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The future of energy technologies and the role of policy (and policy research)

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Abu Dhabi

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Outline

1. The role of government policy in energy innovation
2. Public energy R&D investments
3. Multiple policies: balancing deployment and R&D
4. Effectiveness of government R&D organizations
5. Looking beyond energy
6. Looking beyond the OECD
7. Inclusion of other trends
8. Takeaways



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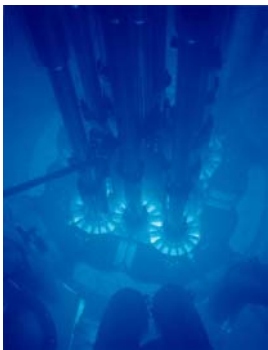


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1. The role of government policy in energy innovation

Innovation in energy technologies is essential

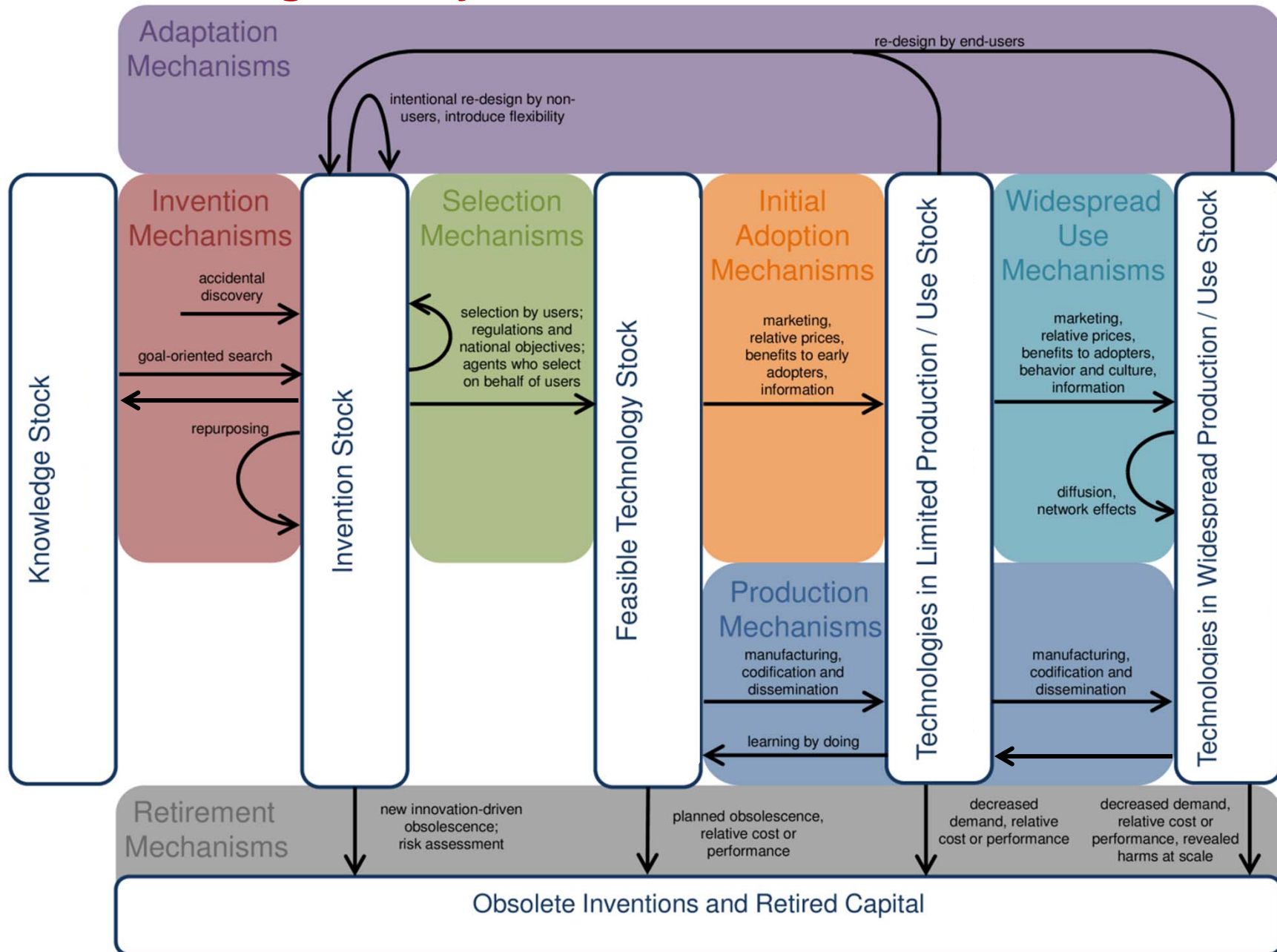
- Energy is one of the top global challenges
 - Environmental impact (local and global)
 - Economic vulnerabilities (interlinkages, competitiveness)
 - National security (nuclear technology, infrastructure, networks)
 - Access to energy
- Most studies (e.g., IPCC) conclude that meeting these challenges will require new and improved technologies



The key question is what governments can and should do

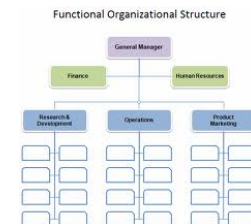
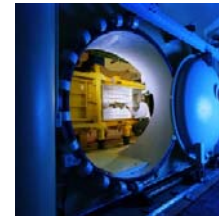
- Question is complicated (and thus a rich area for policy-relevant research!) because of four key dimensions:
 - Complexity of innovation process
 - Multiple policies
 - Multiple policy goals
 - Heterogeneous technologies

Innovation goes beyond R&D



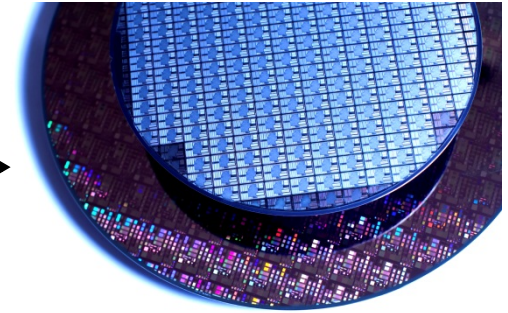
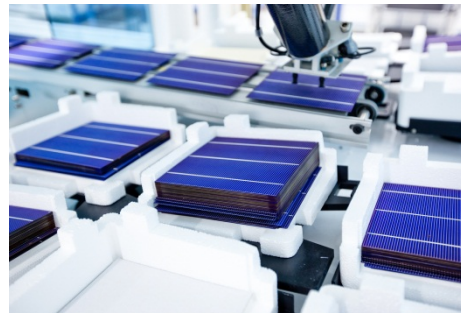
Many interlinked factors can contribute to innovation

- Learning-by-doing or by using
- R&D (goal-oriented)
- Knowledge spillovers from other sectors
- Economies of scale
- Economies of scope
- Materials and labor costs



Properties of innovation and energy require a role for governments

- Knowledge spillovers

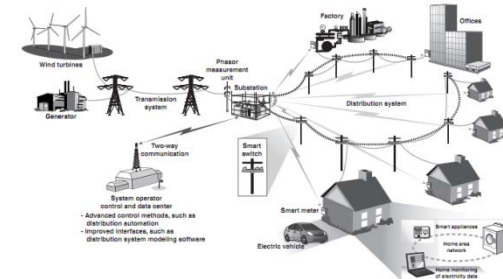
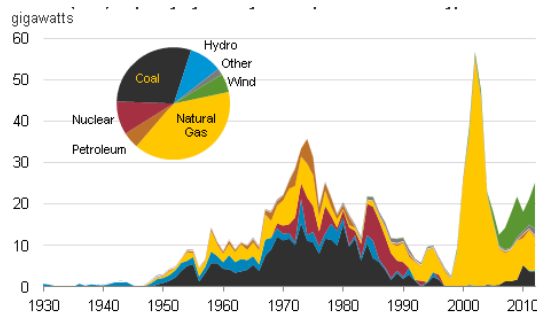


- Environmental externalities

- Institutional lock-in



- Capital intensity, long lifetimes, and network effects



Many policies can shape the pace and direction of innovation

*Reducing cost of innovating:
Increasing the supply of knowledge*

Technology-Push Policies

- RD&D policy:
 - Federal/state RD&D funding
 - Public-Private partnerships for demonstration projects
 - R&D tax credits
 - International cooperation in RD&D, etc.

- Education policy to improve and expand the labor force

Technology Innovation

*Increasing payoff to innovators:
Increasing the demand for innovation*

Market-Pull Policies

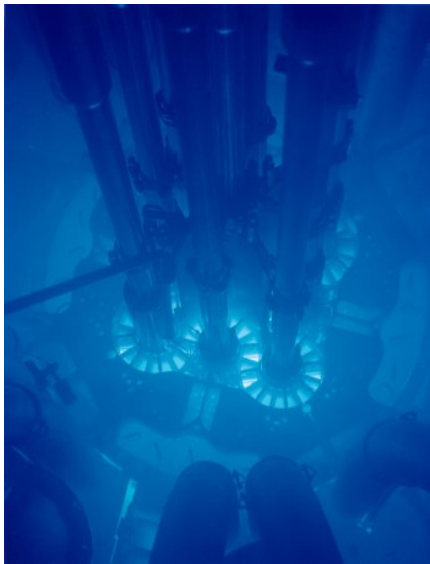
- Price incentives
 - Direct spending (rebates)
 - Government procurement
 - Tax-related subsidies
 - Loan guarantees
 - Intellectual property, etc.

- Standard-based policies
 - Performance standards
 - Interconnection standards
 - Portfolio standards, etc.

- Market-based policies
 - Cap and trade
 - Charge systems, etc.

Government policy plays a unique role

- Government R&D and its combination with other policies has played and continues to play a key role in energy



Investments are significant, effectiveness matters

2013 global deployment subsidies:

- \$121 billion for renewables
- \$548 billion for fossil fuels

R&D funds for all energy technologies about \$20 billion
(<1/6 renewables subsidies)

Emerging economies and developing countries are playing major roles

- In energy R&D, in 2008 BRIMCS governments spent \$13.7 bn PPP, more than IEA governments combined



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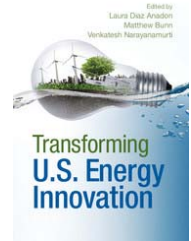


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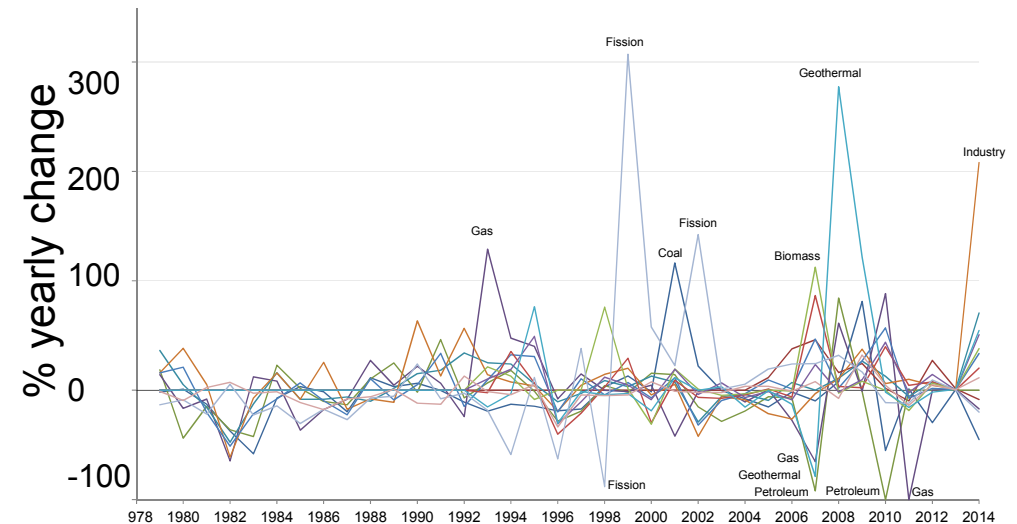
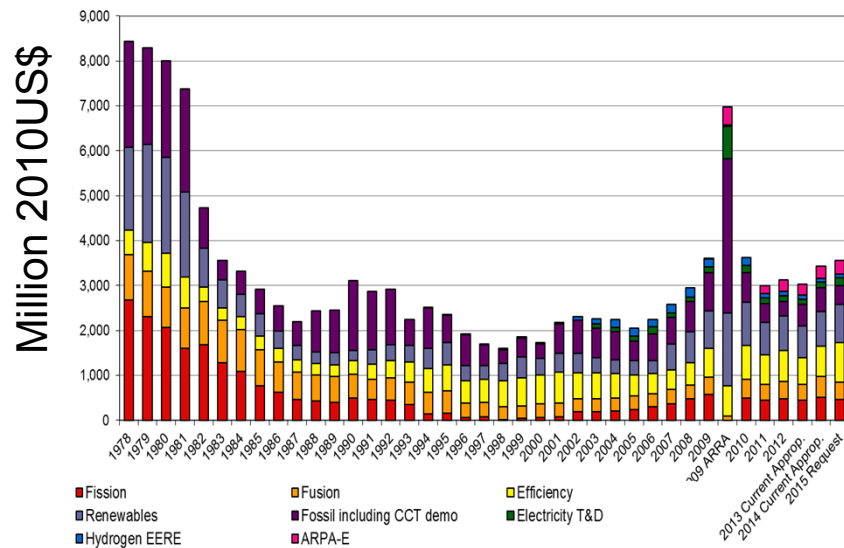
2. Public energy R&D investments

Current decision methods could be improved

U.S. example



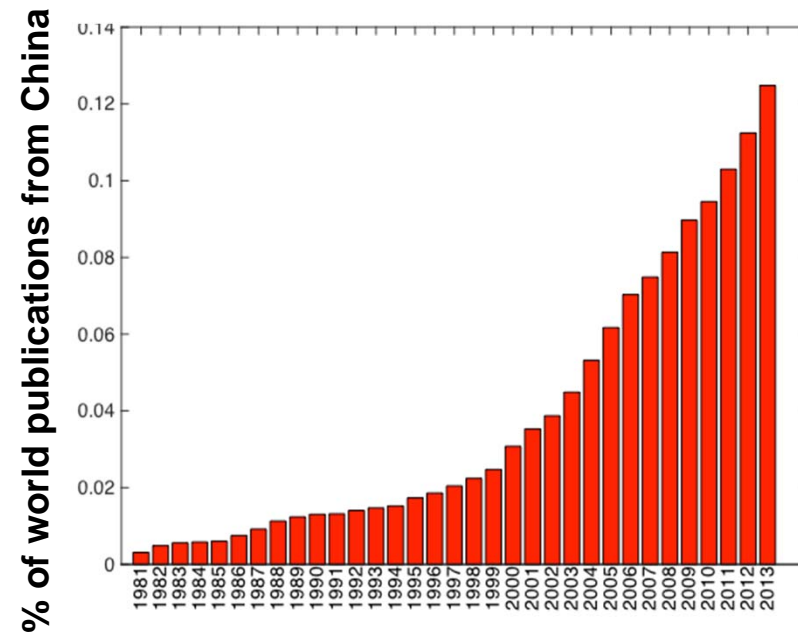
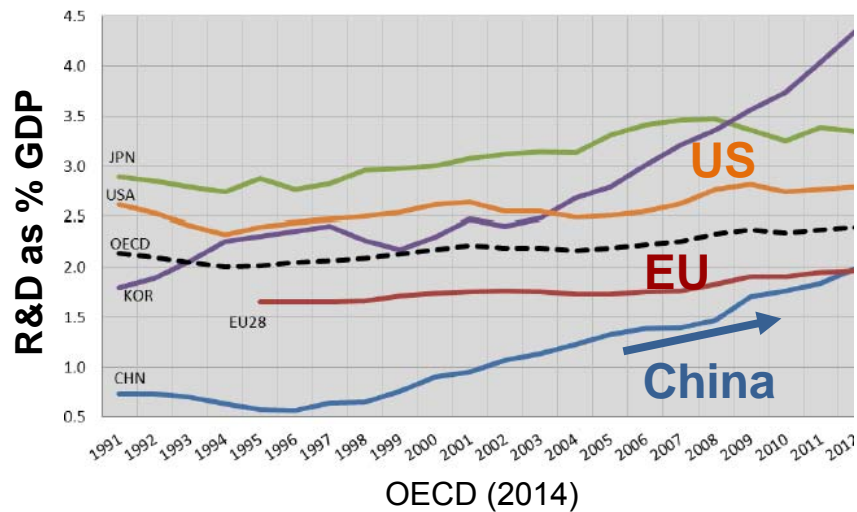
- US:\$3bn, ~5% of non-defense R&D goes to Dept. of Energy
 - DOE proposes a budget and allocation, based on technical inputs from labs
 - OMB scrutinizes requests based on Presidential objectives
 - Congress allocates funds
- Analysis and R&D allocation outcome do not consider market interactions, are volatile and lack legitimacy



Current decision methods could be improved

China example

- Energy spread across ministries
- A large fraction of public R&D centers on energy
- Changes in program management, role of scientists
- But no coordinated process used to support effort (no info on technology allocation)



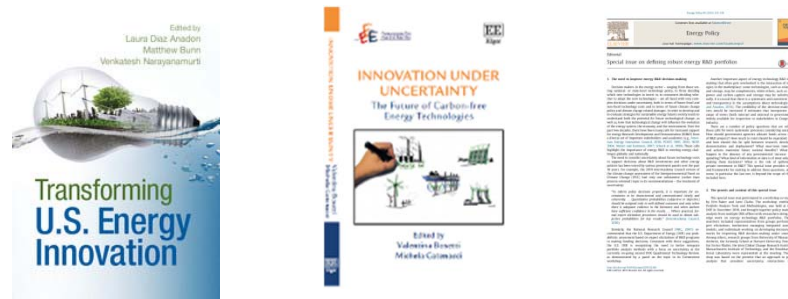
Zhi et al. (2012); Siddiqi et al. (2015); Binz et al. (2015)

Growing area of focus for practitioners and researchers

- Policy makers and other high-level leaders called for improvements
 - NRC (2007), PCAST (1997, 2010), American Energy Innovation Council (2010), Ru et al (2013) report, DOE Quadrennial Technology Review (2011, 2015)



- New research emphasis
 - E.g., *Energy Policy* 2015 special issue on 'Defining robust energy R&D portfolios' (Baker, Bosetti & Anadon, 2015)



Principles for designing decision-support tools

Need to merge technical rigor and political economy

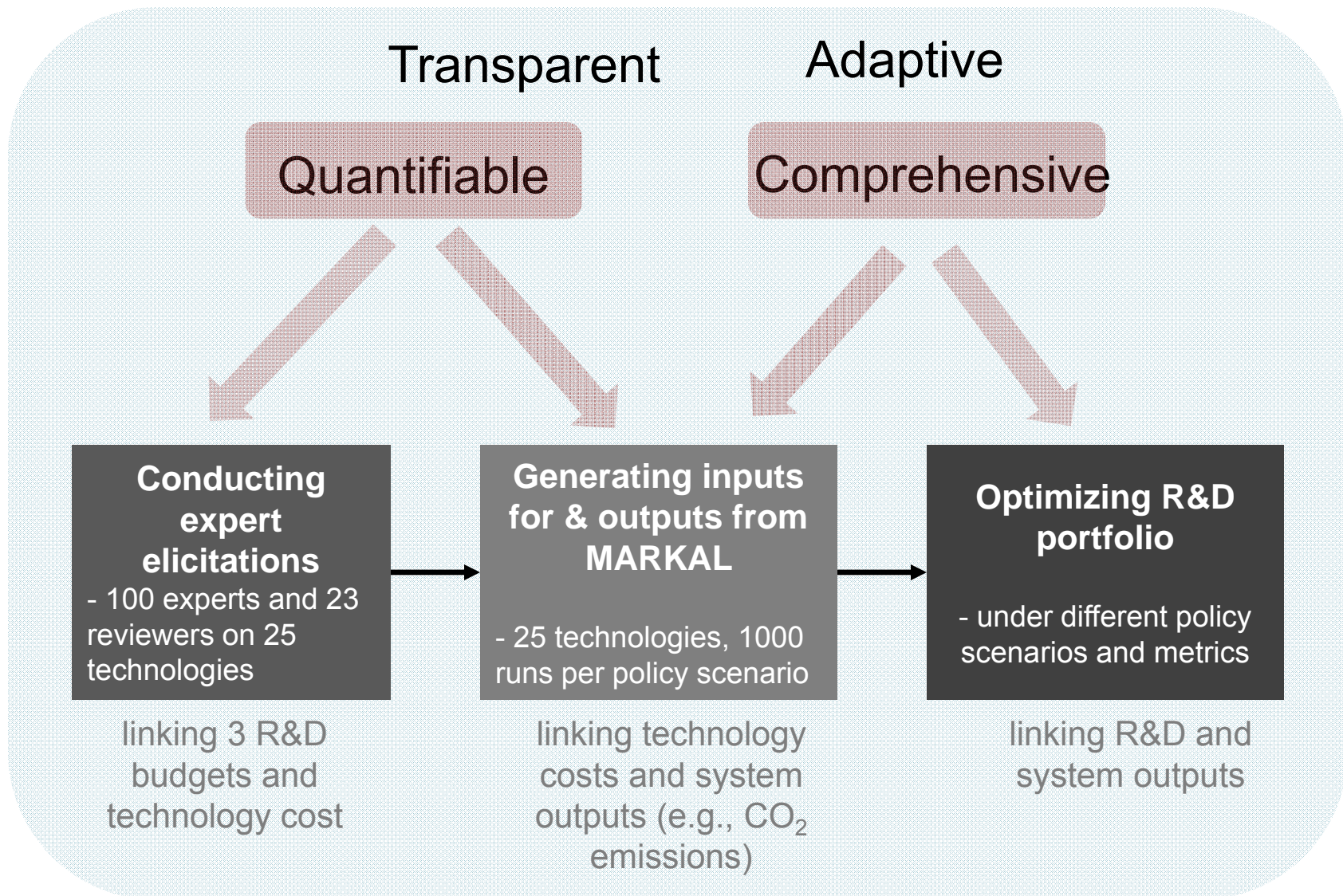
- Analytical requirements

- **Quantifiable:** accounting for uncertainty and benefits
- **Comprehensive:** evaluating interactions

- Institutional feasibility

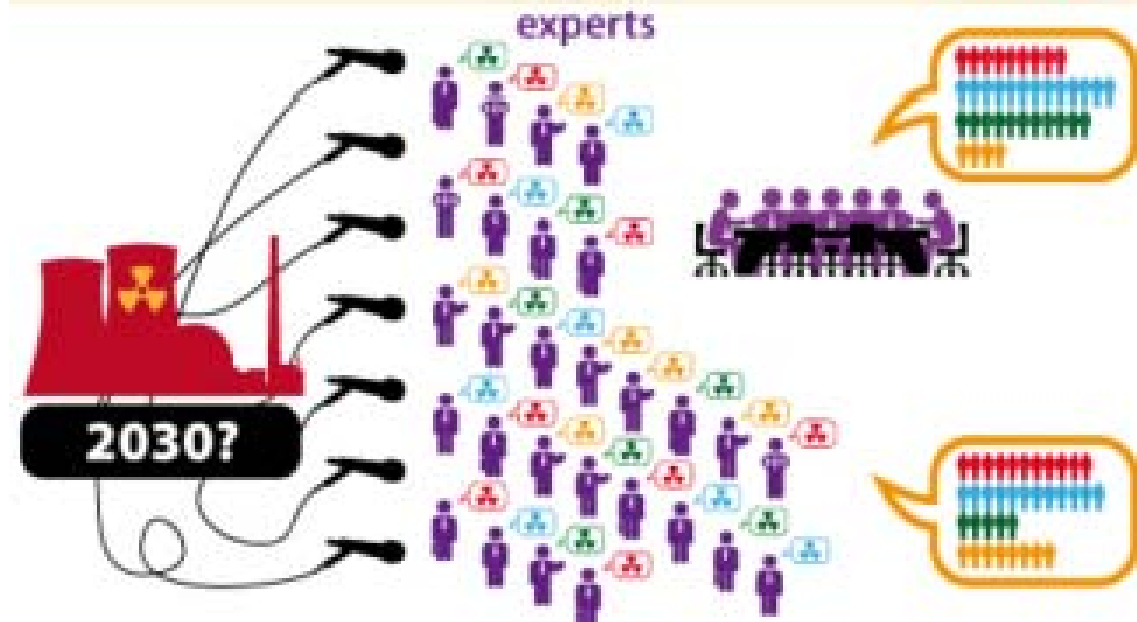
- **Adaptive:** enabling improvements & interaction w/ stakeholders
- **Transparent:** increasing credibility

Application of principles to decision tool



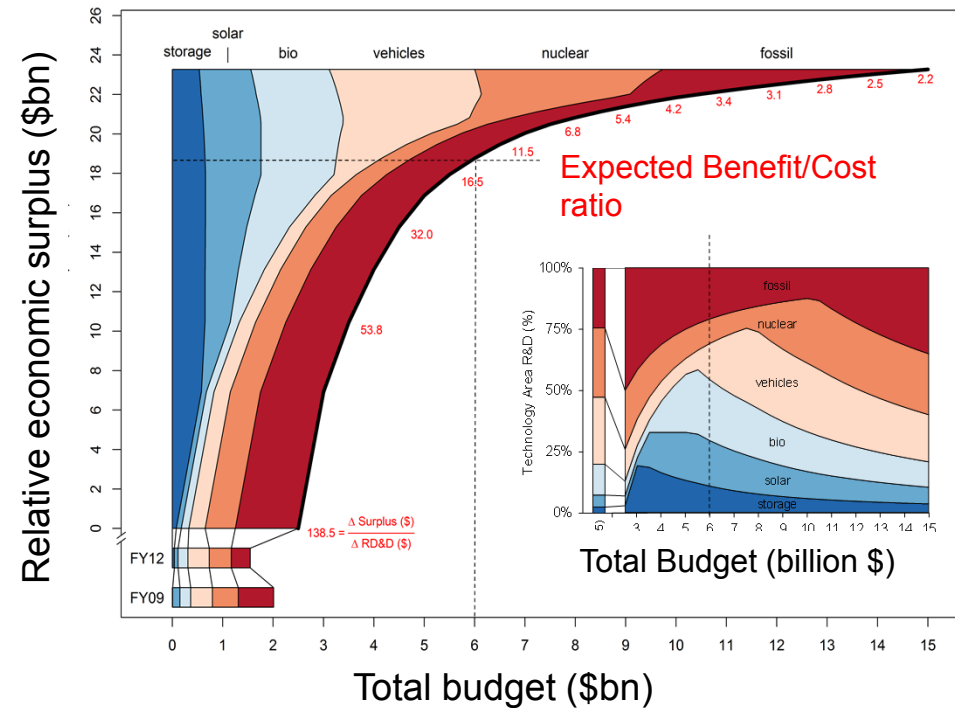
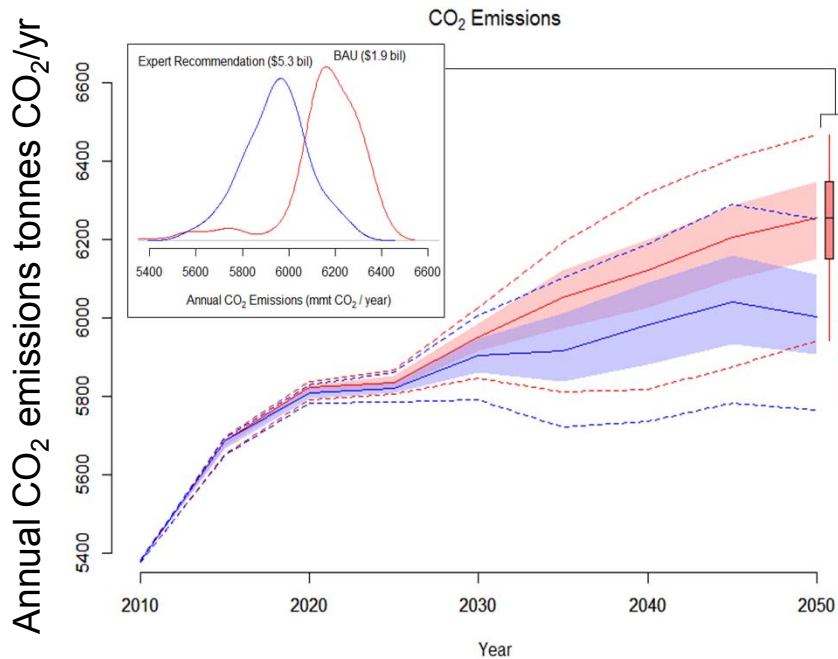
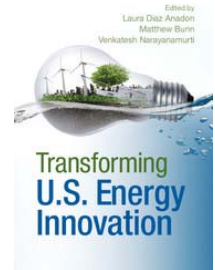
Technology costs are key, and expert elicitations are increasingly used to parameterize uncertainty

- Expert elicitations increasingly used in various policy areas
- New insights and methods on combination of expert elicitations and group workshop, on impact of expert diversity, etc.
- Summary in forthcoming, OECD report



New methods can provide new insights (& increase legitimacy)

- R&D is not enough
- Expected returns justify greater investments
- Current allocation not optimal (storage and solar underfunded)





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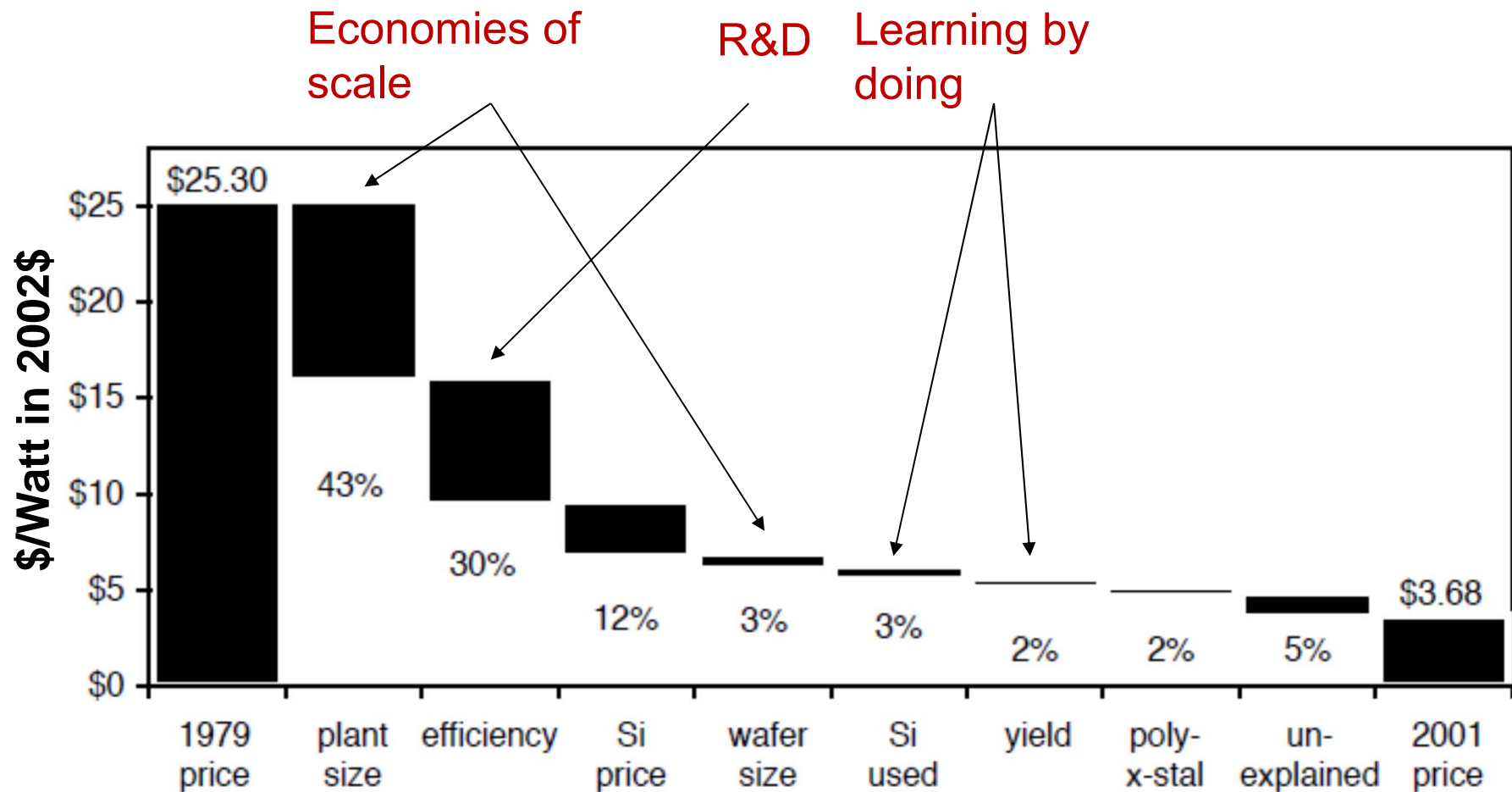
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3. Multiple policies: balancing deployment and R&D

Insights from energy innovation research

Historical data from solar PV

- Nemet (2007) on PV showed factors beyond learning curves



Balancing policies to induce innovation

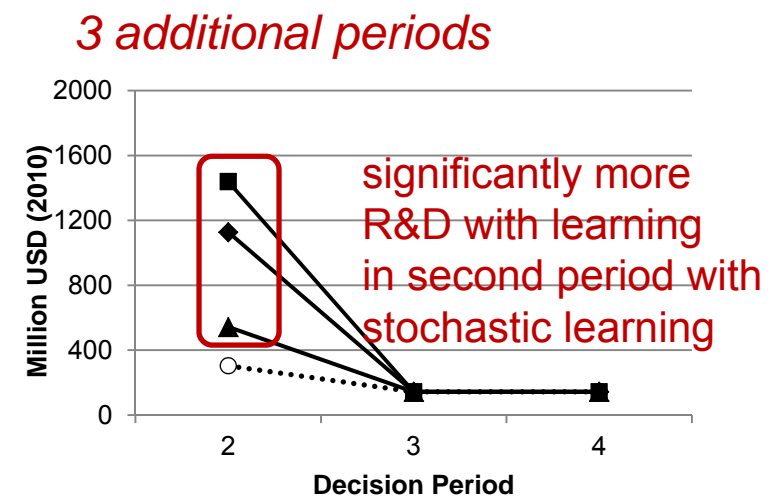
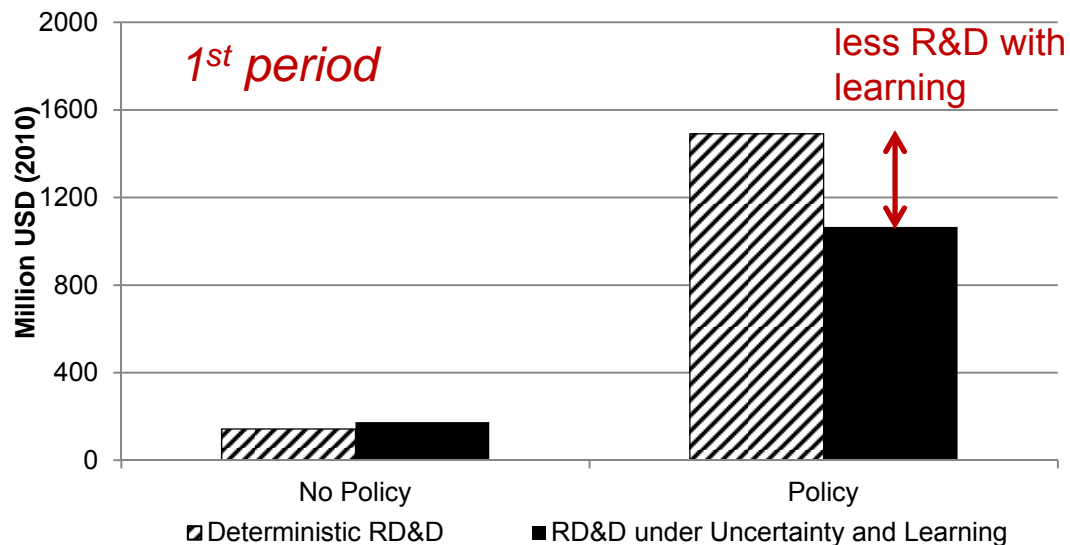
Historical data from wind in China

- 'Joint learning rate' for wind lower than previous estimates (Qiu and Anadon, 2012)
 - Need to include wind quality, local manufacturing, and others
- Policy needs to consider interaction of manufacturers and developers (Tian and Popp, 2014)
- Quantifying factors explaining low generation of turbines in China (Huenteler, Chan, Tang, Anadon, 2015)
 - Policy tradeoffs and systemic issues

Balancing policies to induce innovation

Modelling and forecasting

- Cost-effectiveness of California PV subsidy depends on learning assumptions (Van Benthem et al., 2008)
- R&D important to increase PV competitiveness (Nemet & Baker, 2009)
- Considering learning in decision-making in more realistic electricity capacity expansion models reduces short term R&D investments (Santen & Anadon, 2015)





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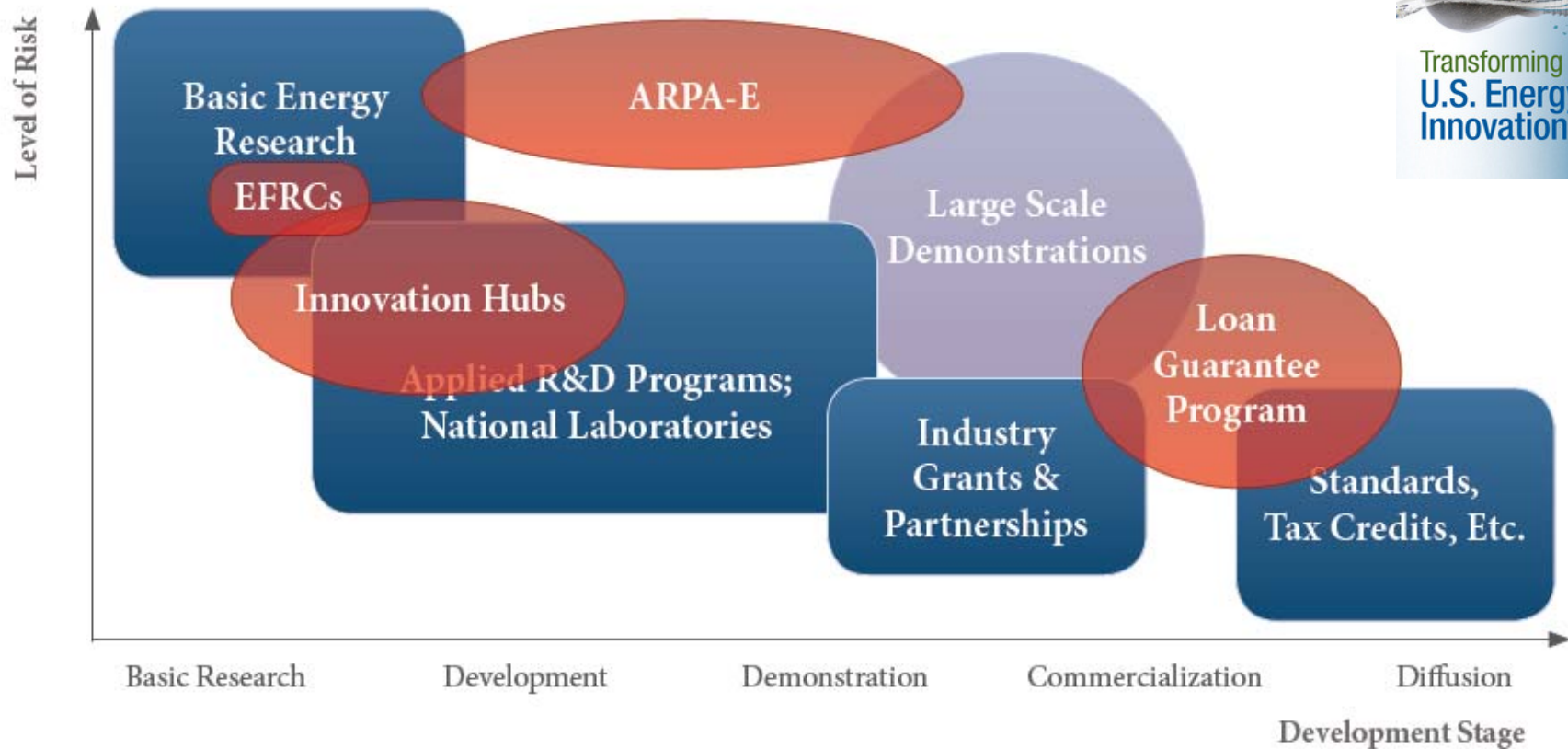
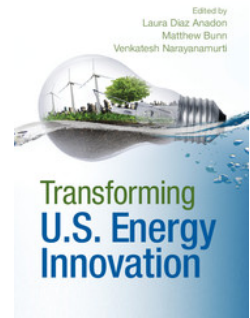
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4. Effectiveness of government R&D organizations

Governments are not just energy R&D funders, they are also performers

- 68 of the largest economies, conduct at least 30% of their R&D in government-owned facilities
- U.S. example:
 - over \$125 billion/yr in R&D conducted by the government (12% of R&D)
 - 40 Federally Funded R&D Centers use nearly 40%
 - U.S. energy National Labs have been the subject of many reviews
 - Key issues
 - funding volatility
 - Congressional mistrust
 - lower productivity
 - growing bureaucracy

US has tried to improve through 'osmosis' creating new institutions, but more reform is needed



'Old institutions' in blue, newer institutions in red, and non-existing institution in purple

- China may face a similar challenge and is considering changes



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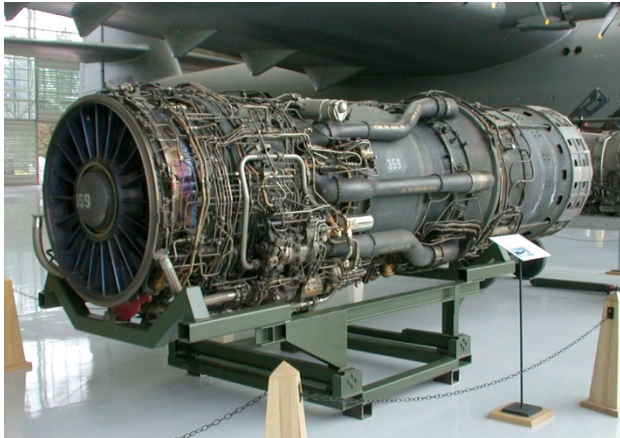
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5. Looking beyond energy

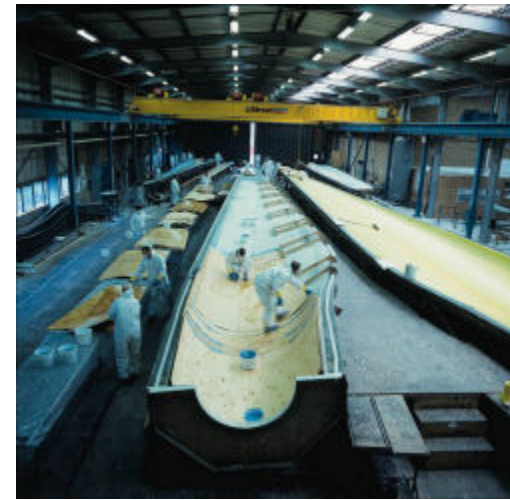
Example: technology spillovers in wind



Ship making



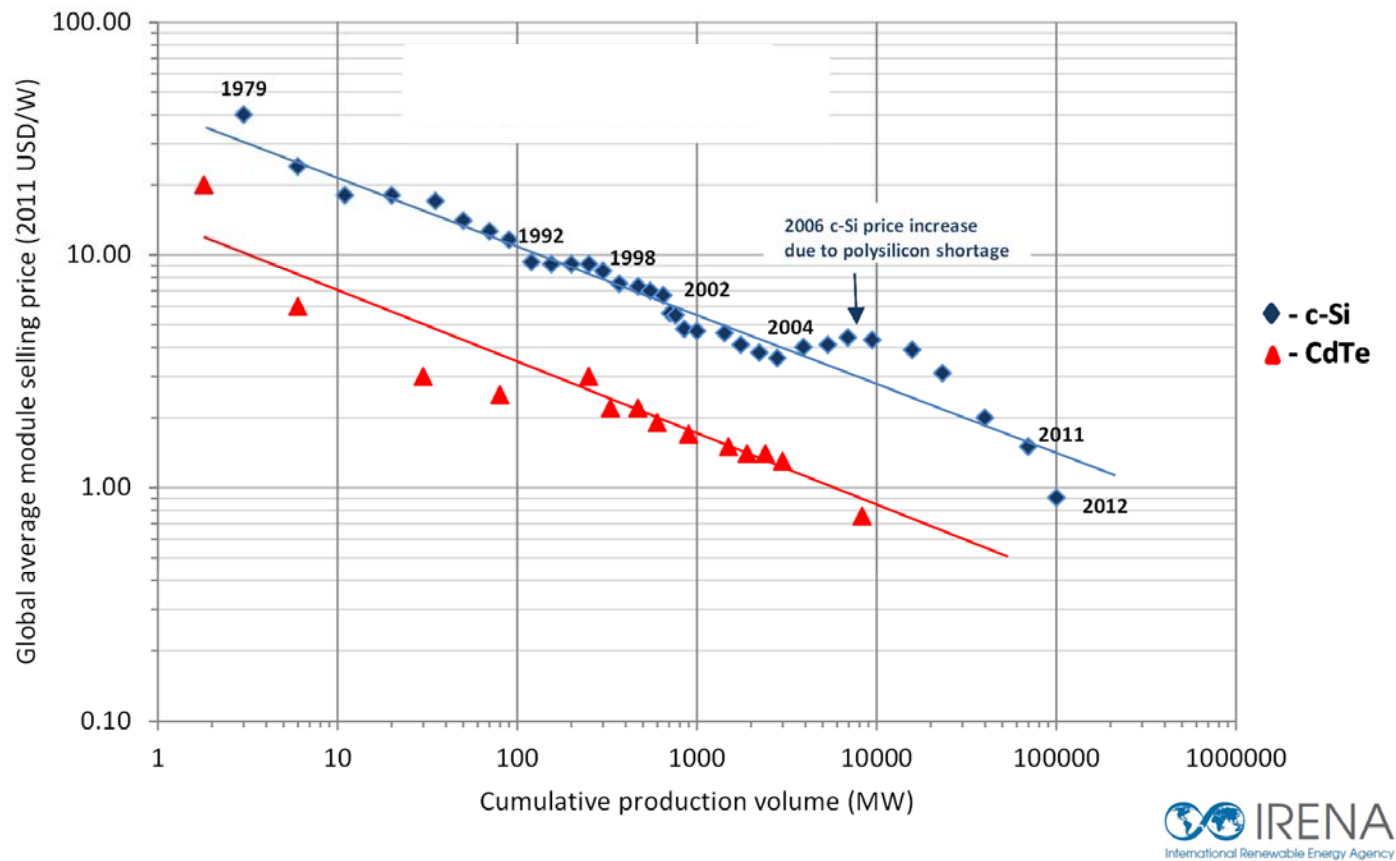
Jet engine design & manufacturing



Wind turbine manufacturing & design

Case study on silicon solar Si PV panels

- Significant progress over more than 3 decades
- Key technology in the energy sector with government engagement



Key takeaways from micro-history of spillovers

Interviews and archival research

- Governments have been major enablers of solar PV spillovers
- Now there are **reverse spillovers** to semiconductors
- Spillover (translation) happened in the wake of oil crisis
- Time between development and commercialization 2-30 years...



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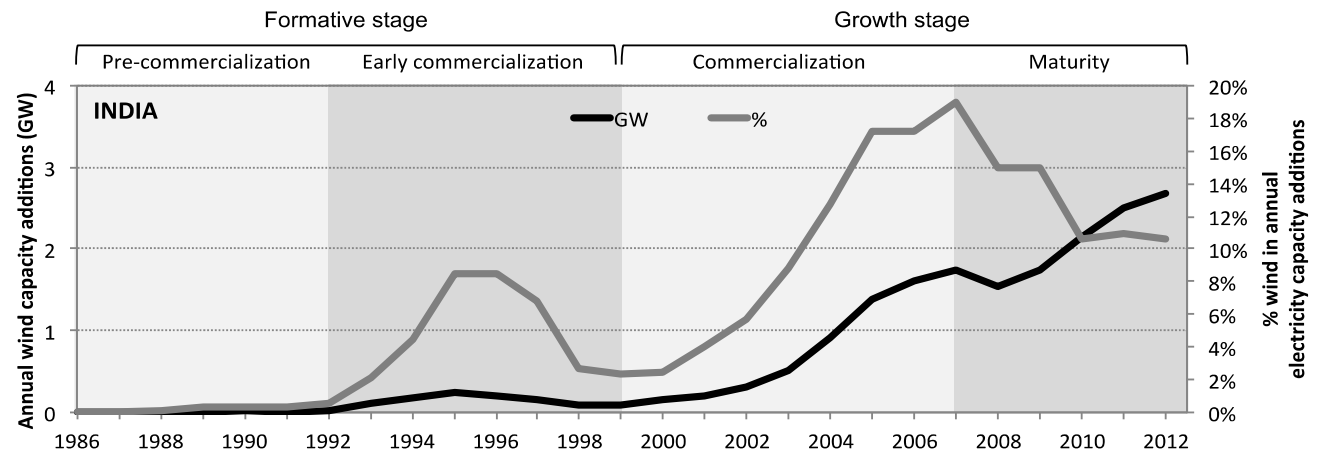
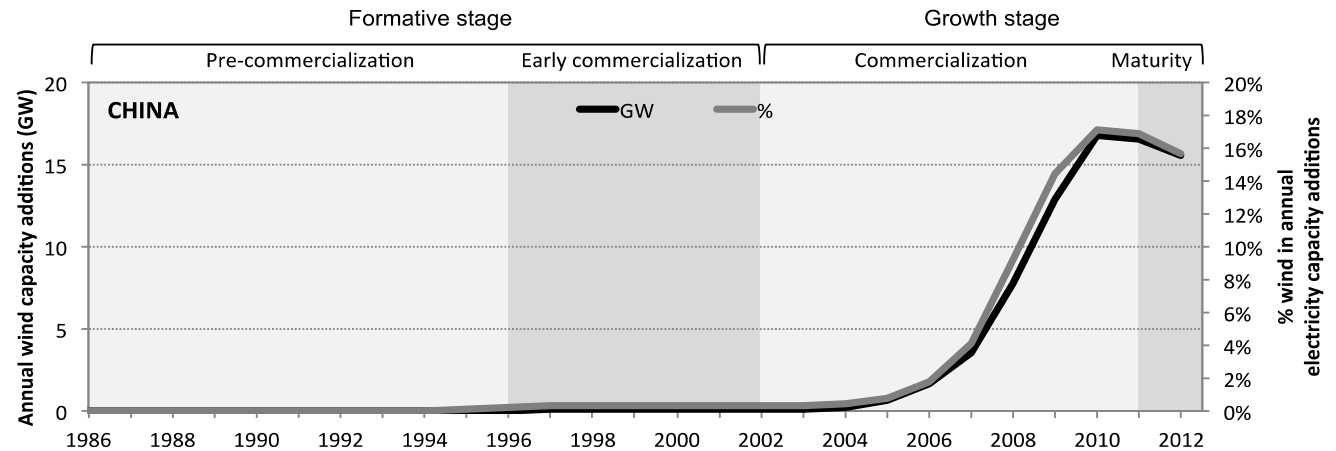
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6. Looking beyond the OECD

Broader technology diffusion experience is emerging

Example of wind in China and India

- Important to understand dynamics of emerging economies
- Almost 3 decades of wind policies
 - Still issues
- Growth accelerated after policies addressing various risks were put in place
- Different outcomes



Distinct outcomes in both countries

- India
 - Smaller farm sizes (less turbines per owner <100)
 - Concentration ratio (market share of top 5 investors) around 25%
 - Much greater role of private sector in project development
 - Over 80% domestic manufacturing

- China
 - Larger farms sizes (>800 average turbines per owner)
 - Small role of private sector in project development (<10%)
 - Concentration ratio of market around 55%
 - Under 60% domestic manufacturing



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7. Inclusion of other trends

Increasingly multi-dimensional multi-goal problem

E.g., integration of LCA and spatial analysis

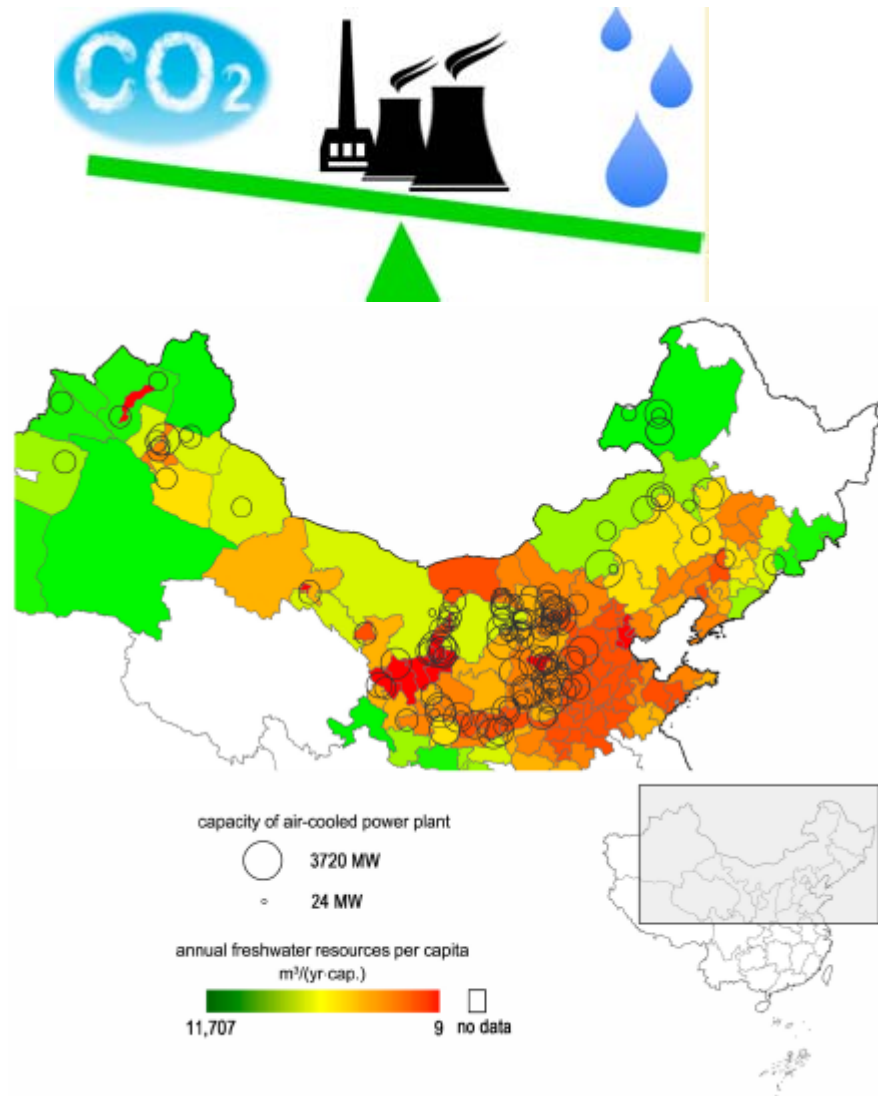
In 2012 air-cooled coal plants contributed ~1.0% of total Chinese electricity emissions

- saved 832–942 million m³ water use (60% of Beijing annual water)

CO₂ emissions largely offset CO₂ emissions reduction benefits from retirement of small and outdated coal plants.

Air-cooled units expected to account for 22% of China's coal-fired capacity in 2020

Need to account for other trends





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8. Key takeaways

Key takeaways

- Energy technology innovation complex because of
 - Innovation process, multiple policies and goals, technology heterogeneity
- Research is increasingly used and requested by policy makers
 - E.g. R&D investments, deployment subsidies
- China could be game changing
- Understanding multiple methods is important
 - E.g., econometrics, expert elicitation, optimization, stochastic programming, interviews, archival research, LCA
- Areas where more focus is needed
 1. Consideration of implementation and political economy
 2. Integration of research from transitions, economic geography, and technology innovation systems, & broader science policy
 3. When and how to extrapolate findings across technologies
→ e.g., consumer adopters
 4. Development and use of insights from emerging economies



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