press (Geoenergy, 2023)

## Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Ruden AS and Wessel Energi AS  
for allowing the presentation of this work

Technology for a  
better society

# Governing equations and discretization

Finite volumes in space, implicit backward Euler in time

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{R}_w^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{\Delta t^n} (\mathbf{M}_w^{n+1} - \mathbf{M}_w^n) + \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{V}_w^{n+1}) - \mathbf{Q}_w^{n+1} = \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{V}_w &= -\operatorname{upw}(\rho_w / \mu_w) \Theta [\operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{p}) - g \operatorname{favg}(\rho_w) \operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{z})]\end{aligned}$$

- $\Theta \operatorname{grad}$ : discrete representation of  $K \nabla$  (linear/nonlinear two-/multipoint, etc.)
  - In this work: linear two-point flux approximation (comparison: Klemetsdal et al. 2020)
  - $\Theta$ : vector of interface transmissibilities
- $\operatorname{div}$ : divergence,  $\operatorname{upw}$ : upwind (single-point here),  $\operatorname{favg}$ : face average

$\mathbf{M}$	Mass	$\mathbf{V}$	Flux	$\mathbf{Q}$	Sources/sinks	$g$	Gravity
$\rho$	Density	$\mu$	Viscosity	$\mathbf{u}$	Internal energy	$h$	Enthalpy
$p$	Pressure	$T$	Temperature	$K$	Permeability	$\Lambda$	Thermal cond.

# Governing equations and discretization

Finite volumes in space, implicit backward Euler in time

$$\mathbf{R}_w^{n+1} = \frac{1}{\Delta t^n} (\mathbf{M}_w^{n+1} - \mathbf{M}_w^n) + \operatorname{div}(\mathbf{V}_w^{n+1}) - \mathbf{Q}_w^{n+1} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{Conservation of mass}$$

$$\mathbf{V}_w = -\operatorname{upw}(\rho_w/\mu_w) \Theta [\operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{p}) - g \operatorname{favg}(\rho_w) \operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{z})] \quad \text{Darcy's law}$$

- $\Theta \operatorname{grad}$ : discrete representation of  $K \nabla$  (linear/nonlinear two-/multipoint, etc.)
  - In this work: linear two-point flux approximation (comparison: Klemetsdal et al. 2020)
  - $\Theta$ : vector of interface transmissibilities
- $\operatorname{div}$ : divergence,  $\operatorname{upw}$ : upwind (single-point here),  $\operatorname{favg}$ : face average

$\mathbf{M}$	Mass	$\mathbf{V}$	Flux	$\mathbf{Q}$	Sources/sinks	$g$	Gravity
$\rho$	Density	$\mu$	Viscosity	$\mathbf{u}$	Internal energy	$h$	Enthalpy
$p$	Pressure	$T$	Temperature	$K$	Permeability	$\Lambda$	Thermal cond.

# Governing equations and discretization

Finite volumes in space, implicit backward Euler in time

$$\mathbf{R}_w^{n+1} = \frac{1}{\Delta t^n} (\mathbf{M}_w^{n+1} - \mathbf{M}_w^n) + \text{div}(\mathbf{V}_w^{n+1}) - \mathbf{Q}_w^{n+1} = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{Conservation of mass}$$

$$\mathbf{V}_w = -\text{upw}(\rho_w/\mu_w) \Theta [\text{grad}(\mathbf{p}) - g \mathbf{favg}(\rho_w) \text{grad}(\mathbf{z})] \quad \text{Darcy's law}$$

- $\Theta \text{grad}$ : discrete representation of  $K \nabla$  (linear/nonlinear two-/multipoint, etc.)
  - In this work: linear two-point flux approximation (comparison: Klemetsdal et al. 2020)
  - $\Theta$ : vector of interface transmissibilities
- $\text{div}$ : divergence,  $\text{upw}$ : upwind (single-point here),  $\mathbf{favg}$ : face average

$\mathbf{M}$	Mass	$\mathbf{V}$	Flux	$\mathbf{Q}$	Sources/sinks	$g$	Gravity
$\rho$	Density	$\mu$	Viscosity	$\mathbf{u}$	Internal energy	$h$	Enthalpy
$p$	Pressure	$T$	Temperature	$K$	Permeability	$\Lambda$	Thermal cond.

# Governing equations and discretization

Finite volumes in space, implicit backward Euler in time

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{R}_h^{n+1} &= \frac{1}{\Delta t^n} \left( [\mathbf{M}_w \mathbf{u}_w + \mathbf{M}_r \mathbf{u}_r]^{n+1} - [\mathbf{M}_w \mathbf{u}_w + \mathbf{M}_r \mathbf{u}_r]^n \right) \\
 &\quad + \operatorname{div} ([\mathbf{V}_w \mathbf{h}_w + \mathbf{H}_c]^{n+1}) - [\mathbf{Q}_w \mathbf{h}_w]^{n+1} - \mathbf{Q}_h^{n+1} = \mathbf{0} \\
 \mathbf{H}_c &= -(\Theta_{hw} + \Theta_{hr}) \operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{T})
 \end{aligned}$$

- Conductive heat flux  $\mathbf{H}_c$  discretized by two-point method (same as mass flux)
  - $(\Theta_{hw} + \Theta_{hr}) \operatorname{grad}$ : discrete representation of  $(\Lambda_w + \Lambda_r) \nabla$
  - $\Theta_{hw}, \Theta_{hr}$ : vectors of interface heat transmissibilities

$\mathbf{M}$	Mass	$\mathbf{V}$	Flux	$\mathbf{Q}$	Sources/sinks	$g$	Gravity
$\rho$	Density	$\mu$	Viscosity	$\mathbf{u}$	Internal energy	$\mathbf{h}$	Enthalpy
$p$	Pressure	$T$	Temperature	$\mathbf{K}$	Permeability	$\Lambda$	Thermal cond.

# Governing equations and discretization

Finite volumes in space, implicit backward Euler in time

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{R}_h^{n+1} = & \frac{1}{\Delta t^n} \left( [\mathbf{M}_w \mathbf{u}_w + \mathbf{M}_r \mathbf{u}_r]^{n+1} - [\mathbf{M}_w \mathbf{u}_w + \mathbf{M}_r \mathbf{u}_r]^n \right) \\
 & + \operatorname{div} ([\mathbf{V}_w \mathbf{h}_w + \mathbf{H}_c]^{n+1}) - [\mathbf{Q}_w \mathbf{h}_w]^{n+1} - \mathbf{Q}_h^{n+1} = \mathbf{0}
 \end{aligned}$$

Conservation of energy

$$\mathbf{H}_c = -(\Theta_{hw} + \Theta_{hr}) \operatorname{grad}(\mathbf{T})$$

Fourier's law

- Conductive heat flux  $\mathbf{H}_c$  discretized by two-point method (same as mass flux)
  - $(\Theta_{hw} + \Theta_{hr}) \operatorname{grad}$ : discrete representation of  $(\Lambda_w + \Lambda_r) \nabla$
  - $\Theta_{hw}, \Theta_{hr}$ : vectors of interface heat transmissibilities

$\mathbf{M}$	Mass	$\mathbf{V}$	Flux	$\mathbf{Q}$	Sources/sinks	$g$	Gravity
$\rho$	Density	$\mu$	Viscosity	$\mathbf{u}$	Internal energy	$\mathbf{h}$	Enthalpy
$p$	Pressure	$T$	Temperature	$\mathbf{K}$	Permeability	$\Lambda$	Thermal cond.