



**What Investments Should Be  
Made Now?  
*Long Run Transmission  
Planning Under Uncertainty***

**CERTS**  
CONSORTIUM FOR ELECTRIC RELIABILITY TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
UNIVERSITY

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- Francisco Munoz, Jean-Paul Watson (Sandia)
- Saamrat Kasina, Jonathan Ho, Pearl Donohoo (JHU)
- Adriaan van der Weijde (U. Amsterdam)
- Richard Schuler (Cornell)



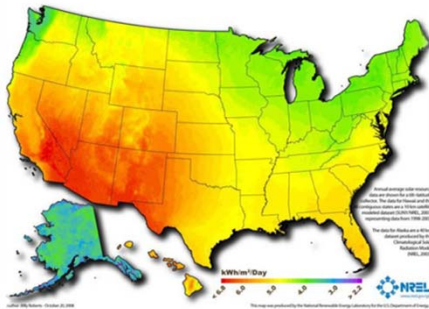


# Outline

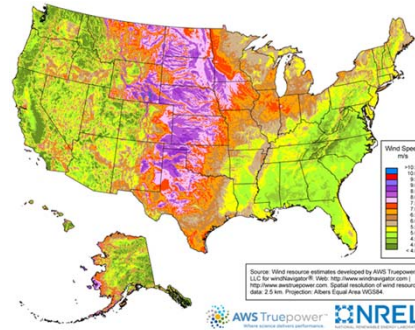
1. Introduction
  2. Model Overview, Realistic Test-Case: WECC 240
  3. Results
  4. Dealing with Large Problems
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- 
- A photograph of a snow-covered transmission tower and power lines in a winter landscape. The tower is a lattice structure, heavily laden with snow. Power lines stretch across the frame from the tower towards the right. The background shows a snowy mountain range under a clear blue sky. The trees are also covered in snow, creating a serene winter scene.

# 1.1 Introduction

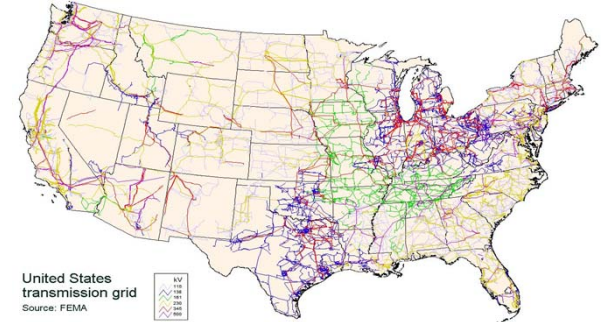
Solar Resources (NREL)



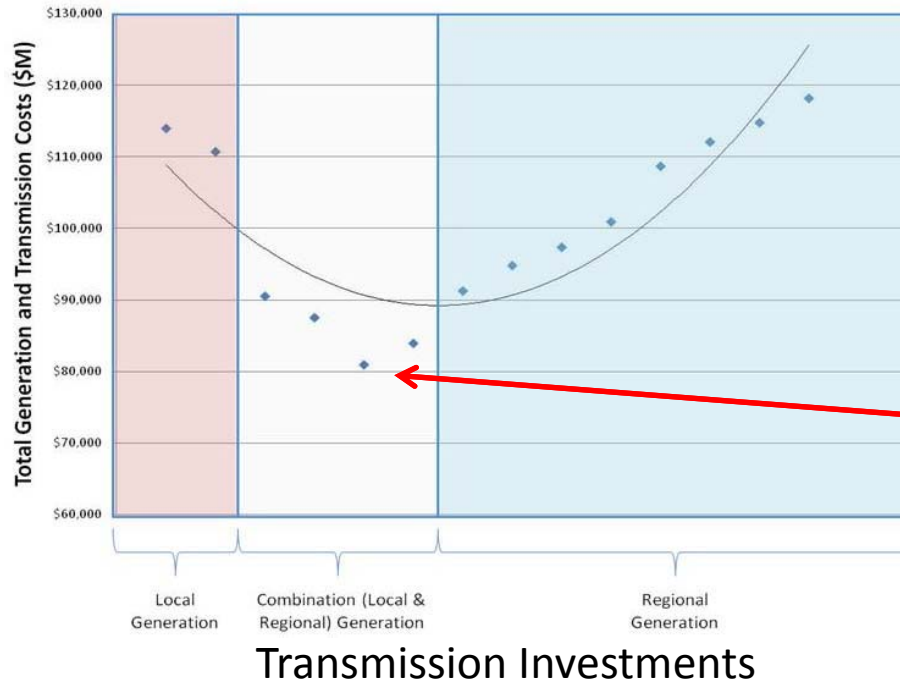
Wind Resources (NREL)



U.S. Transmission System

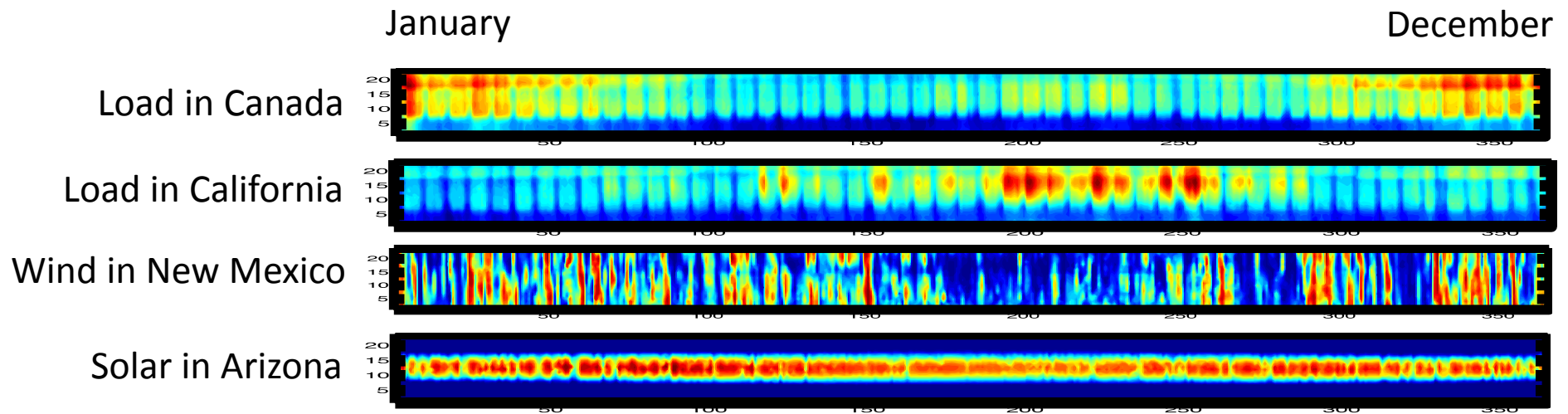


Generation & Transmission Cost (MISO 2010)



**Optimal:**  
Combination of Local & Regional Generation

## 1.2 The Challenge of Variability



→ ***Need to capture true economic value of renewables!***

- System-wide analysis of transmission & generation investments
- Improve time resolution of operations subproblems

## 1.3 More Challenges

- **Hyper uncertainty in long run:**

- Fuel Costs
- Demand Growth
- Technology Costs
- Carbon Tax
- Demand Response
- PEV
- RPS
- Distributed Generation

→ ***Need multi-scenario transmission planning***

- **Unbundled transmission & generation markets**

- Transmission takes longer to build
- Price signals guide gen investment

→ ***Need anticipative transmission planning***

→ **We need practical methods that can handle:**

- Variable renewables
- Long-run uncertainties
- Response of generator siting & operations
- Large networks & Kirchhoff's Laws



## 1.4 The New Paradigm

*“(C)apturing long-term benefits of transmission investments requires processes more akin to **integrated resource planning** in order to evaluate ‘long-term resource cost’ benefits (such as)... the ability to build new generation in lower-cost locations ... (in order to) find lower-cost **combinations of transmission & generation** investments to satisfy policy requirements”*

(Pfeifenberger & Hou, 2012)

### “Anticipative” planning in practice:

- FERC Order 1000 – Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation (FERC, 2013)
- California ISO (Awad et al. 2010)
- Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council (2013) “Co-optimization” White Paper

## 1.5 Transmission Planning in Practice

### Commercial tools used by ISOs and RTOs:

- SIEMENS PSS-E
  - ABB GridView
  - Ventyx PROMOD IV
  - PSR NETPLAN
- } Dispatch optimization, not investment (O'Neill et al. 2012)
- } Optimizes network  
Load/VER variability, but no long run uncertainties

### Treatment of uncertainty and hedging strategies:

- MISO Multi-Value Projects (MISO 2010)
- CAISO Least-Regrets Approach

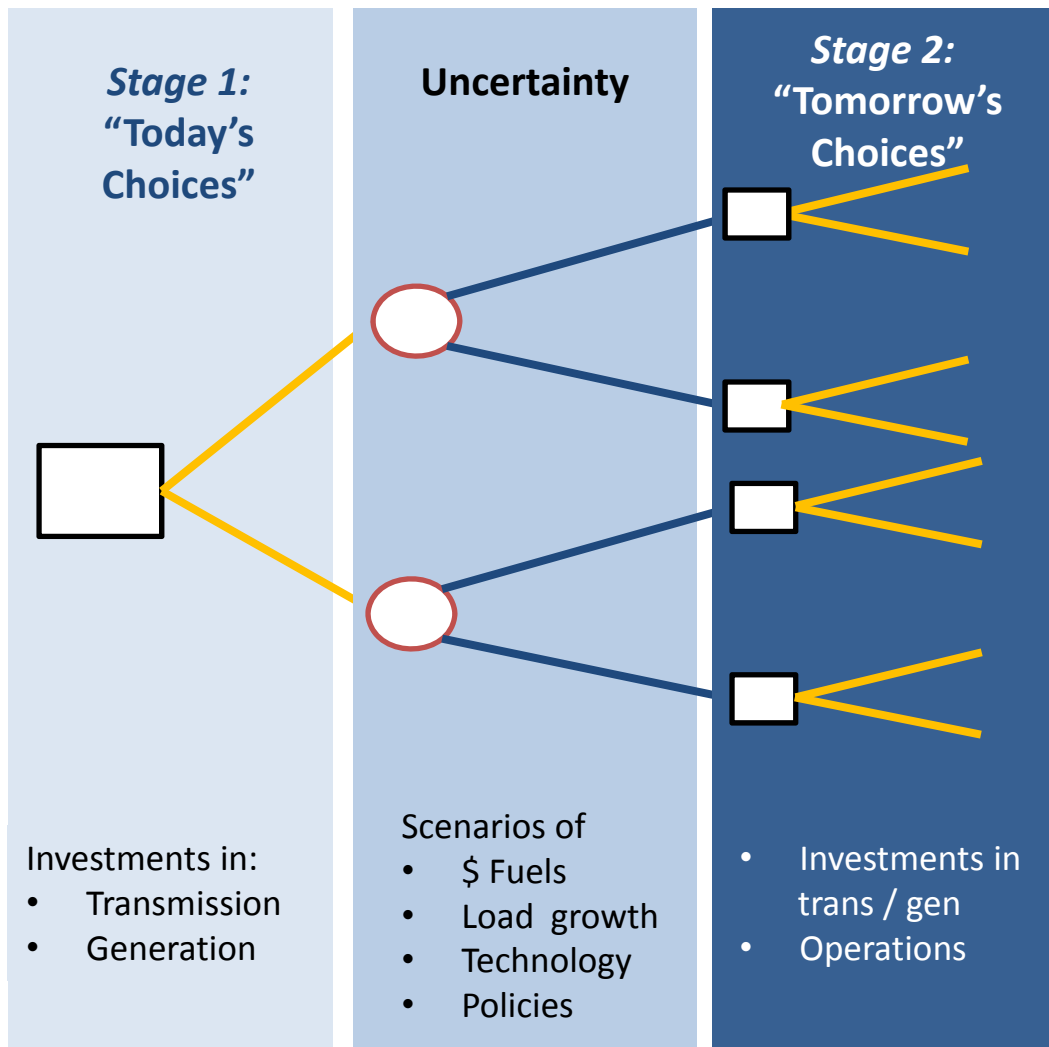
*“The ‘least regrets’ approach (evaluates)... a range of plausible scenarios made up of different generation portfolios, and identif(ies) the transmission reinforcements **found to be necessary in a reasonable number of those scenarios**” (CAISO 2012)*



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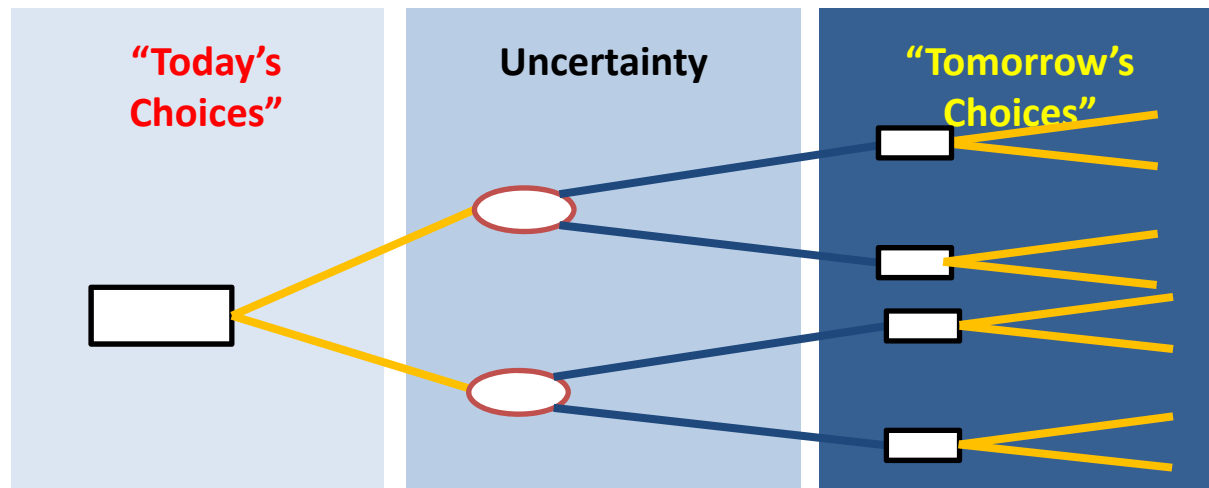
## 2.1 Multi-Stage Stochastic Transmission Planning



### Assumptions:

- **Aligned generation and transmission objectives**
  - Nodal pricing + Perfect Competition
- **Generation**
  - No unit commitment constraints/costs
- **Demand**
  - No demand response
- **Renewable targets met in most efficient way**

## 2.2 Multi-Stage Stochastic Transmission Planning II



$$\begin{aligned} \text{MIN} \quad & C_1 X_1 + \sum_{\text{scenarios } S} P_S * C_2 X_{2,S} \\ & A_{1,1} X_1 \leq B_1 \\ & \{ A_{2,1,S} X_1 + A_{2,2,S} X_{2,S} \leq B_{2,S} \}, \forall S \end{aligned}$$

- **Constraints include:**

- Kirchhoff's Laws
- Generator and transmission capacity / operating restrictions
- Siting restrictions
- Emissions caps, renewable portfolio standards

## 2.3 WECC 240-bus Test Case: 2023 + 2033 Investments

### WECC 240-bus system:

(Price & Goodin, 2011)

- 140 Generators (200 GW)
- 448 Transmission elements
- 21 Demand regions
- 28 Flowgates

### Renewables data (Time series, GIS)

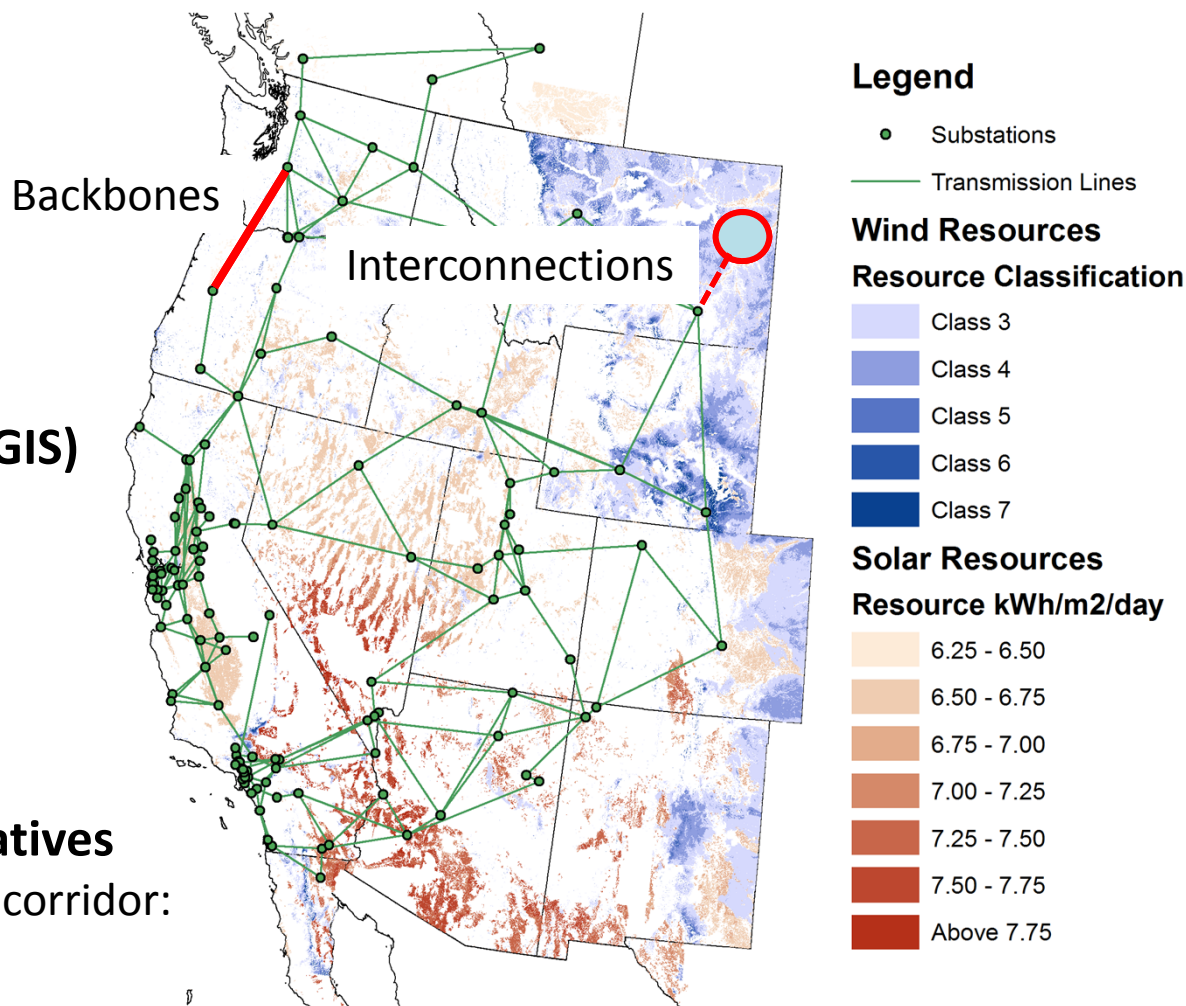
(NREL, WREZ, RETI)

- 54 Wind profiles
- 29 Solar profiles
- 31 Renewable Hubs (WREZ)

### Candidate Transmission Alternatives

Maximum number of circuits per corridor:

- 2 for Backbones
- 4 for Interconnections to Renewable Hubs





## 2.4 Stage 2 (2023) Scenarios

### Focus: Environmental policy & fuel prices

#### U.S. Carbon Cap & Trade

- 2020 CO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 85% 2005 levels
- 2030 CO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 55% 2005 levels
- Low fuel prices

#### Differentiated State RPS

- Each state requires ≥75% from in-state resources
- Average fossil fuel prices

#### 33% WECC-wide RPS

- Efficient REC trading
- High fuel prices

### Experiments

- **Single Scenario Planning** (Deterministic)
  - **Stochastic Approach**
  - **Heuristics for Stage 1 (2023) Transmission Builds:**
    1. Heuristic I : Build lines needed in each & every scenario
    2. Heuristic II : Build lines needed in “most” scenarios (at least 2)
    3. Heuristic III: Build all lines
- } “Least-regrets” or “Multi-Value Projects”
- } “Congestion-free”

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# 3.1 Results

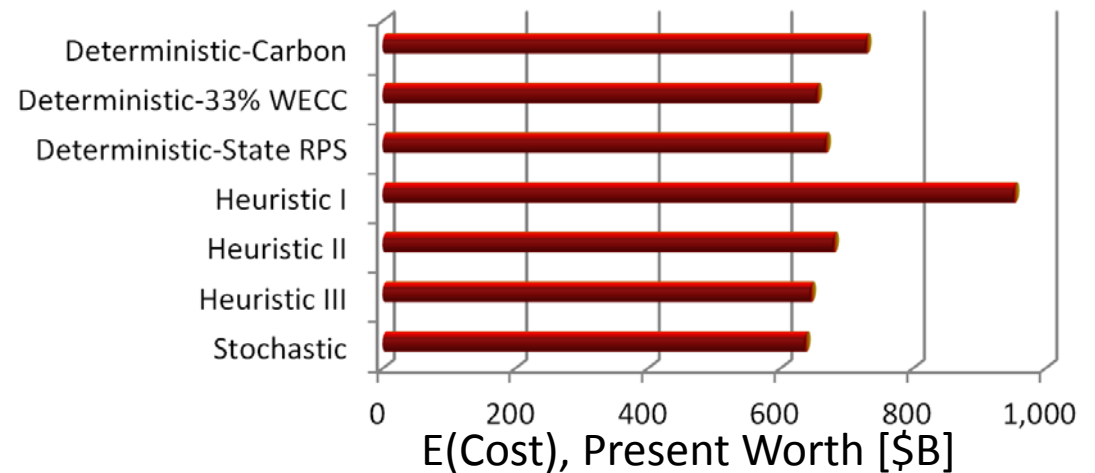
## 1<sup>st</sup> Stage (2023) Transmission Investments: Backbones

Approach	B19	B37	B56	B68	B72	B73	B74	B92	B95	B125	B133	B136	B137	B143	B151	B157	B168	B169	B201	B202	B218	B222	B237	B238
D-Carbon				1					1	1	1		1	2								2	1	2
D-33% WECC		1			1	1	2		1								1	1	1		1	1	2	
D-State RPS	2	1	1					2		2		1								1		1		2
Heuristic I																						1		
Heuristic II		1							1	1												1	1	2
Heuristic III	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2			1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Stochastic		1		1			2		1	2			1		1	1	1					1	1	2

- Flexible plans are not best in any single scenario!
- Heuristics can do worst of all!

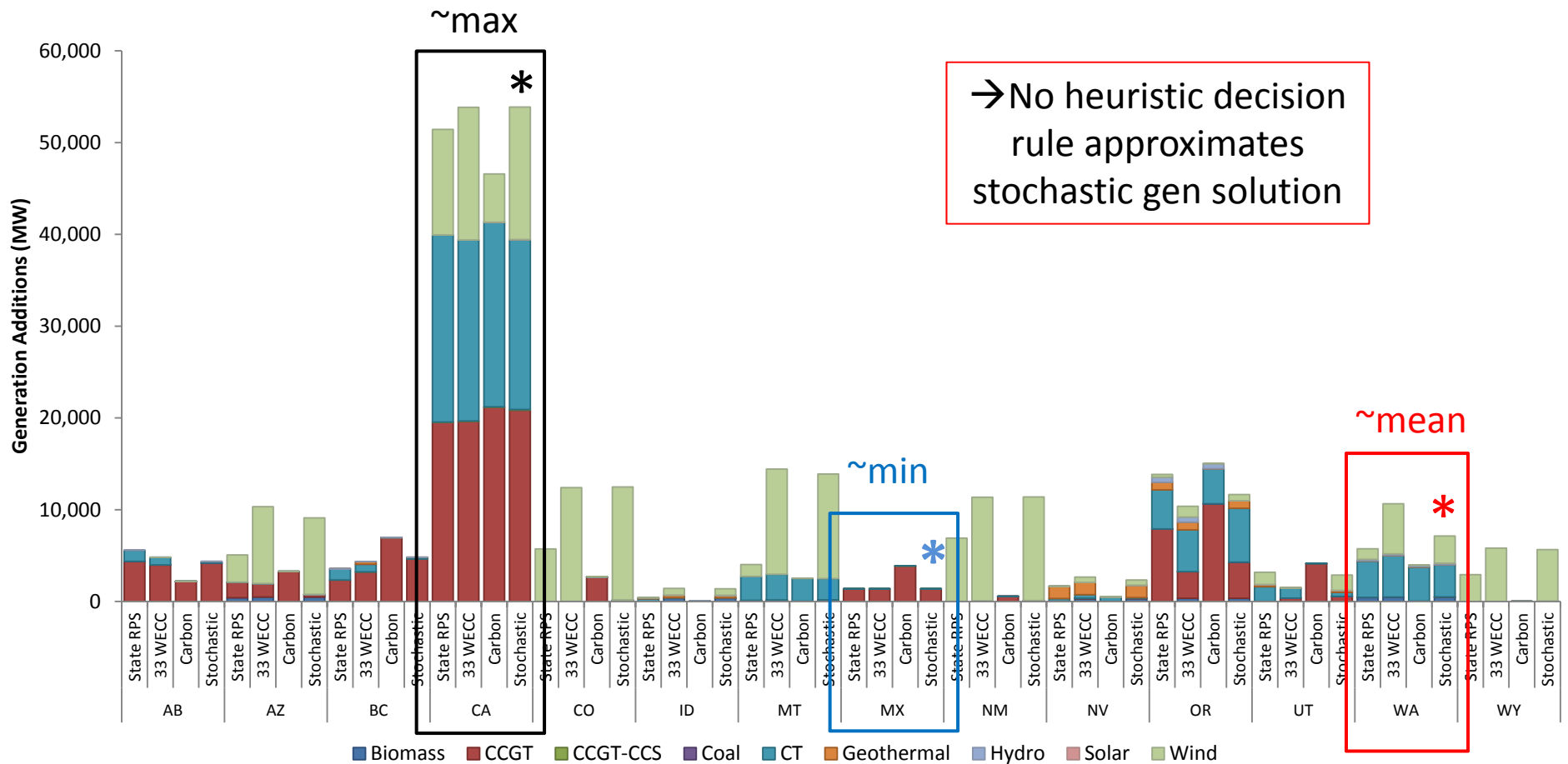
## 2023 Interconnections to Renewable Hubs

Approach	I2	I5	I6	I8	I9	I10	I11	I14	I20	I23	I24	I25	I26
D-Carbon													1
D-33% WECC	1	4	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	
D-State RPS		2		2	1				1		1	1	1
Heuristic I													1
Heuristic II		2		2	1				1		1	1	
Heuristic III	1	4	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stochastic	1	4	1	3	1	1	2	1	1		1	1	1



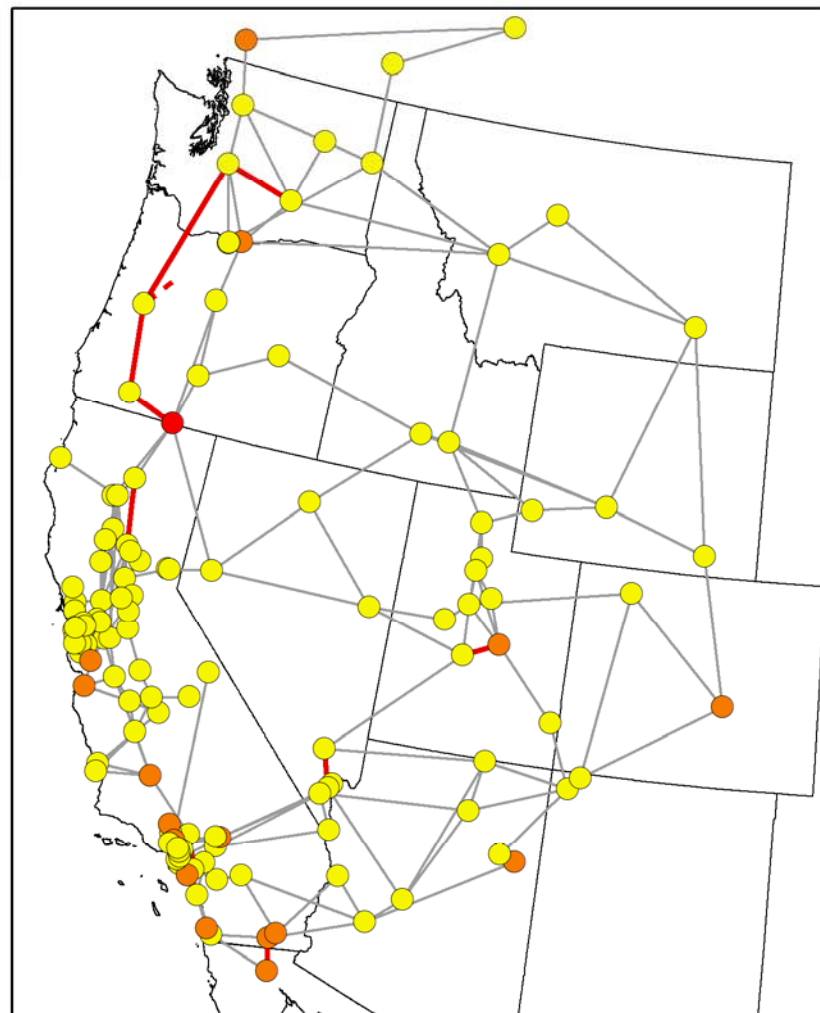
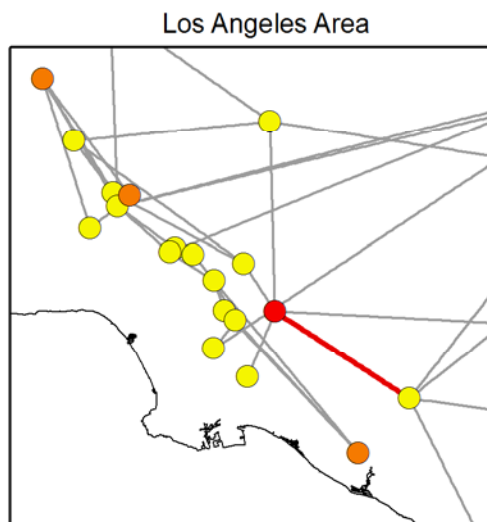
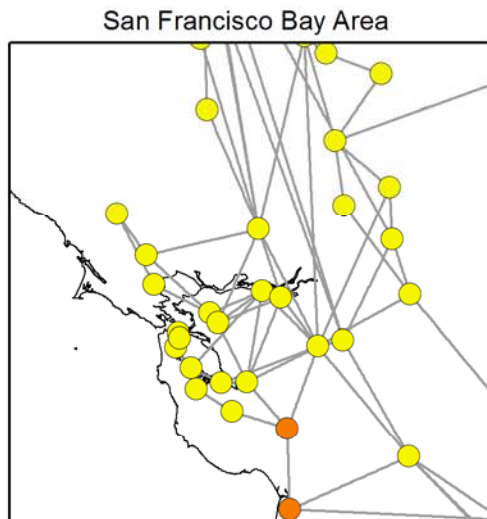
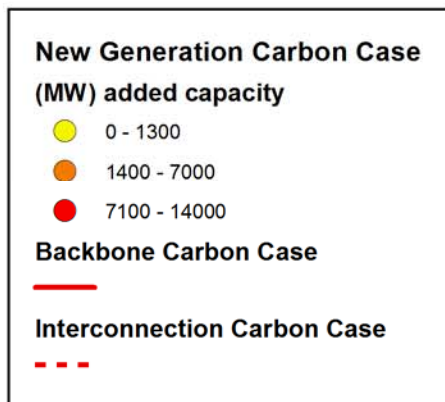
# 3.2 Results

## First Stage (2023) Generation Investments: Deterministic vs Stochastic (\*) Solutions



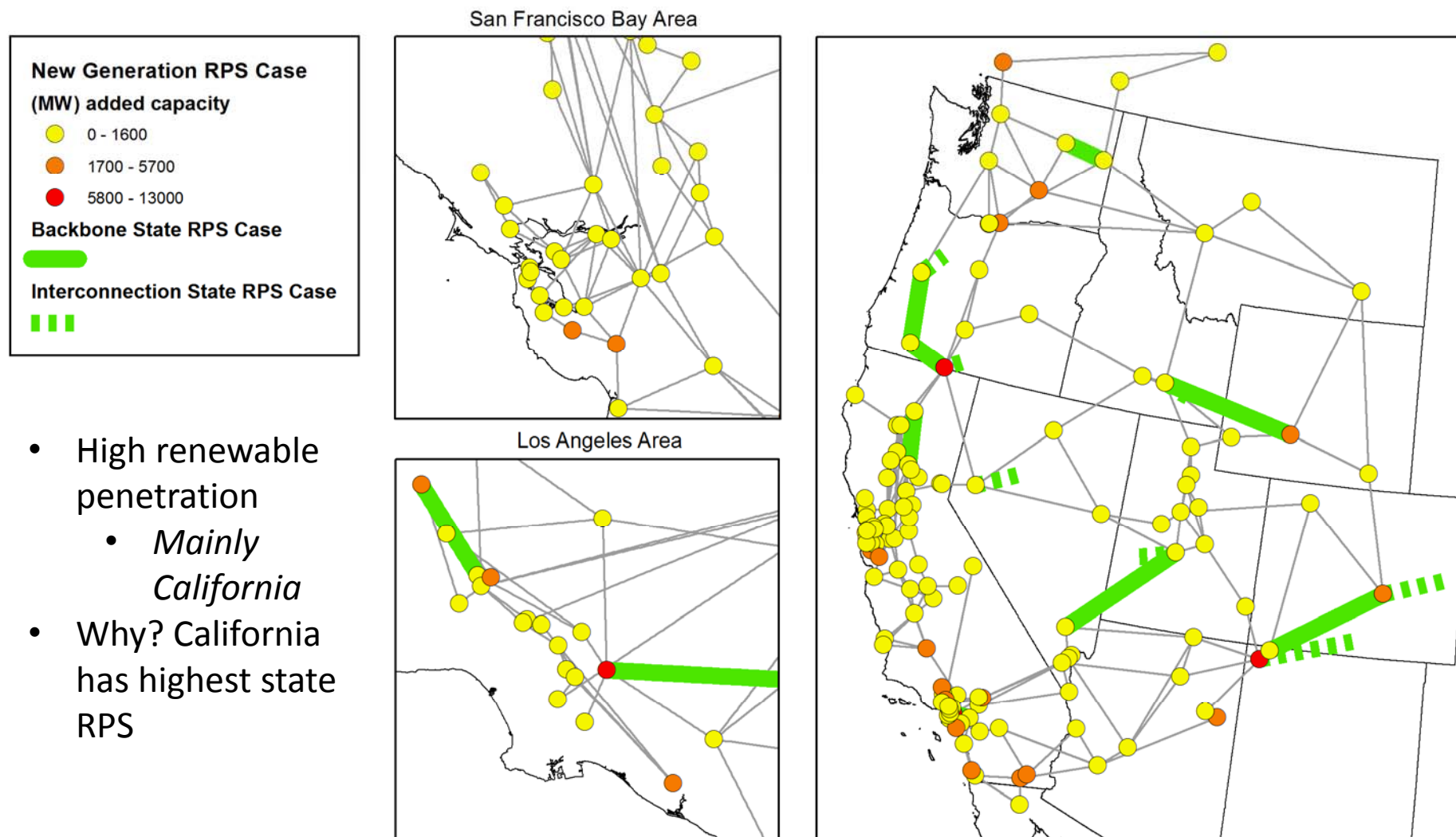


# 3.3 Deterministic 2023 Results: Plan 1: U.S. WECC Carbon Cap

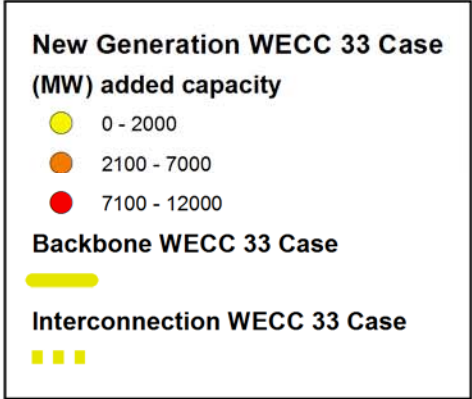


- Gen added near demand
- Low renewables

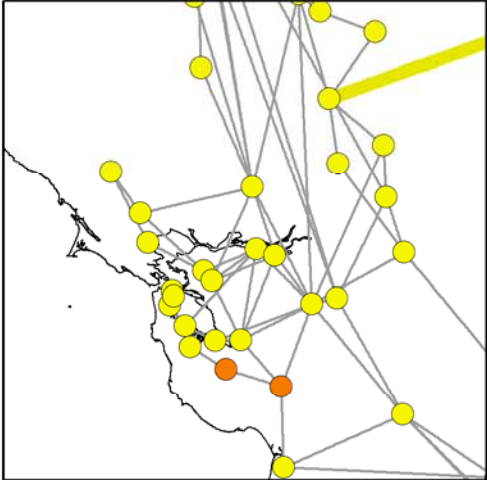
## 3.4 Plan 2: State RPS Case



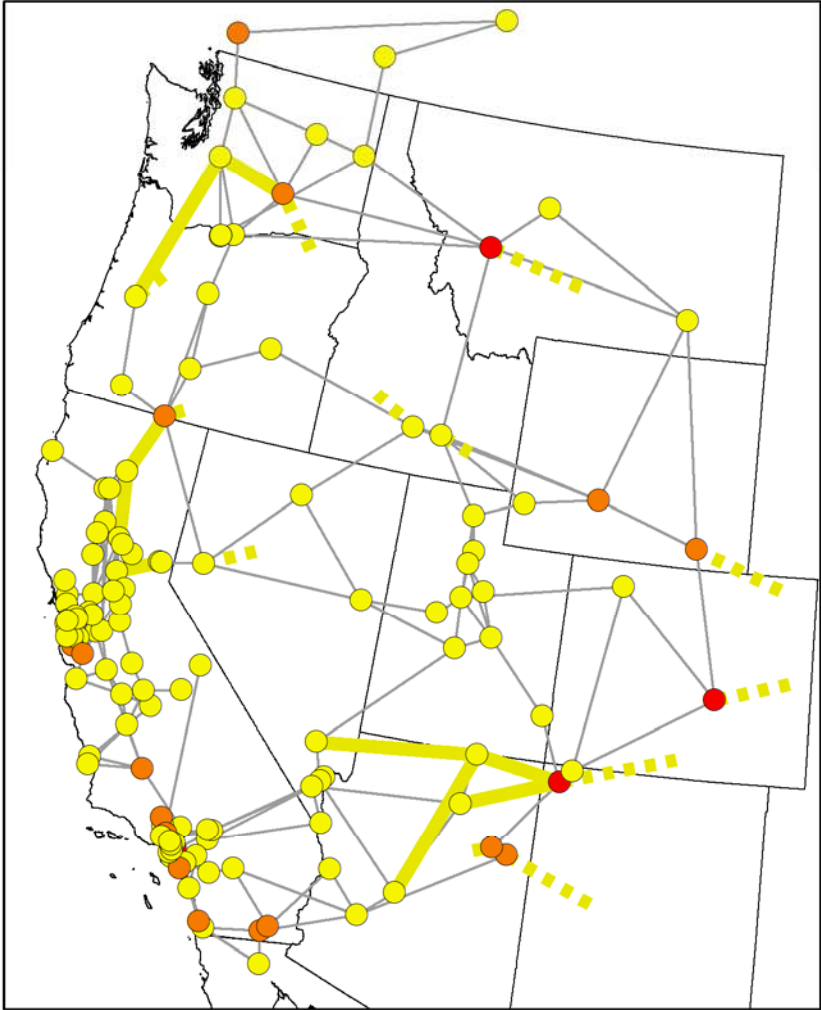
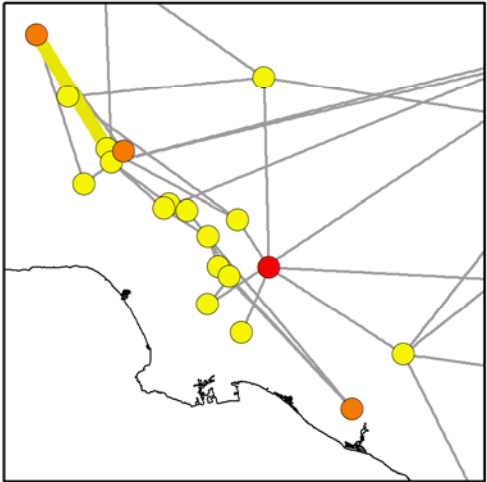
# 3.5 Plan 3: WECC 33% Case



San Francisco Bay Area

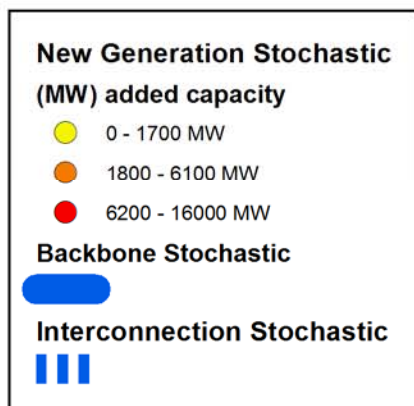


Los Angeles Area

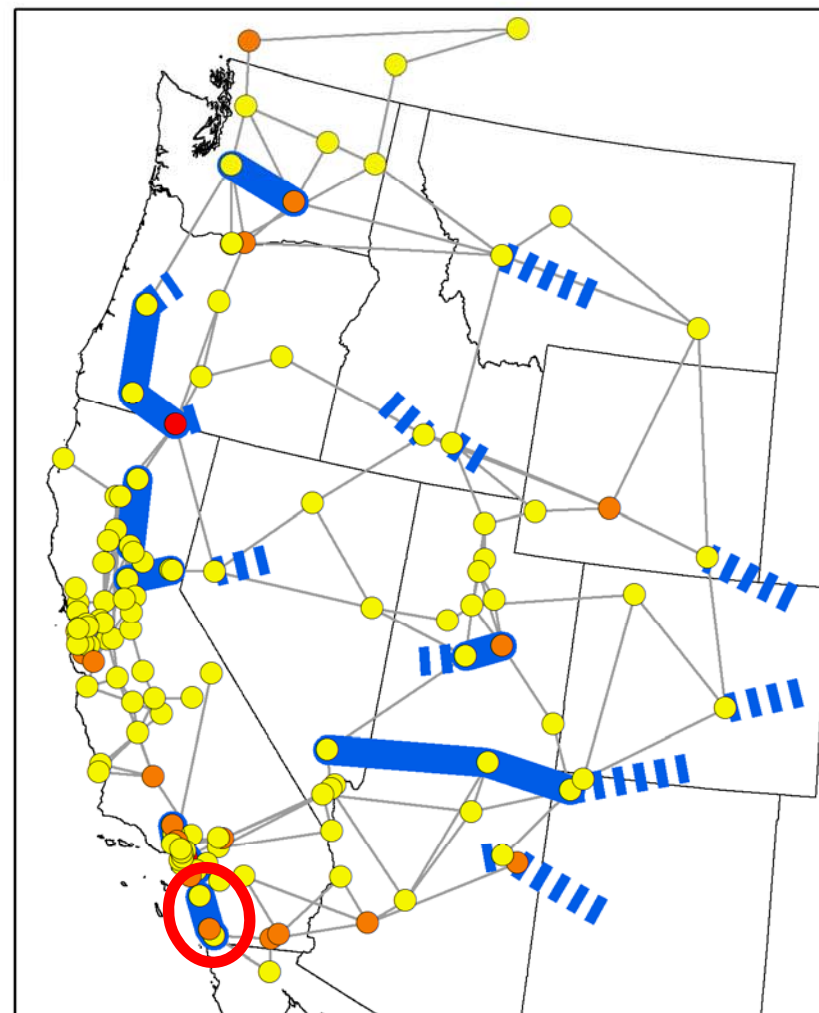
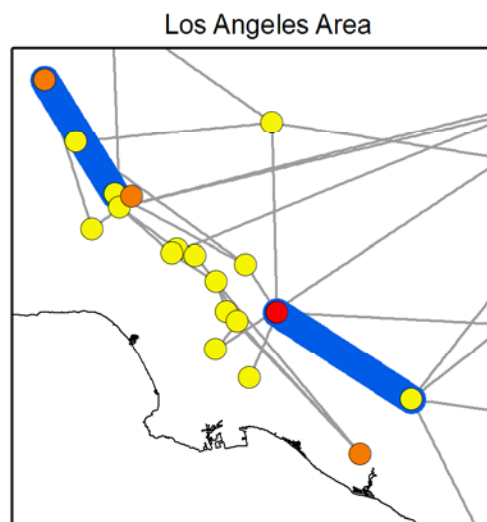
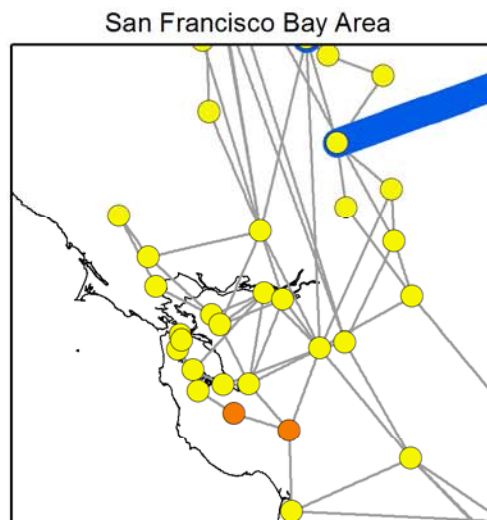


- High renewable penetration
- High quality distant resources accessed

## 3.6 Stochastic 2023 Plan



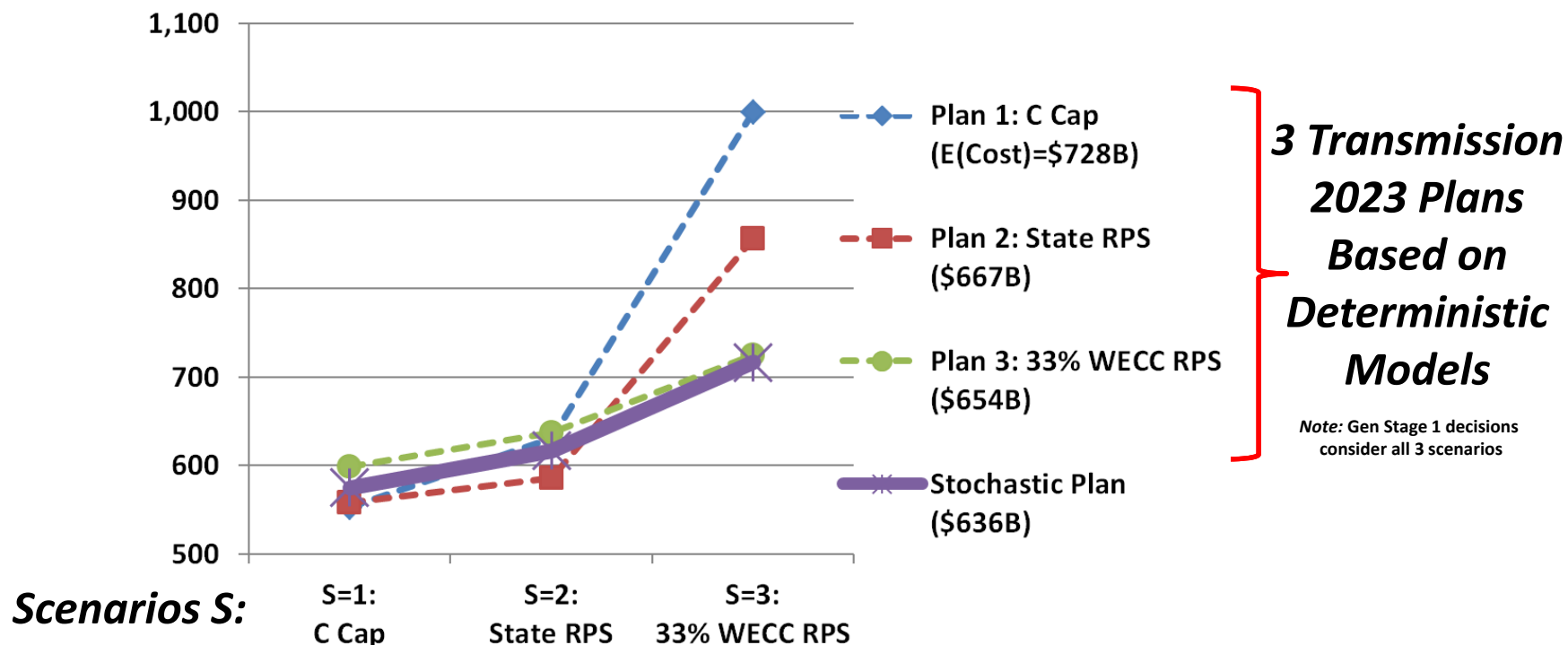
- High renewables
  - *Generation closer to California*
- Unique stochastic lines





## 3.7 Costs of Stage 1 Transmission Plan

### Costs of Alternative 2023 Transmission Plans Under Each of 3 Scenarios



- “Value of Stochastic Solution”
  - = Reduction in E(Cost) from stochastic planning ~ **\$47B**
- Cf. WECC 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan:
  - ~\$20B in transmission to meet 2020 demand & renewable targets

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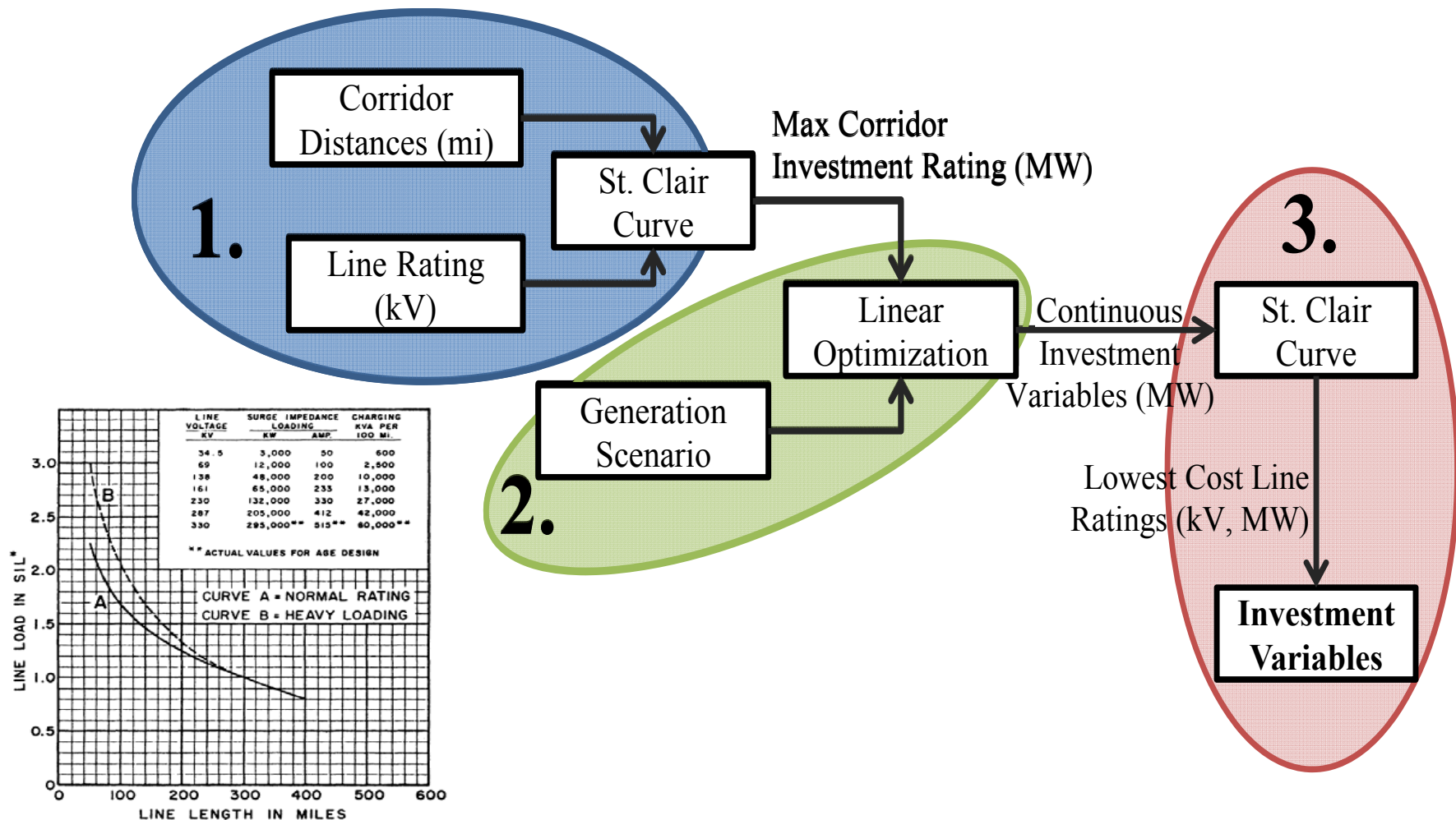
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## 4.1 Dealing with Large Problems

- Good LP approximations of Unit Commitment MILPs
- Pre-screening of Transmission Alternatives
- Decomposition Approaches

## 4.2 A Problem: Too Many Options

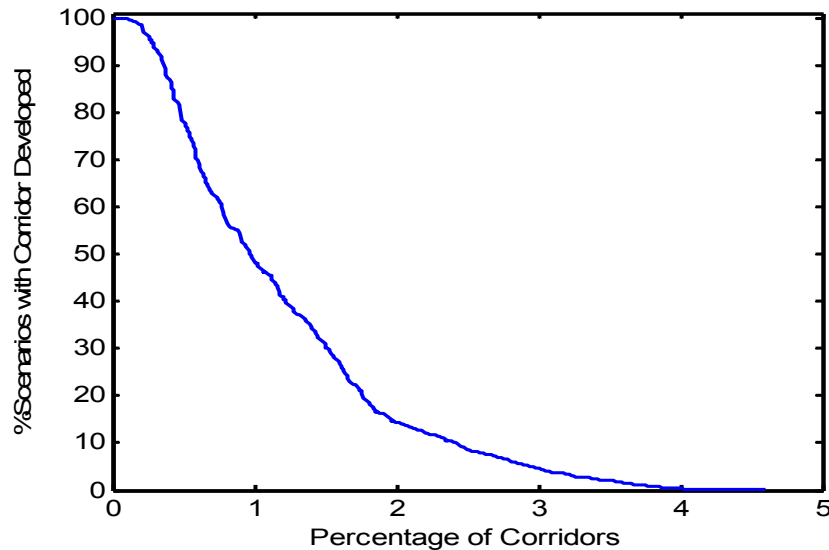
*A Solution: Reduce # Options with St. Clair Screening Model*



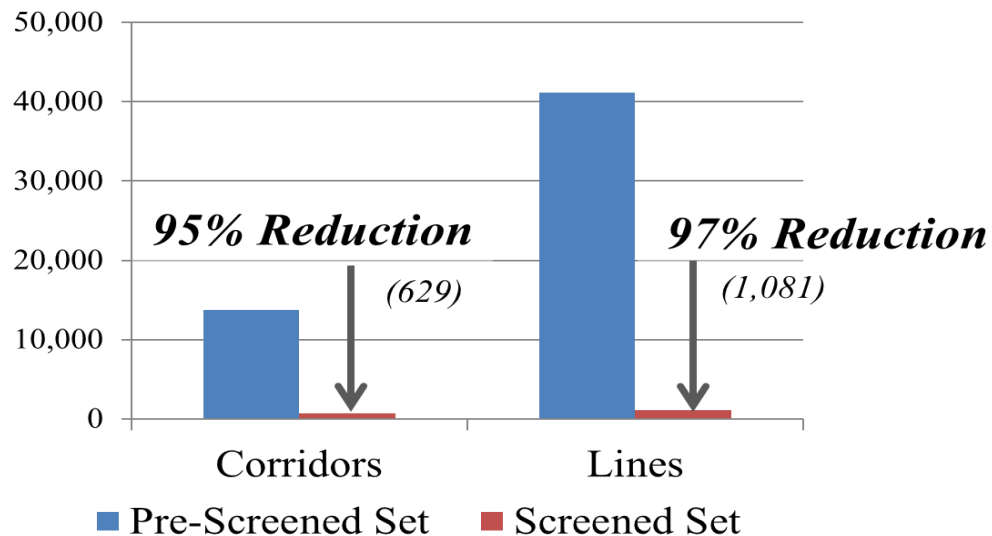
(P. Donohoo, MIT Ph.D. Thesis; Donohoo, Webster, Perez-Arriaga, *PES General Meeting*, 2013)



## 4.3 Screening Model: Reduced # Options



- Across 1500 runs of the WECC 240 bus LP model, only <5% of corridors are ever chosen
- Safely ignore the other 95%?



## 4.4 Another Problem: Too Many Operating & Long-Run Scenarios

E.g., WECC 240 with 100 scenarios: No feasible solution after 1 day

*A Solution: Decomposition*

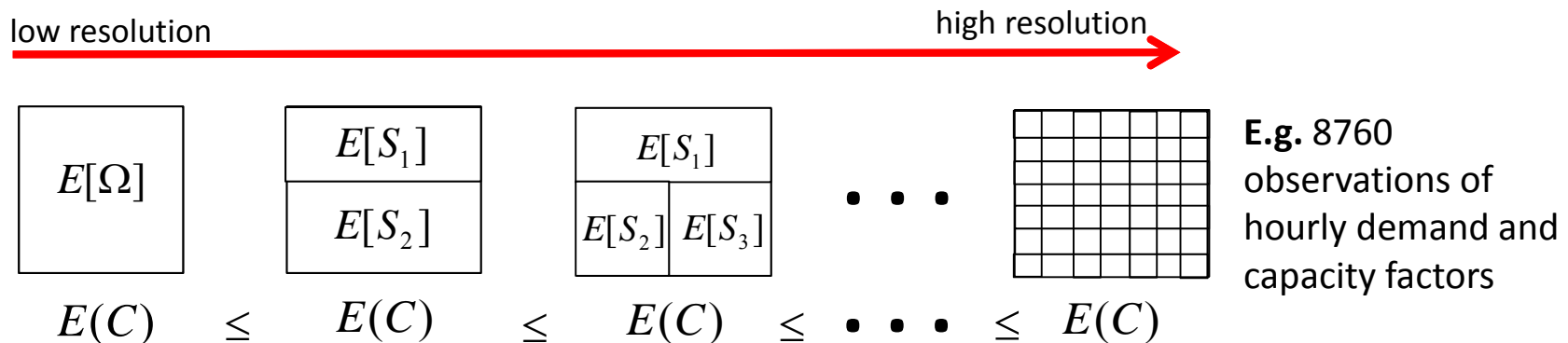
**Benders Decomposition:** Alternate between:

- “Master” design problem (gives lower bound)
- Operations simulation (gives upper bound)

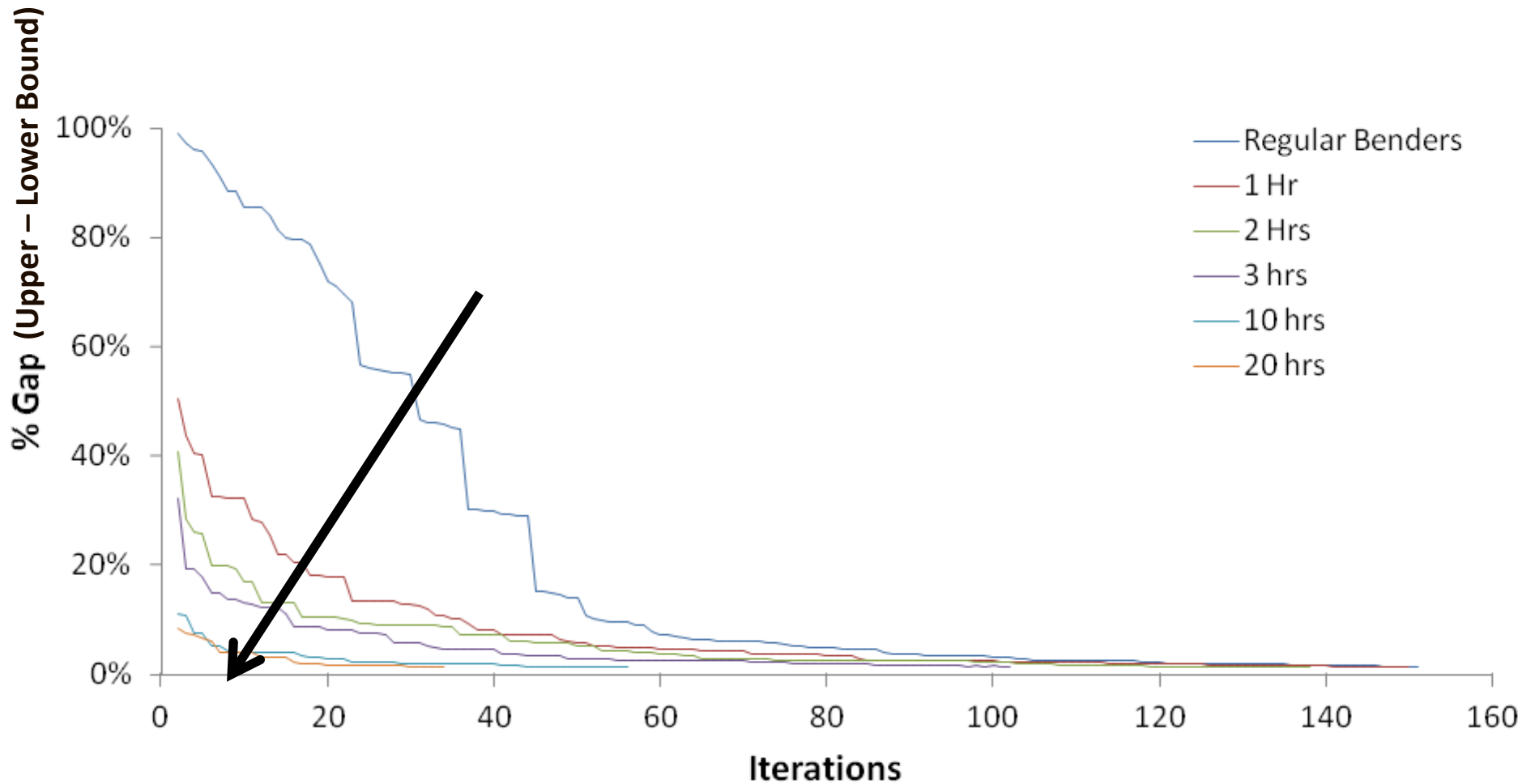
Iteration tightens bounds, converges (eventually...) to optimum

**Accelerate Benders by Tightening Master Problem Lower Bound:**

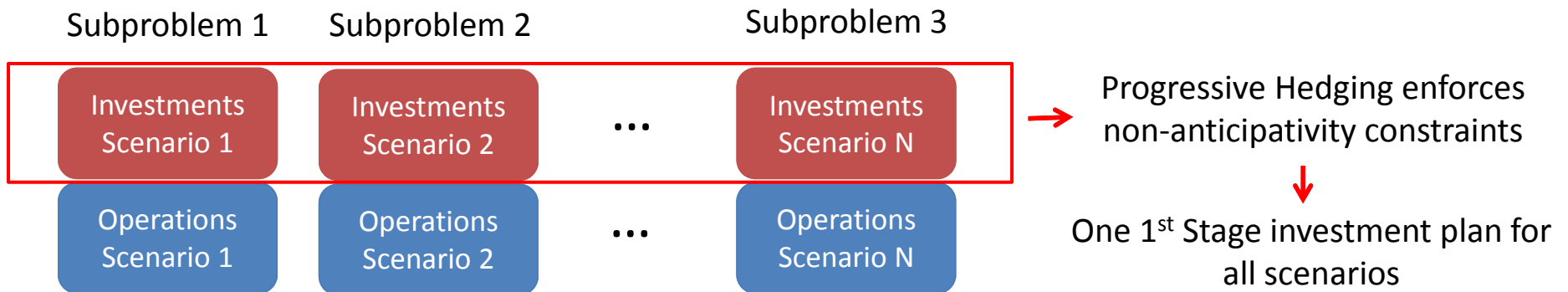
- 1) Create  $k$  partitions of space of load/VER realizations space  $\Omega$
- 2) Add **deterministic operating problem** for each partition to Benders master problem
- 3) Iterate in usual Benders fashion



# 4.5 Faster Benders Convergence with New Constraints (17 Bus Problem)



## 4.6 Decomposition by Progressive Hedging (F. Munoz/J.-P. Watson)



### Progressive Hedging (Rockafellar/Wets):

- Converges if problem convex, good heuristic for mixed-integer problems
- Available: PySP package of Pyomo (Sandia NL)
- Used to solve large stochastic Unit Commitment problems

### Improvements:

- Accelerate convergence through variable fixing and/or slamming , e.g.:
  - Fix variable if line is needed in all scenarios
  - All alternatives considered only in first iterations
- New **lower bounds** from dual decomposition (S. Ryan, Iowa State)

### In Practice:

- WECC-240 and 100 scenarios: CPLEX → No feasible solution after 1 day of CPU time  
**PH** → 20 iterations/15 min yields 1.5% optimality gap

## 4.7 Goals of Sandia Effort



- Execute stochastic transmission and generation expansion planning **at scale, on real-world data sets**
  - Stochastic models are needed,
  - But no commercial software available for stochastic investment planning
- Produce solutions in **tractable run-times, with bounds**
- Develop scenario selection algorithms for execution on **commodity workstations**, not just supercomputers

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## 5 Conclusions

- Scenario Planning has a major shortcoming:  
*Deterministic plans don't account for flexibility*
- Heuristic planning rules can perform worse than myopic deterministic plans
- Value of Stochastic Solution can be ~2X the cost of transmission
- Can solve very large problems (e.g., more scenarios, operating conditions) with
  - screening
  - bounding/decomposition
- *Next:* Demos for WECC and other systems with realistic data

A large, leafy green tree with a utility pole in the background under a clear blue sky. The tree is the central focus, with its dense foliage filling most of the frame. A utility pole with several power lines is visible behind the tree. The sky is a clear, bright blue. In the foreground, there is a grassy area and a paved road. In the background, there are some buildings and a bridge.

# Questions?

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