

# **Introduction and class policies**

Purdue ME 597, Distributed Energy Resources

Kevin J. Kircher

# Outline

What are DERs?

Why study DERs?

Class outline

Class policies

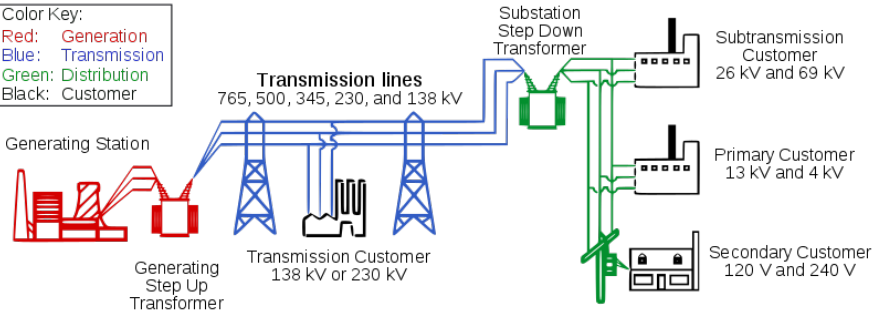
# What are Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)?



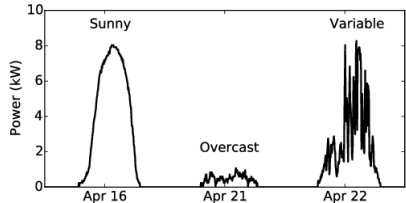
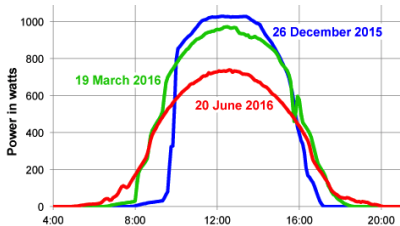
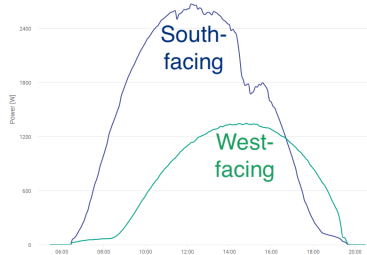
controllable electrical devices that plug in at the edge of the grid

# The power grid

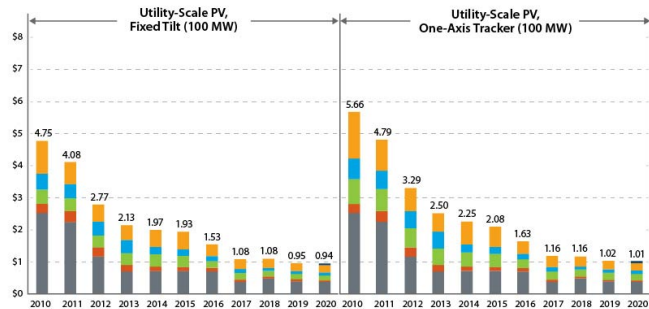
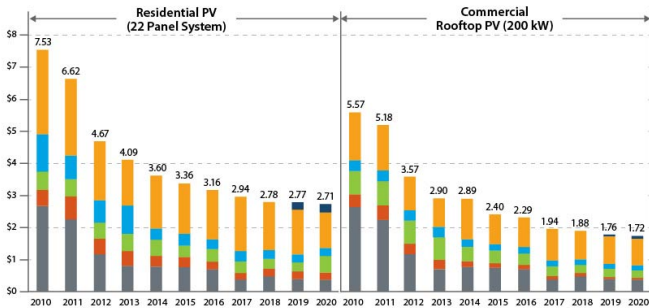
Color Key:  
Red: Generation  
Blue: Transmission  
Green: Distribution  
Black: Customer



# Solar photovoltaics



Getty Images; Solar Talk: [Solar panel direction](#); Dan's Diary: [A Year of Solar Data](#);  
Lee et al. (2017): *Distributed Rate Control for Smart Solar Arrays*

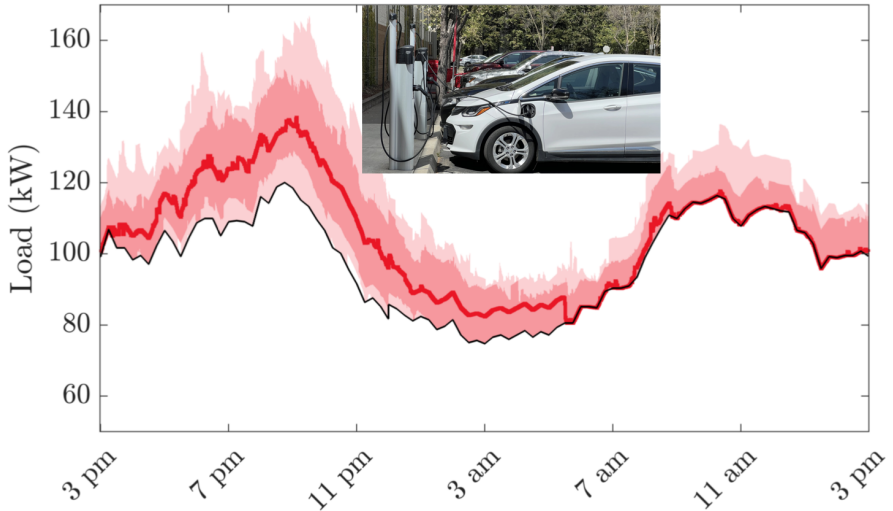


# Batteries



Getty Images; BloombergNEF: [Lithium-ion battery prices](#)

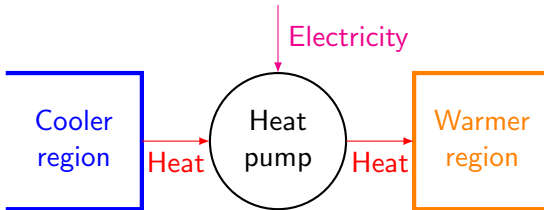
# Electric vehicles



Alexeenko et al. (2023): *Achieving reliable coordination of residential plug-in electric vehicle charging*; Pew Research Center: [How Americans view EVs](#)



# Heat pumps and air conditioners



Elephant Energy: [Guide to Cold Climate Heat Pumps](#); ACHR News: [NYC's 'Clean Heat For All Challenge'](#)

# Thermal storage and water heaters



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Green Energy Times: [Electric Thermal Storage](#); MA Clean Energy Center: [Heat pump water heaters](#)

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Why study DERs?

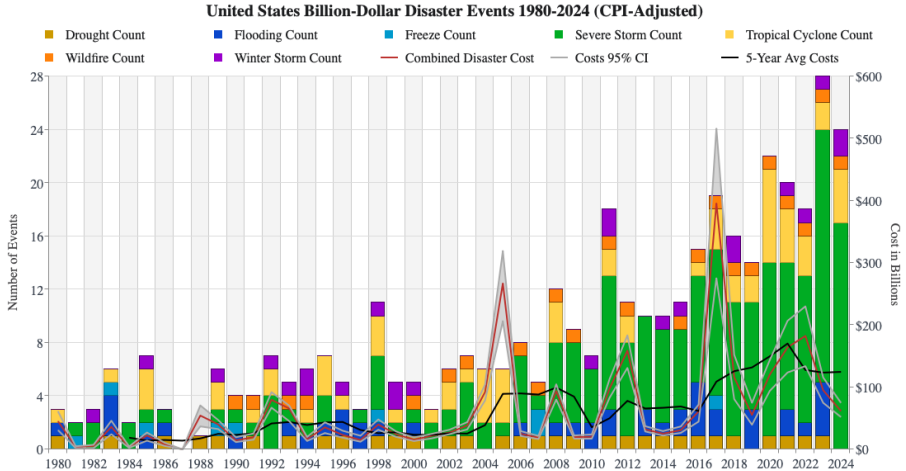
Class outline

Class policies

# Why study DERs?

- we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions at speed and scale
- DERs will feature prominently in energy transitions
- DER adoption is already taking off
- good design and control can make DERs much more valuable
  - ◇ improve user experiences
  - ◇ deepen emission reductions
  - ◇ reduce installation and operating costs
  - ◇ unlock participation in (& revenue from) power grid operations

# Humans have changed the climate

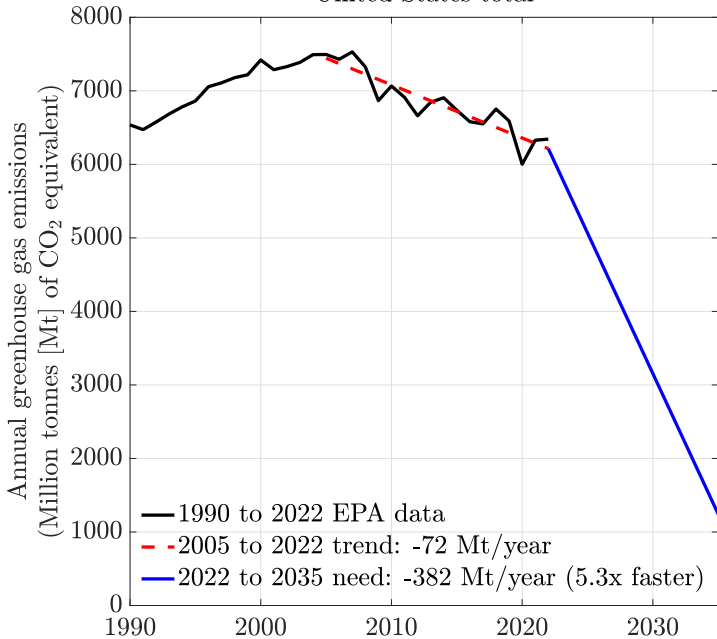


increased frequency and severity of storms, droughts, wildfires, ...

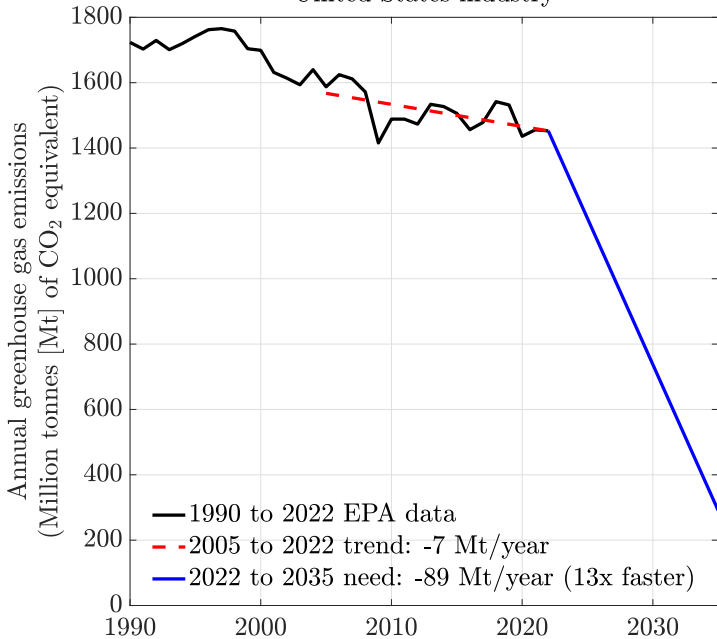
# We must cut emissions 80% in the next 10 years

“By 2035, emissions need to decline by 80% in advanced economies and 60% in emerging market and developing economies compared to the 2022 level.”

# United States total

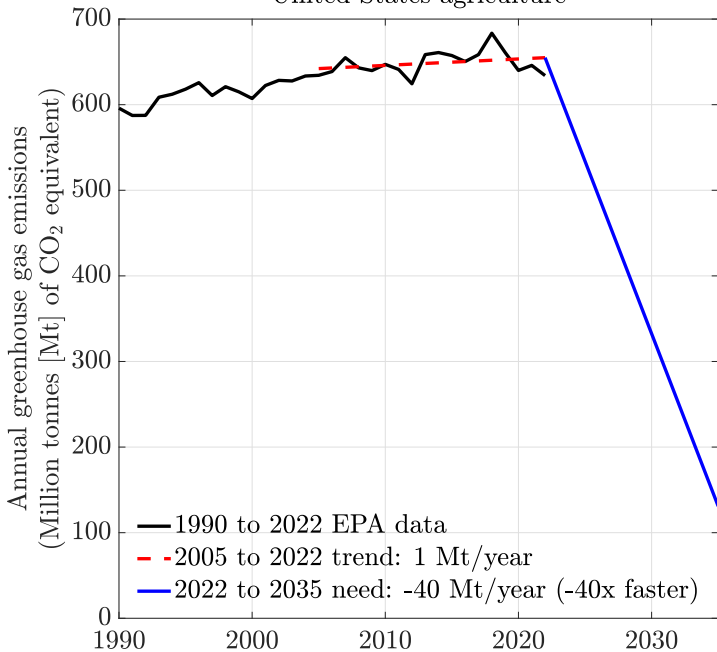


# United States industry

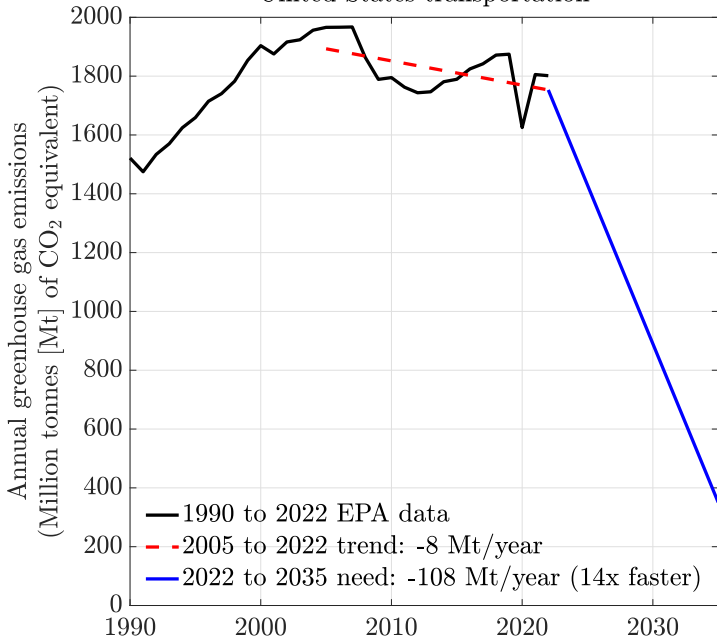




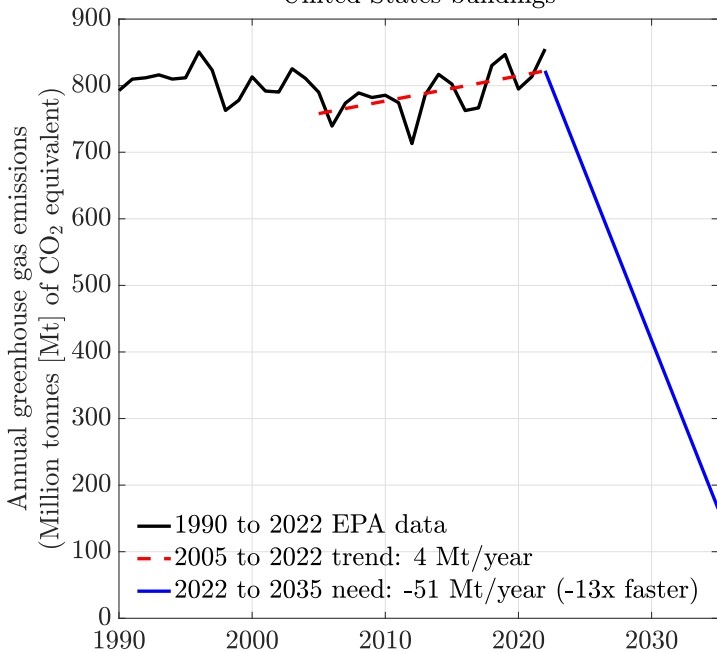
# United States agriculture



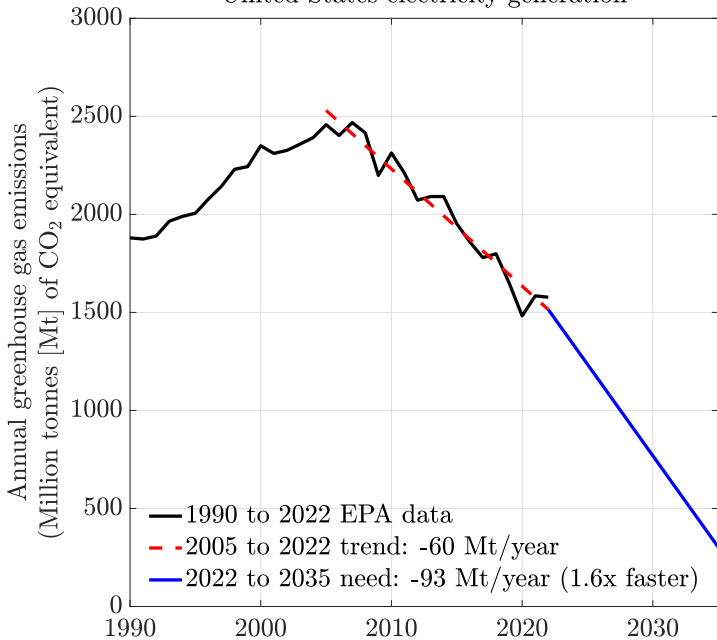
# United States transportation



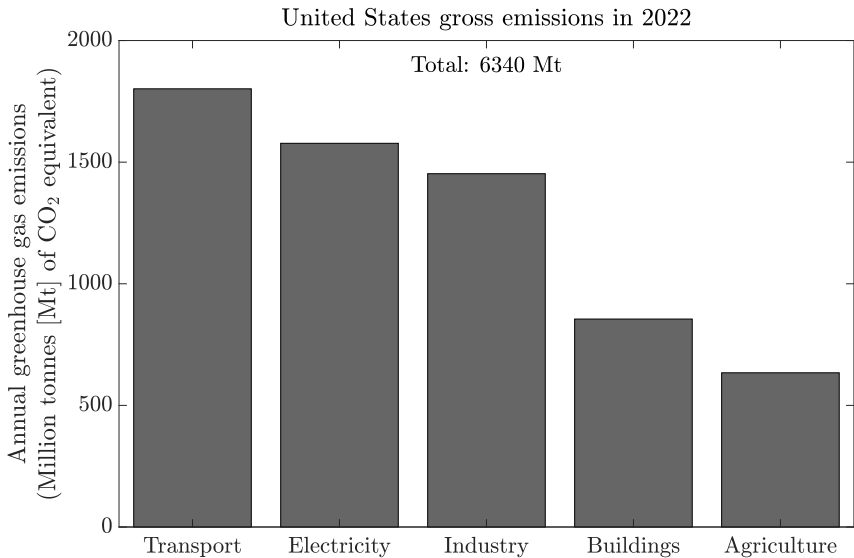
# United States buildings



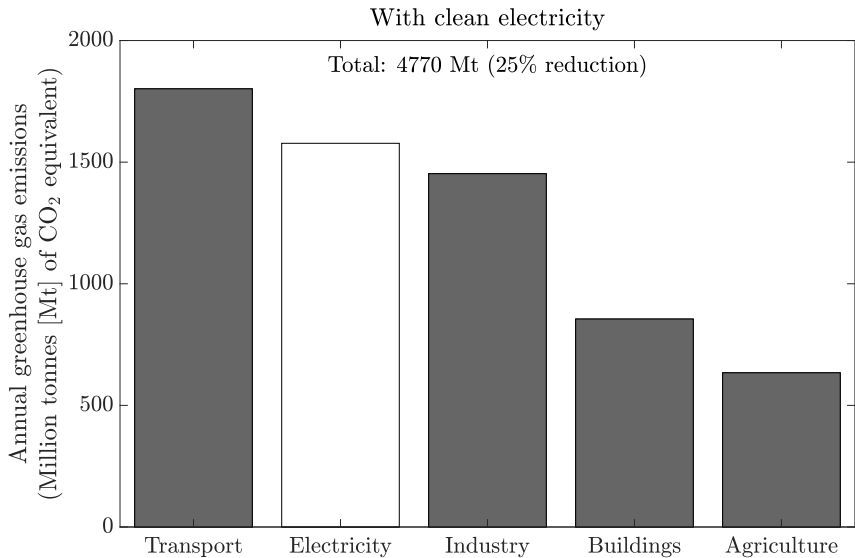
# United States electricity generation



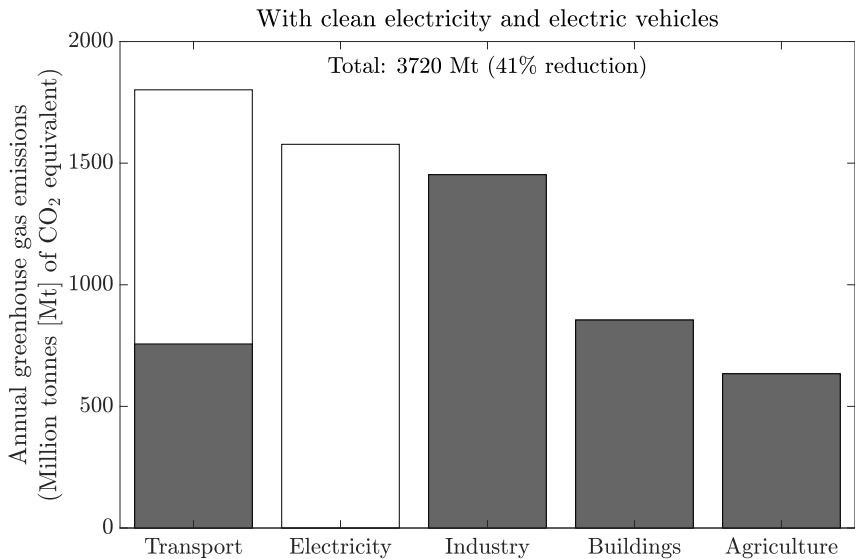
# A two-step strategy for deep decarbonization



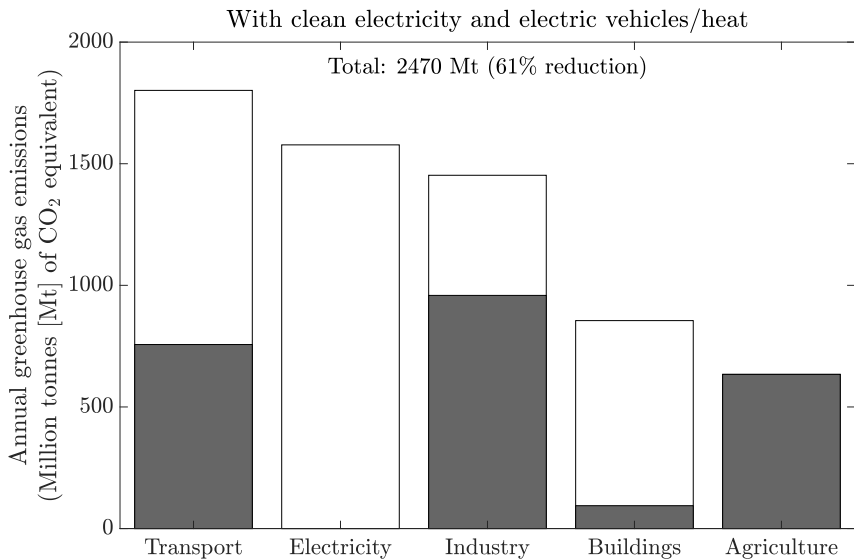
# 1. Decarbonize electricity generation



## 2. Electrify light-duty vehicles. . .



## 2. Electrify light-duty vehicles & space/water/process heat

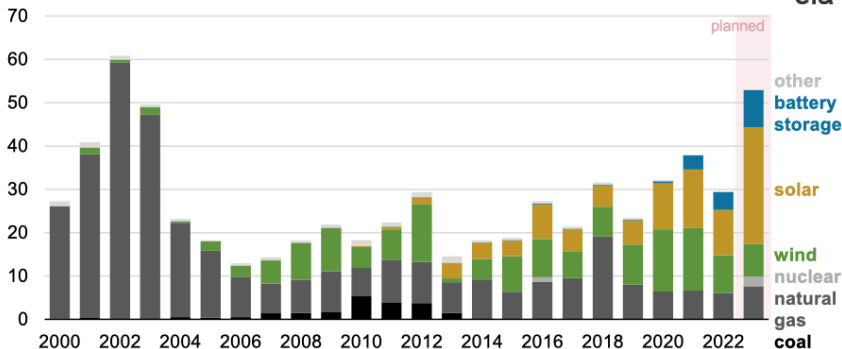




# Most new electrical capacity is now wind, solar, or batteries

Annual U.S. electric-generating capacity additions (2000–2023)

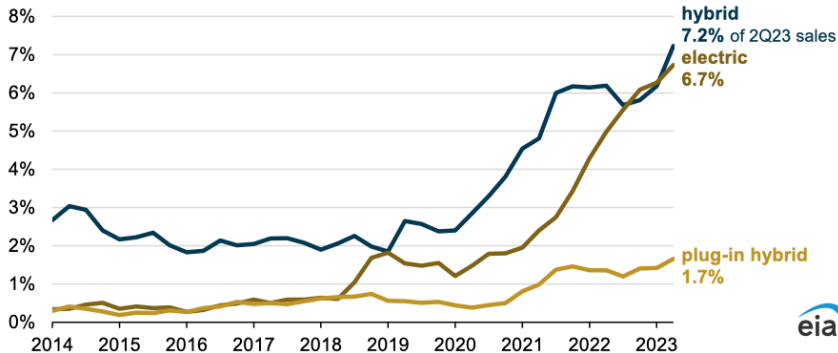
gigawatts



# Electric vehicle sales are growing quickly

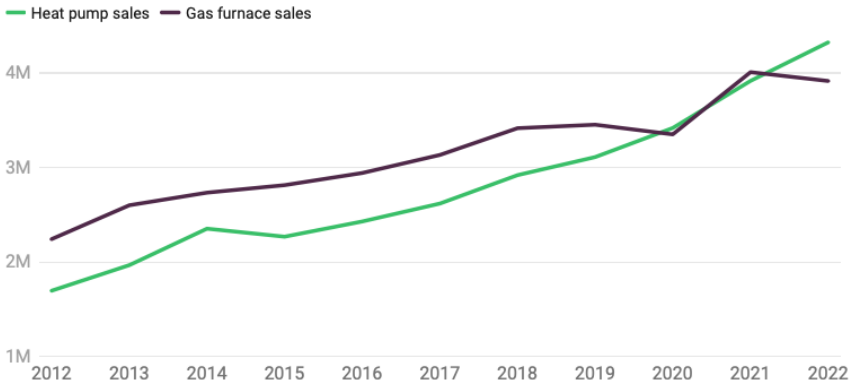
## Quarterly light-duty vehicle sales by powertrain, United States (2014–2023)

percentage of total vehicle sales



Energy Information Administration: [Today in Energy](#) (September 7, 2023)

# Heat pump sales have outpaced gas furnaces



Canary Media: [Americans bought more heat pumps than gas furnaces last year](#)

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**Class outline**

Class policies

- review of linear differential equations
- introduction to linear dynamical systems
- (semi-)physical models of and data sources for
  - ◇ batteries and electric vehicles
  - ◇ buildings
  - ◇ heat pumps and air conditioners
  - ◇ thermal storage and water heaters
  - ◇ solar photovoltaics

- convex sets and functions
- convex optimization problems
- disciplined convex programming
- applications to DER design, operation, model fitting, ...

- open-loop optimal control
- model predictive control
- model-free predictive control via behavioral systems theory
- other topics of interest? reinforcement learning, co-design, ...
- applications to DER operation
  - ◇ reducing energy costs
  - ◇ reducing pollution
  - ◇ providing reliability services to the power grid

- brief introduction to machine learning
  - ◇ predictors
  - ◇ validation
  - ◇ features
  - ◇ empirical risk minimization
  - ◇ regularization
- DER applications
  - ◇ time-series forecasting
  - ◇ system identification



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# Prerequisites

- ordinary differential equations
- linear algebra
- programming in **Matlab**, **Python**, or Julia
- not required, but may enhance appreciation:
  - ◇ optimization
  - ◇ control systems
  - ◇ probability and statistics
  - ◇ machine learning

# Homework

- 20% of grade
- ~8 problem sets with a mix of math and coding
- done individually or in teams
- everyone submits their own write-up
- outside resources are okay, but you must **cite them**  
(to really learn, *try homework with no outside help*)
- homework front-loaded in first ~half of semester
- second ~half: focus on semester projects

# Midterm exam

- 30% of grade
- take-home over 24 hours
- taken ~halfway through semester
- no final exam

# Semester project

- 50% of grade
- done individually or in teams of up to 4
- each team gives one ~6 minute idea pitch
  - ◇ one presenter only (but whole team helps prepare)
  - ◇ whole team fields questions for ~4 minutes
- each team gives one ~12 minute conference-style talk
  - ◇ one presenter only (but whole team helps prepare)
  - ◇ whole team fields questions for ~8 minutes
- each team writes one ~6 page conference-style final paper
- each team member verbally assesses their own contributions (in a meeting with me and their team)

- Kevin's website
  - ◇ download lecture slides and videos
  - ◇ download homework assignments and midterm
- Gradescope
  - ◇ upload completed homeworks and midterm
  - ◇ view grades

# Online participation

- view lecture slides and videos whenever  
(or join class in real time via Zoom if you prefer)
- upload homeworks and midterm when in-person class does
- join Zoom office hours if helpful
- work remotely with project team (or work alone if you prefer)
- join Zoom for your team's project presentations

# Online survey

please take two minutes to [tell us a bit about yourself](#)

